



## Comparison of Early College Credit Program & Start College Now

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### Overview

The 2017 Wisconsin Act 59 eliminated the Course Options and Youth Options programs as of 6/30/18.

Beginning 7/1/18:

- The Youth Options statute (118.55) was renamed the **Early College Credit Program**, which allows Wisconsin public and private high school students to take one or more courses at an institution of higher education for high school and/or college credit. Under this section, “institution of higher education” means an institution within the University of Wisconsin System, a tribally controlled college, or a private, nonprofit institution of higher education located in the state. For questions about this information, please contact Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Tahira Chaudary (608) 267-3161.
- **Start College Now** (38.12(14)) allows WI public school pupils that have completed 10th grade to have the option to take courses at technical colleges through a separate statute Start College Now, 38.12(14). For questions about this information, please contact the [Wisconsin Technical College System](#) (WTCS), Ann Westrich (608)-261-4588.

For a more detailed understanding of the changes from Youth Options to Early College Credit Program and Start College Now please review the comparison chart below and the statutes for the Early College Credit Program and Start College Now.

Provision	Early College Credit Program (NEW) Effective 7/1/18	Start College Now (NEW) Effective 7/1/18
<b>Eligible Students</b>	Students attending Wisconsin public and private schools, not concurrently enrolled in Start College Now Program.  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(2)(a)</a>	Students attending Wisconsin public schools, not concurrently enrolled in Early College Credit Program.  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. 38.12(14)(a)</a> and <a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(2)(a)</a>
<b>Eligible Grades</b>	9 - 12  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(2)(a)</a>	11 & 12  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. 38.12(14)(a)(1)</a>
<b>Eligible Institutions</b>	Collectively referred to as “Institutions of Higher Education” (IHE)  Includes UW System institutions, tribally controlled colleges, and private, nonprofit institutions of higher education  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(1)(bm)</a>	Collectively referred to as “Institutions of Higher Education” (IHE)  Includes only Wisconsin technical colleges.  <a href="#">Wi Stat. 38.12(14)(a)</a>
<b>Inapplicability</b>	Certain courses taught through the UW System and Private and non-profit institutions of higher education are excluded from eligibility. Please see <a href="#">2017 Assembly Bill 805</a> for more information.	
<b>Eligible Semesters</b>	Fall, spring and summer  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(2)(a)</a>	Fall and spring only  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. 38.12(14)(3)</a>

Provision	Early College Credit Program (NEW) Effective 7/1/18	Start College Now (NEW) Effective 7/1/18
<b>College/Course credit limitation</b>	<p>18 college credits total between ECCP and SCN with corresponding district policy; no annual or semester limits</p> <p>UW System institutions must notify student of whether credits earned are transferable between and within institutions.</p> <p><b>Note: 18 credits is the minimum amongst the two programs a school district must offer a student during the students eligible time. For ECCP it is grades 9-12, for Start College Now is grades 11-12.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Wis. Stat. §§ 118.55(3)(c) and (7t)(a)</a></p>	<p>No annual or semester limits, however districts may have policy limiting the total number of credits to 18.</p> <p><b>Note: 18 credits is the minimum amongst the two programs a school district must offer a student during the students eligible time. For ECCP it is grades 9-12, for Start College Now is grades 11-12.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Wis. Stat. 118.55. (7t)(a)</a></p>
<b>Application and Notification</b>	<p>Students must submit an application to the IHE in the previous school semester. The student must notify the school board or the governing body of the private school of the student's intent to enroll in an IHE.</p> <p><a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(2)(a)</a></p>	<p>Student must submit a Start College Now application that notifies the school district ("board") within the identified deadlines to request enrollment at the technical college at which course(s) are being sought.</p> <p><a href="#">Wis. Stat. 38.12(14)(a)(3)</a></p>
<b>Deadline for notification or application</b>	<p>Students must notify district of intent to enroll in Early College Credit Program courses by March 1st (for fall courses) and October 1st (for spring courses). No specification for summer course application deadline</p> <p><a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(3)(a)</a></p>	<p>Students must notify district of intent to enroll in Start College Now by March 1st (for fall courses) and October 1st (for spring courses)</p> <p><a href="#">Wis. Stat. 38.12(14)(a)(3)</a></p>

