



Early College Fact Sheet

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Q: What is Early College? A: Early College is a dual enrollment program where high school students take college courses for both college and high school credit. The earned college credits not only satisfy your high school requirements for graduation, but may be applied directly towards a degree at Lakes Region Community College (LRCC) or may transfer to another college or university.

Q: Why would Early College interest me? A: Early College gives motivated students like you an opportunity to get a “jump start” on college while still in high school. You will have the opportunity to take courses your high school may not offer; get exposed to potential career paths; and learn what is expected of college students. Once you graduate from high school and enroll in college, you will be way ahead of your peers. The opportunity to accelerate your time line towards a college degree is exciting, not to mention saving you time and money.

Q: How is Early College different than Running Start? A: Both Early College and Running Start provide opportunities to earn college credits. The difference is that Running Start is taught by high school instructors on high school campuses. Early College courses are taught by college professors on LRCC’s campus or online. Both programs use college-approved curricula.

Q: How do I qualify for Early College? A: To qualify for Early College, you must meet with your high school guidance counselor. Your counselor will help you decide if you are ready and if there is a college course you can take that will satisfy your high school requirements for graduation.

Q: How much will it cost me? A: The cost for you to take a course at LRCC through the Early College program is 50% of the actual tuition. This is a substantial discount. You must be prepared, however, to pay for your own books. You are also responsible for your own transportation to LRCC.

Q: Can I receive financial aid or have a payment plan for my tuition, books, or materials of my course(s)? A: Sorry, as a high school student, you are not eligible for Financial Aid. This is why LRCC has tried to make the tuition affordable to you and your family. Payment for the course is expected at the time of registration.

Q: How do I register for the college course(s)? A: With your guidance counselor, fill out an Early College Registration Form (in your packet). Once completed, this form may be submitted to the College’s One Stop Office. Course offerings can be found for the fall, spring, and summer semesters online at www.lrcc.edu

Q: What is a course prerequisite? A: Some courses require that you have prior knowledge before taking the class. Prior knowledge is established through high school transcripts, SAT scores or placement testing.

Q: Does this mean I am a college student? A: Yes! Once you have registered for a college course, you are a college student and may enjoy many of the rights and privileges associated with this status.

Q: How do I get a record of the course(s) that I took through LRCC? A: A record of the course you take at LRCC is called an academic transcript. There are both “official” and “unofficial” transcripts. LRCC will send your official transcript automatically to your high school upon completion of your courses.

Q: What happens to my Early College record if I decide to attend LRCC after I graduate from high school? A: Your Early College record is part of your official Lakes Region Community College record. As long as you successfully complete the course, and it is part of the degree program in which you enroll, you will already have completed a course towards your degree!

Q: What if I decide to attend a different college, other than LRCC, after high school? Will my courses transfer? A: If you earn a grade of C or better in the course, it is very possible the course will transfer to another college. Transferability, however, is determined by the receiving college.

Q: What if I have any questions once I am on the college campus? A: If you have a questions, you can call or stop by the One Stop.

Q: Can I participate in Student Life activities? A: LRCC is a busy place and there are many activities open to ALL students. Once on campus, don't hesitate to visit the Student Life Office to find out what is available to you as an Early College student.

Q: If I am having difficulty with the class, is there someone that can help me? A: Of course! The Student Success Center is located on the first floor of the Turner Building and offers free tutoring for all students in credit-bearing courses. The Student Success Center also offers many other support services such as time management and note-taking workshops.

Q: What if I have a disability and need accommodations? A: You will need to supply documentation of your disability (usually your most recent 3-year evaluation report) to the Coordinator of Disability Services at the college and work with that office to develop a Reasonable Accommodation Plan. You will want to do this as early as possible, hopefully before the class begins.

Q: What if I have to miss a class? A: The attendance policy for your class will be in your syllabus; be sure to read it carefully. Should you miss too many classes, the instructor may drop you from the course. If you do have to miss a class, communicate this to your instructor. Then be sure to take responsibility for finding out what you missed and doing the required homework.

Q: What if I am unable to complete the class? A: For various reasons, students sometimes have to drop classes. If this happens to you, visit the One Stop and fill out an official drop form. Don't just stop attending. The consequence of disappearing from a class without doing an official drop is an "F" on your transcript. Don't let this happen to you. Be sure to review the Registration Policies and Deadlines sheet given to you at the time of registration.