



Early College Degree Program

Frequently Asked Questions

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Contact Information

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Early College Degree Program Website

www.hagerstowncc.edu/earlycollegedegree

What is the Early College Degree Program at Hagerstown Community College?

In 2013, Hagerstown Community College (HCC) and Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) partnered to offer the Early College Degree Program (formerly Middle College) to bring high school students new opportunities to earn postsecondary credits and credentials. The Early College Degree Program gives students the opportunity to earn at least 30 college credits; however, many students are able to complete the requirements for certificates (approximately 30 credits) and associate degrees (60 credits). Students are enrolled in both their high school and HCC during their time in the program.

HCC is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE).

What are the benefits of being a student in the program?

1. You can start and finish college early!

You will be able to further your college studies or enter the workforce earlier than students who follow a traditional high school path.

2. You can save money!

Students will pay considerably less for a college education if they begin college with the Early College Degree Program (ECDP) because of the combination of discounts provided by WCPS, HCC, and additional scholarship opportunities.

*HCC discounts and scholarships are also available for students from private schools and students that are home-schooled.

3. You can participate in enhanced learning!

You will be academically challenged as you are immersed into the college environment with traditional college students.

4. You can enjoy both WCPS and HCC activities!

As your schedule allows, you will be able to participate in both WCPS and HCC extracurricular activities. This includes all graduation ceremonies!

What criteria must a student meet in order to attend the Early College Degree Program?

Listed below are *some* of the requirements that a student must fulfill before being admitted into the program. The student must...

- Be a rising 11th or 12th grade student.
- Have a high school cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher.
- Have completed 14 or more credits required for earning a high school diploma.
- Have achieved a passing score on all High School Assessments or equivalent state-mandated tests.
- Have fulfilled their Student Service Learning Requirement.

All of the requirements are explained during the interest/application process.

What Programs of Study are offered?

The following Programs of Study are offered to Early College Degree Program students:

- Advanced Manufacturing Systems
- Alternative Energy Technology
- Biology
- Biotechnology
- Business Administration
- 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

Note: *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 to participate in the clinical portion of the programs. For more information on these programs, please refer to the HCC Catalog at: <https://www.hagerstowncc.edu/academics/catalogs>.

What is the cost of participating? Are there any discounts?

Tuition Rates (before any discounts)

Tuition rates vary depending upon residency status – in Washington County, Out-of-County, Neighbor Rate, and Out-of-State. There is a general college fee of \$14 per credit hour and a non-refundable registration fee per semester of \$30. Additional fees are applied as well depending upon the course.

For 2021-2022

The **in-county tuition rate** is \$123 per credit hour. A three-credit class costs \$369 plus registration and course fees for a total of \$441.

The **out-of-county tuition rate** is \$192 per credit hour. A three-credit class costs \$576 plus registration and course fees for a total of \$648.

The **neighbor-rate tuition rate** is \$236 per credit hour. A three-credit class costs \$708 plus registration and course fees for a total of \$780.

The **out-of-state tuition rate** \$252 per credit hour. A three-credit class costs \$756 plus registration and course fees for a total of \$828.

Discounts

Early College Degree Program students who attend Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) receive discounts provided by WCPS and Hagerstown Community College (HCC). This is due to Maryland's College and Career Readiness Act of 2013 and Maryland Senate Bill 740. **Discounts only apply to the fall and spring semesters. There are no discounts for summer classes.**

WCPS students receive a 25% tuition discount on their first four classes. WCPS students then receive an additional 10% tuition discount provided by WCPS on their first four classes. After the first four classes, students receive a 10% discount.

Private and home school students in Washington County receive a 25% tuition discount on their first four classes and a 10% tuition discount after the first four classes.

Out-of-County public school, private school, and home school students receive a 25% tuition discount on their first four classes and then receive a 10% discount after the first four classes.

Neighbor-Rate and Out-of-State students receive a 25% tuition discount on the first four classes.

Maryland Free and Reduced Meal Students

Students who are eligible for Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) in Maryland do not pay tuition. Maryland FARM students are responsible for course fees, registration fees, and textbook expenses only – not the tuition.

Payment Plan

HCC does offer a payment plan option. A student's account balance can be divided into multiple payments throughout the semester. For more information about plan details, deadlines, and enrollment fees, please visit the following website:

<http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/finance>

Are there scholarships available for students?

Students can apply for scholarships for the opportunity to receive additional financial support. The HCC Foundation is one of the organizations that offers these scholarships.

HCC Foundation

The HCC Foundation Scholarship Committee awards a number of scholarships with different criteria and dollar amounts for the fall and spring semesters to students taking at least six credits and who have at least a 2.0 GPA. The HCC Foundation awards both need and non-need-based scholarships. Students must complete the HCC Foundation Scholarship application and the FAFSA (2022-2023 FAFSA for the upcoming school year) for scholarship consideration.

Hagerstown Community College's school code for the FAFSA is 002074. Most scholarships are for a one-year period. Students can apply each semester and incomplete applications will not be considered for a potential award. Students must maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA for scholarship eligibility. The application deadline is generally June 1st for the fall semester and December 1st for the spring semester. Public, private, and home school students are eligible to apply.

How can students prepare to attend the Early College Degree Program?

Students in ninth and tenth grade should take the appropriate classes at their high school. The high school counselors are able to recommend appropriate classes that will help students complete as many high school requirements as possible, but also prepare them for the college classes that they will take. This will help them during their eleventh and twelfth grade years when they are in the Early College Degree Program at HCC's campus.

What does the week look like for an Early College Degree Program student?

Early College Degree Program students report to the HCC campus Monday-Friday. They are no longer required to report to their high schools unless they choose to participate in any extracurricular activities. **Transportation is NOT provided for Early College Degree Program students. The student and their parents/guardians are responsible for transportation to and from HCC.**

The students will start each day by attending homeroom at 8:00 AM with the Early College Degree Program staff. This time is used to take attendance (which is sent to the high schools each week to ensure that graduation requirements are met), inform the students of any important announcements, and answer any questions they may have. Homeroom lasts for approximately fifteen minutes so that students can be at their 8:30 AM class on time, if they have one.

Early College Degree Program students are expected to be on campus Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 2:15 PM (the end time will vary depending on the student's current class schedule). During those hours, students are attending their scheduled classes and using non-class time to complete their assignments, receive tutoring, or participate in campus activities.

Do Early College Degree Program students follow the high school calendar or the HCC calendar?

Early College Degree Program students will follow the HCC calendar only. This includes semester start/end dates, holiday breaks, and emergency closings. The Early College Degree Program staff shares important dates such as these with the students, but the college calendar can also be found on the HCC website.

What if an Early College Degree Program student was receiving Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) at their high school?

HCC and WCPS work together to ensure that students who are eligible for FARM will receive some form of meal benefits while they are enrolled at HCC. This is only possible if the student or their parent/guardian has completed the appropriate application. The application for Free and Reduced Meals can be found at <https://www.nlappscloud.com/>

Do Early College Degree Program students have access to tablets/computers like they did at their high school?

WCPS will still provide Early College Degree Program students with a personal tablet/computer for them to use for their college classwork/homework and communication.

How can Early College Degree Program students be successful in the program?

In order to be successful, Early College Degree Program students must take responsibility for their own behavior and education. They will find that their school life is much less structured and adult-driven. This means that they must be self-disciplined when it comes to their academics and advocate for themselves in a complex environment. However, the Early College Degree Program staff is available to assist students as they learn to do these things on their own. Parents/Guardians should encourage their children to demonstrate these abilities.