

Who pays for the Early College Degree Program?

Much of the funding for the Early College Degree Program students is provided through a combination of HCC and WCPS payments and discounts mandated by Maryland's College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013.

Through a combination of discounts and scholarships, students and their families will pay considerably less for Early College Degree Program enrollment than they would for college enrollment after high school graduation.

Where do Early College Degree Program graduates transfer?

Approximately nine out of 10 Early College Degree Program graduates transfer to a four-year institution. Of those who transfer, 75 percent graduate within two years and 90 percent graduate within four years. Transfer institutions have included the following:

- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Daytona
- McDaniel College
- Mount St. Mary's University
- United States Military Academy – West Point
- University of Maryland – College Park
- University of Maryland – Baltimore County
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Tech
- William & Mary

To learn more, contact your school counselor or:

Teresa Thorn
Early College Degree Program Coordinator
Hagerstown Community College
240-500-2483
tthorn@hagerstowncc.edu

www.hagerstowncc.edu/middlecollege



EARLY COLLEGE DEGREE PROGRAM

at Hagerstown Community College



WCPS | Washington County Public Schools

What is the Early College Degree Program?

Hagerstown Community College and Washington County Public Schools have established the Early College Degree Program (formerly the STEM Middle College), which allows college-ready high school students the opportunity to earn college degrees or certificates while completing their high school diplomas.

Through the Early College Degree Program, each student has the opportunity to earn at least 30 college credits, and many will be able to complete requirements for certificates and associate degrees by the time they graduate from high school. Students in ninth and tenth grade take coursework in their “home” high schools to prepare them for their junior and senior years as students in the Early College Degree Program on the HCC campus.

Who should apply to the Early College Degree Program?

During the middle school years, student should begin to think about whether the Early College Degree Program is a good fit for them. It is designed for students who are high-academic achievers and capable of rigorous coursework. For these students, the benefits include:

- Enhanced learning
- Starting and finishing college early
- Building a college transcript in high school
- Saving money on a college degree
- Participating in WCPS and HCC extracurricular activities



What's the process to become the Early College Degree Program student?

During middle school, interested students should contact their school counselor to review their educational goals and plan appropriate coursework to prepare for the Early College Degree Program.

Each year, a summer orientation is offered to Early College Degree Program students. It includes transitioning from high school to college, expectations of being a full-time college student, and study skills necessary for college.

To learn more, visit www.hagerstowncc.edu/earlycollegedegree.

What programs of study are offered?

Early College Degree Program students will select an educational pathway that will put them on the right course for a career, and further high education if desired, in one of the following areas:

- Advanced Manufacturing Systems
- Alternative Energy Technology
- Biology
- Biotechnology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Cybersecurity
- Dance
- Dental Hygiene*
- Digital Instrumentation and Process Control
- Electronic Health Records
- Engineering
- Environmental Studies
- Health Information Management
- Interactive Design and Game Development
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Music
- Nursing*
- Physics
- Radiography*
- Theater
- Visual Arts

*Selective Program: Requires separate application for acceptance. Please note that you will be admitted into an AA.GST (Associate of Arts in General Studies) program until you are admitted into the clinical portion of the program you selected. Students must be 18 years of age to participate in the clinical portion of the programs. For more information on these programs, please refer to the HCC Catalog at www.hagerstowncc.edu/academics/catalogs.

What are the steps in the Early College Degree Program?

Potential Early College Degree Program students are typically identified in eighth or ninth grade. They prepare for the Early College Degree Program during their freshman and sophomore years at their home high schools and attend HCC during their junior and senior years.

Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<p>Introduction to the ECDP during high school scheduling meetings.</p> <p>Tentative identification for purposes of scheduling.</p>	<p>Students work with school counselor to develop academic plan to complete high school academics in preparation for the ECDP.</p> <p>Apply for admission to the ECDP by March 1 – Spring notification and scheduling.</p>	<p>Students continue to complete high school academics to prepare for ECDP admission.</p> <p>Admitted students attend classes on HCC campus working toward high school diploma and college credits or degree.</p>	<p>Admitted students attend classes on HCC campus working toward high school diploma and college credits or degree.</p> <p>Students meeting diploma requirements may graduate with home school and/or participate in HCC Commencement if qualified.</p>	<p>Admitted students attend classes on HCC campus working toward high school diploma and college credits or degree.</p>