

Running Start Information

Todd Beamer High School
2021-2022



INTRODUCTION

This packet was created by the TBHS school counseling team to help inform students about the Running Start program. Please read the entire packet before contacting your counselor for any additional questions.

WHAT IS RUNNING START?

Running Start (RS) gives high school juniors and seniors a running start on college-level classes. Those classes count twice: once towards the fulfillment of high school graduation requirements and again for college credit. It is a component of the Learning by Choice bill that allows qualified high school juniors and seniors to enroll tuition-free in college level courses (academic or vocational) at community colleges. Students have been known to earn their high school diploma and an Associate of Art degree through RS.



ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a high school junior or senior to participate
- Must be enrolled in a public high school
- Must pass placement test for English/Math or an alternative placement option (i.e. transcript review)

BENEFITS

01

Free college tuition!

02

Advanced course work and academic challenge

03

Course variety (foreign languages, sciences, CTE programs, etc)

04

Earn an Associates Degree while in HS

CHALLENGES

- Performing poorly could put students at risk of not graduating on time
- Scheduling challenges
- Transfer credit issues - may be of concern at private universities and out of state universities
- Books, fees, and transportation costs - may be a few hundred dollars per quarter (limited assistance available for students on free/reduced lunch)
- Performing poorly harms both high school and college transcripts (which could have financial aid ramifications)
- Fast pace and time demands of college studies (1 quarter of a college course = 1 year of a high school course, 15 college credits = 45-hour commitment each week)
- Conflicting vacations - different spring breaks, no February break

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is Running Start a good fit for me?

It is best to carefully consider how much time you can dedicate to the accelerated pace of college classes, and your ability to independently learn in an adult campus environment. The opportunity to attend college will be open your entire life while being a high school student is only available to you for a limited time. While the funding provided for Running Start tuition can be a major motivator, many college students receive help with expenses through other funding sources.

What is the school counselor's role with Running Start?

Your HS counselor's role in the Running Start process is to sign your Enrollment Verification Form (EVF) before each quarter. Counselors will suggest which classes the student needs to take/pass in order to meet high school graduation requirements by adding courses to the EVF form. *Students will communicate directly with the college RS office or instructors with any college-related concerns.*



What does it cost?

The Running Start program funds up to 15 college-level credits each quarter (Fall, Winter and Spring). It does not pay for summer quarter. Any credits over 15 credits must be paid for by the student at regular tuition rates (resident or non-resident). In addition, students are responsible for books, fees (e.g. lab fees, private music lesson fee) and their own transportation. Please note that books could run between \$500 and \$900 per year for a full time RS student. An interested student who is on free or reduced lunch may get a voucher to help pay for books and fees (See Your Counselor).

How do graduation requirements work for Running Start students?

TBHS graduation requirements do not change for Running Start students. Students must meet all FWPS academic requirements including state assessments and the High School and Beyond Plan. FWPS determines which CC courses will be acceptable in meeting course requirements for HS graduation. The student must work closely with their high school counselor to be sure all requirements are met being met. Students should finish required "core" courses (English, Science, etc.) before taking any elective courses. See Course Equivalency Sheet for details.

How does the credit work between college and high school?

Every 5 credits taken at the college level each quarter equals 1 credit at

the high school level. Students taking 15 credits at CC for all three quarters may earn up to 9 credits as opposed to 8 credits for a student at TBHS.

How do the different academic calendars work?

The best time to enter Running Start is in the *fall quarter*. High School and college calendars do not always match up. All area community colleges operate on the quarter system with the following basic calendar:

Fall - Late September to mid December

Winter - Early January to late March

Spring - Early April to mid to late June

Students participating in both HS and CC courses in the fall will have only high school courses for most of September. RS students will end their spring quarter in late June after TBHS has concluded their school.



Can I still participate in High School activities such as clubs and sports?

