



Early College Programs

Hagerstown Community College (HCC) offers two programs for high school students who want to get an early start on their college education. The Early College Access Program and the Early College Degree Program provide opportunities for students to take dual-credit courses and earn both high school and college credit. Both programs are open to students from Washington County Public Schools, private schools, home school, out-of-county schools, and out-of-state schools. If you are interested in Early College, please consult your school counselor about which option is best for you.

Early College Access Program

The Early College Access Program, formerly ESSENCE, is a flexible opportunity for many students. Students in this program can take courses offered at their high school, on the HCC campus, and/or online. Grade level, high school graduation requirements, and other factors may limit choice of course location.

Students are able to earn college credits toward an associate degree from HCC and transfer to a four-year institution.

Website: www.hagerstowncc.edu/earlycollegeaccess

Contact: HCC Admissions Office | 240-500-2238 | admissions@hagerstowncc.edu

Early College Degree Program

The Early College Degree Program, formerly Middle College, is a full-time opportunity for academically strong students. Students in this program spend their junior and/or senior years at HCC, enrolled in at least 12 college credits each semester. Students select a program of study (major) and take all of their required courses on the HCC campus and/or online.

This program has specific admission requirements and a separate application process to ensure that participating students are prepared to undertake the rigors of a full-time college course load.

If students spend both junior and senior years in the Early College Degree Program, they are often able to complete the requirements for an associate degree by the time that they graduate from high school.

Website: www.hagerstowncc.edu/earlycollegedegree

Contact: Kaprece Smith, Director of Early College Programs
240-500-2483 | kdsmith3@hagerstowncc.edu



Program Benefits	Early College Access Program (Courses at the high school)	Early College Access Program (Courses at HCC or online)	Early College Degree Program
WCPS Students: no cost for tuition, fees, or textbooks (up to 60 credits)	✓	✓	✓
Non-WCPS Students: discounted tuition	✓	✓	✓
Broad course offerings		✓	✓
Courses held at the high school	✓		
Courses held at HCC campus or online		✓	✓
Flexible course times		✓	✓
Experience of a college campus		✓	✓
Opportunity to build a college transcript while still in high school	✓	✓	✓
Opportunity to earn an associate degree by high school graduation			✓