

Advantages

- Students have the opportunity to take courses that may not be offered at their high school.
- Students have an opportunity to experience post-secondary education while in high school. This experience may be helpful in making the transition from high school to college and in making future education plans.
- Academically qualified students have an opportunity to take advanced level courses.
- Students who have difficulty fitting in the traditional high school setting can flourish in a different educational environment.
- Students can earn up to two years tuition free college credit, getting a head start on their college education.

Limitations

- Students and parents must take into consideration the maturity level of the student. Some students who are academically qualified may not be ready socially or emotionally for the college environment.
- High school provides a social network and social development for teenagers. This is not readily accessible at the college.
- Transportation, books and fees are the student's responsibility.
- College classes may conflict with high school classes or extracurricular activities (sports, drama, and music).
- The high school is the final authority on what is required for graduation. You must work closely with your high school counselor to insure high school graduation requirements are being met.

South Puget Sound Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age in its program and activities.

Ready to get started?

1. Take the College Placement Test (CPT)

Testing is on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. No appointment is needed! You must bring a photo ID and the \$15 testing fee with you to test. Visit www.spscc.ctc.edu/runningstart.html for the CPT test times and study guide. Students must take the Sentence Skills and Reading portions of the placement test and place into English 101 in order to qualify for Running Start.

2. Meet with your high school counselor

Your high school counselor will go over graduation requirements and the college equivalency list with you. They will help you choose classes to take at the college and sign your Running Start application.

3. Register for classes

Bring your signed Running Start application to SPSCC to register for your classes. You will receive a letter with your schedule, important dates and how to prepare for your classes.

Class schedules for the upcoming quarter are available starting the second week of the current quarter on the SPSCC web site. Please contact your high school or the Running Start office for registration dates.

QUESTIONS?

High School Outreach Office

Phone: 360-596-5432

Fax: 360-596-5709

Email: houtreach@spscc.ctc.edu

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Running Start

AN OVERVIEW OF THE RUNNING START PROGRAM

SOUTH
PUGET
SOUND
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



Who You Are.
What You'll Be.

What Is Running Start?

The Running Start program was created by the Legislature to expand educational options for students. Running Start allows 11th and 12th grade students to take college level courses tuition free. The student enrolls simultaneously in high school and college classes (or solely in college classes) for the purpose of earning credit to be awarded by the high school and college. Five college quarter credits are equal to one high school credit. The high school determines which classes at the college are equivalent to the high school requirements. Home schooled students need to check with their district office to determine high school status.

Eligibility

All potential Running Start students are required to take the College Placement Test (CPT). To be eligible for Running Start, test scores must reflect college level English and reading. Also, to take any math courses you must take the math portion of the CPT. Students need to make an appointment for testing. The test is given several times a week at varying times. The test fee is \$15.00 and photo ID is required. Go to the Running Start website for more information on how to sign up for the placement test.

Tuition and Fee Assessment

Only college level courses (100 or higher) will be tuition paid by the high school. Students are welcome to take lower level math courses through Running Start; however the student will be responsible for the tuition payment. Students are responsible for student fees, parking, books and other necessary supplies.

The Running Start Student

Once students enroll and begin attending the college, they will be considered “regular” college students. The faculty will expect the same level of classroom participation, study habits, homework and respect as received from other students. Running Start students are expected to follow the same policies and procedures as regular students. Students will be expected to meet class deadlines, be prepared for class and ask questions. Running Start students are eligible to take day, evening, correspondence and online courses. Due to classroom space demands, students who are absent the first day of class without contacting the instructor may be dropped from class.

Classes at the College

The speed at which college classes are taught is much faster than classes in high school. For example, a high school math class, which is usually taught in one school year, is taught in 10 weeks in the college environment. Classes can vary in size from 15 to 80 students; with the average class size about 30 students. South Puget Sound Community College takes pride in its efforts to provide smaller class sizes than most colleges and universities. Class participation is an integral part of college and most faculty will require students to participate in classroom discussions. If a student is having difficulty with a class, they will need to talk to the instructor or a counselor. College classes demand approximately one hour of homework for each hour of class. There is no class time for homework.

Academic Records

Students successfully completing classes under the Running Start program will earn both high school and college credit. The grade received will become part of the student’s college transcript. If a student wishes to apply to another college, the student must list South Puget Sound Community College as a college attended and request that the college send an official transcript of grades.

Parent Access to Records

South Puget Sound Community College follows federal guidelines concerning access to student records. No information will be released without the student’s written permission. The Student Release of Information form is available in the Enrollment Services office. If students would like their caregiver to be able to work with college staff they will need to fill out a release form.

Holidays

Holidays that the college observes and vacations may be different from the high schools. Students will be expected to attend class at the college even though their high school may not be in session. Careful planning must occur as this may create conflicts with family and school activities.

Parking

If a student wishes to park a car on campus, the student will need to purchase a parking permit. Current rates can be found on the Security page on the South Puget Sound Community College website.