Running Start students are still a part of the TBHS student body and eligible for all high school and athletics activities. Keeping track of high school activities, college application deadlines, senior planning, and other activities is the responsibility of the RS student. Students enrolled in RS classes must check in regularly to stay informed. This includes checking TBHS websites (TBHS Homepage, Canvas pages, etc.) as well as checking their TBHS mail daily. This helps students to stay informed about special events, athletics, college applications and graduation timelines.

How are grades transferred from the Community College to the TBHS transcript?

At the end of each college quarter the college will send TBHS the grades that each student has earned in their courses. TBHS will then add the grades to their high school transcript. College and high school transcripts can show different letter grades earned in a course; however, the TBHS transcript needs to record the letter grade that is given to us from the sending college. Community colleges use different scales, please refer to each college's website to find out what grading scale they use.

Do I have to attend Highline?

Students have the option of attending any college they wish that participates in the Running Start program. The student is responsible for all transportation to and from the college.

Can Running Start students still play sports?

If RS students meet WIAA eligibility standards, they are eligible to participate in high school athletics and activities at TBHS. However, the scheduling of RS and athletics/activities can be challenging so plan ahead! Athletes must contact the athletic director for more information.



Does the college regard RS as a positive, a negative or is it neutral?

The concept of RS is at least neutral at all schools in the state. What courses (how academic, how challenging, how many) the student takes at the CC will be a factor in it staying neutral or shifting to positive or negative. Students interested in independent, out-of-state schools are encouraged to consult with them. For highly selective colleges, remember their common statement on high school curriculum "we are looking for students who have taken maximum advantage of the curriculum available to them." At least some of these schools will look at courses like Honors Humanities or AP sciences and math as stronger than many CC courses. We recommend you contact the schools in which you are interested.

Will colleges/universities count the RS credits toward a degree at their college?

The six public universities in the state will accept the credits, as will many of the private schools in the state. How out-of-state public and private four-year colleges handle the credits may depend on the courses taken and the policies of the college itself. If receiving college credit is important, the student will want to ask specific questions to colleges they are considering. Generally, the more selective the college the less likely they are to accept the RS credits.

Can I do Running Start part-time?

Running Start should be considered a year-long commitment. While it is possible to be a part-time RS student, it is **highly discouraged** due to the following:

- Difficult to manage
- Parking and transportation issues (when in-person)
- Must be on time to classes

***Your HS schedule will not change to accommodate your college schedule*

What is an Enrollment Verification Form (EVF)?

The Enrollment Verification Form is the form that the counselor fills out with the classes that the student needs to take in order to meet high school graduation requirements. The student will use the college equivalency guide to determine which college classes to register for. The student will need to turn in the EVF to the college before they can register for classes.

Example:

TBHS COURSE	EQUIVILANT FOR CC
American Gov't/Civics	Political Science &101, &202, 275
Fine Art	Any 100 and above level course in Art or Music

Please note that senior RS students must have their High School and Beyond Plan completed before they are eligible to receive their Spring quarter EVF.

How does math work at college?

Appropriate math scores will be required if a student plans to enroll in college-level math or science. Courses numbered 099 or below, in any subject area, are not considered college-level, and cannot be

funded by RS. If you are currently in Geometry at TBHS, you will be required to take Algebra 2 next year at TBHS unless you wish to pay for the course at your college out of pocket. You will still be able to take 15 credits of classes at a community college while taking one class at TBHS. Students that have completed Algebra 2 can take a placement test to determine which college math course they can take. Please contact your college for further placement instructions.



STEPS TO ENROLLMENT

STEP 1

Read the packet in its entirety and sign and return the Running Start Scholar Agreement form to your counselor

STEP 2

Applications can usually be done online on the community college website and take less than 30 minutes to complete.

STEP 3

Students take an English placement test to ensure they can write at a college level. Please contact your college for placement instructions. Students may not need to take a placement test if they have a cumulative HS GPA of 3.0 or higher, Please forward your placement confirmation email from your prospective college to your counselor once you receive it.

STEP 4

Once students have completed all previous steps they can then schedule an appointment to meet with their high school counselor to complete their EVF. If students have not completed all of the previous steps they will not receive their EVF. The EVF must be completed before every quarter before you register for classes at a college through Running Start.

