



North Branch Early College

North Branch High School is proud to offer the North Branch Early College Program to provide high school students with an increased opportunity to complete transferable college credits while still in high school. Bridging the gap between high school and college, the NBEC provides students with a defined pathway towards both high school graduation and earning up to two years of college credit or an associate degree in grade 13 from one of our higher education partners (Baker College, Mott CC, Rochester University and Washtenaw CC).

Students in their sophomore year (10th grade), are eligible to apply during the spring semester. Once enrolled, students take classes at both North Branch High School and college classes at the Lapeer County Educational Technology Center during their Junior and Senior years. As members of their Early College cohort, students may go through high school commencement with their classmates in 12th grade, but then stay on for an additional year to complete a full schedule of "13th grade" classes, including one final high school class and their college credits to earn their degree or certificate. Classes in the additional year will be taken on the campus of one of our four college partners.

In this program, students work simultaneously toward their high school diploma and their associate degree. There is no cost to the students for the college tuition, fees, or books. Students in early college programs often go on to complete their bachelors' degree studies at a four-year college or university.

Currently, North Branch High School hosts two early college experiences. In the traditional Early College experience, our students take 3 HS classes at NBHS and college classes at our Ed-Tech center for the remaining 3 hours. In our CTE Blend experience, our Ed-Tech students remain at the Ed-Tech center for an extra hour each day to take college classes and return to NBHS for two HS classes.

This unique and exciting opportunity offers:

- Three year-accelerated program for grades 11-13
- High school classes plus college courses
- College campus experience
- Seminar on Success – A required seminar course designed to help HS students become college ready
- High school diploma
- Up to 60 transferable credits and/or an Associates Degree or recognized certificate
- All fees and costs paid by North Branch Area Schools

The college credits earned in the program may also be transferable towards an undergraduate degree from a four-year college or university. Students who take college courses and are full

time students at NBHS, including 5th year students, will have no fees associated with the college courses taken.

The Michigan Department of Education requires all students in early/middle college programs to complete their requirements for high school graduation and one of the following; an associate degree, or sixty (60) transferable college credits, or a MEMCA Technical Certificate.

For students who are unable to earn an associate degree or who earn fewer than sixty credits, a MEMCA Technical Certificate will be awarded along with the high school diploma once a student has completed:

- The state of Michigan High School Merit Curriculum
- A minimum of 15 college credit hours in a combination of 100-level general education and technical training courses with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.
- 100 hours of verified community service or a minimum of 40 hours of verified career exploration, internship, job shadowing, or clinical experience.

Eligibility

- Students apply in spring of their 10th grade year and begin NBEC classes in fall of 11th grade.
- Must meet Baker College enrollment guidelines
- Desire to complete college credits before high school graduation
- Good work ethic and motivation to succeed
- Committed to completing the Early College Program
- Desire to earn up to two years of free college tuition

While enrolled as part of the North Branch Early College program, students have a combined high school and college experience that is truly the "best of both worlds." They participate in prom, sports, senior year activities and high school commencement just like the rest of their class, but they also receive a Baker College student ID and are eligible to take part in college student activities, too.

For more information please contact NBHS Counseling Department.

NOTE: Under the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act (PA 160 of 1996) Michigan school districts **MUST** charge a student if the student does not successfully complete a college course provided by the district. Students and parents should understand that following the last day of the official registration period of a semester, typically the end of the first week of class, the student and parent are responsible to **repay all costs** associated with the courses the student is enrolled in and does not successfully complete. This includes any courses a student drops after the official registration period or does not earn a passing grade.