Provision	Early College Credit Program (NEW) Effective 7/1/18	Start College Now (NEW) Effective 7/1/18
<b>Deadline for notifying student of decision</b>	District must notify student of approval and/or rejection of desired courses before the beginning of the semester in which the pupil will be enrolled  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(3)(b)</a>	District must notify student of approval and/or rejection of desired at least 30 days prior to the semester in which the student would be enrolled.  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. 38.12(14)(c)</a>
<b>Method of selecting applicants</b>	An IHE <b>must</b> admit a student if there is space available and the student meets the requirements and prerequisites of the course  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(4)(a)1. and 2.</a>	An IHE <b>may</b> admit a student only if there is space available and the student meets the requirements and prerequisites of the course  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. 38.12(14)(b)(1)</a>
<b>District denial of high school credit for ECCP or Start College Now course</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doesn't satisfy a high school graduation requirement</li> <li>District offers comparable course</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: see payment section, district is still responsible for 25% of the cost in the event the course is taken for postsecondary credit only</i></p> <a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(3)(b)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doesn't satisfy a high school graduation requirement</li> <li>District offers comparable course</li> <li>Student applicant has record of disciplinary challenges.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Student may still take the requested course if student meets enrollment and course pre-requisites as a regular WTCS student, outside of Start College Now. If so, student will have to pay all costs and, if determined to not satisfy a high school graduation requirement, only receive college credit</i></p> <a href="#">Wis. Stat. 38.12(14)(b)(2)&amp; Wis. Stat. 38.12(14)(c)</a>
<b>Appeal considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets graduation requirements</li> <li>District offers comparable course</li> <li>Filed within 30 days of receiving decision</li> </ul> <a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(3)(b)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets graduation requirements</li> <li>District offers comparable course</li> <li>Filed within 30 days of receiving decision</li> </ul> <a href="#">Wis. Stat. 38.12(14)(c)</a>

Provision	Early College Credit Program (NEW) Effective 7/1/18	Start College Now (NEW) Effective 7/1/18
<b>Responsibility for paying cost of approved course</b>	Student's district of full-time attendance, state, IHE, and pupil (if applicable)  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(5)</a>	Student's district of full-time attendance.  <a href="#">Wis Stat. 38.12(14)(d)</a>
<b>Cost of course</b>	<p><b><u>High School Credit Only OR High School AND Postsecondary Credit</u></b>  <i>If the District does not offer a comparable course</i>            School District – 75%            State – 25% <i>(The DPI shall reimburse the school board of the school district the amount received from the department of workforce development under this section)</i>            Pupil – 0%</p> <p><b><u>Postsecondary Credit Only</u></b>  <i>If the District does not offer a comparable course</i>            School District - 25%            State – 50% <i>(The DPI shall reimburse the school board of the school district the amount received from the department of workforce development under this section)</i>            Pupil – 25% <i>(the school board/private school must waive and pay the pupil's share of the tuition charge if it is determined that it would pose an undue financial burden to the student and their family, as determined by DPI administrative rule.)</i></p> <p><b>Notes:</b>  <u>IHE cost sharing through limit on allowable tuition charge</u></p>	Pupil's school district is responsible for all portions of tuition, fees and books per pupil attending WTCS, pupil is not responsible for any portion of the above.  <a href="#">Wis. Stat. 38.12(14)(f)</a>

Provision	Early College Credit Program (NEW) Effective 7/1/18	Start College Now (NEW) Effective 7/1/18
	<p><i>The tuition charged for each credit assigned to the course may not exceed the following:</i></p> <p><i>For an institution within the UW System or a tribally controlled college (other than UW college campus), cost is 1/3 of the amount that would be charged for each credit assigned to the course to an individual who is a Wisconsin resident and who is enrolled as an undergraduate student.</i></p> <p><i>For a UW college campus (two-year campus), cost is 1/2 of the amount that would be charged for each credit assigned to the course to an individual who is a Wisconsin resident and who is enrolled as an undergraduate student.</i></p> <p><i>For a private, nonprofit institution of higher education, cost is 1/3 of the amount that would be charged for each credit assigned to a similar course offered by the UW-Madison to an individual who is a Wisconsin resident and is enrolled at the UW-Madison as an undergraduate student.</i></p> <p><a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(5)(a)-(e)</a></p>	
<b>Transportation</b>	<p>Student/parent responsible for any transportation costs for attending course(s)</p> <p><i>Note: funding is available to assist in transportation costs for families in need</i></p> <p><a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 118.55(7g)</a></p>	<p>Student/parent responsible for any transportation costs for attending course(s)</p> <p><a href="#">Wis. Stat. 38.12(14)(e)</a></p>