STEP 5

Your preferred community college may require additional steps including attending orientation and meeting with your Running Start counselor at the college.

STEP 6

Once you register for classes, pay your tuition and fees (if applicable) before the tuition and fee deadline. Also, make sure to research and pay for any other expenses such as textbooks, supplies, parking, etc. before classes start.

01

**SIGN RUNNING START
SCHOLAR AGREEMENT**

02

**APPLY TO YOUR
COLLEGE**

03

DETERMINE PLACEMENT

04

**COMPLETE THE
ENROLLMENT
VERIFICATION FORM
(EVF)**

05

**COMPLETE REMAINING
REQUIREMENTS FOR
COLLEGE**

06

REGISTER FOR CLASSES

TODD BEAMER HIGH SCHOOL

RUNNING START AGREEMENT

This agreement and information is to ensure that you fully understand the rules & responsibilities involved in order to participate in the Running Start program.

- Students are responsible for maintaining full-time student status overall. Reducing credits on one campus requires adding credits at the other. Students are required to get permission from their TBHS counselor PRIOR to dropping a Running Start class after the quarter has begun, and will be required to add classes at TBHS to maintain full-time student status.
- All RS grades will become permanent on the student's high school and college transcripts. Students must take all courses for a letter grade. College academic courses require a high level of self-discipline. The college will not send progress reports or warnings; therefore, students are responsible for monitoring their own progress.
- Running Start students are subject to all rules, regulations and procedures governing college students for course requirements, content, registration, grading and appropriate behavior. Colleges treat the RS student as a college student and will not communicate attendance or academic problems to the parent or high school. Students will communicate directly with the college RS office or instructors with any college course concerns.
- Scholars are always welcome on the Todd Beamer Campus but there must be a purpose for the visit, i.e. no roaming the hallways. (Make sure to bring school I.D. with Running Start label.)
- Running Start scholars participating in sports are under the same guidelines/rules as all other Todd Beamer scholars. There will be periodic grade checks and full-time RS scholars must take and be passing (3) 5 credit classes each quarter.
- Once accepted into Running Start, students must maintain a minimum 2.0 college GPA. If the student's GPA falls below a 2.0, the student is placed on academic probation at the community college. If the student violates the terms of the academic probation in any future quarter, the Community College will revoke access to RS, and the student must immediately return to TBHS.
- Students may participate in RS during their Junior and Senior year. Students may only take RS fall, winter, and spring quarters; there is no summer RS program.
- Students with disabilities who have a 504 or IEP plan are responsible to inform and provide documentation of the disability to the community college.
- Scholars are responsible for knowing and completing graduation requirements. If scholars complete all requirements before by the end of 11th grade, they **will NOT** be able to receive funding through Running Start in 12th grade and will be responsible to pay for **ALL** future classes.

- Because class terms are not aligned, students must make a year-long commitment/decision to participate in RS. Students cannot start or end RS mid-year without adversely impacting their credits. Students who drop out of RS mid-year will be required to return to TBHS mid-term even though they may be unable to earn credit for the new schedule. This may adversely affect graduation.
- Books, registration/lab fees, parking/transportation costs are the responsibility of the student.
- Scholars need to be aware of their college's add/drop dates each quarter. The earlier you are able to register, the better your chances are to get your desired courses. Community College classes fill first come first serve, and students are not guaranteed a seat in classes they need or want. Minding all RS deadlines and registering for classes each quarter at the appointed time is the responsibility of the student.
- Students must communicate with their TBHS counselor to schedule an appointment for the required RS signature each quarter. This happens ahead of their college deadlines. ***Student understands that if they wait until right before college deadlines, the counselor might not be available to sign their EVF until after their deadline passes.***
- Federal Way Public Schools determines which college classes will meet specific high school graduation requirements. RS students are subject to the same state and district graduation requirements as all other TBHS students and must plan accordingly for non-credit requirements like Graduation Pathways, WA State History, State Assessments, and the High School & Beyond Plan.
- As with all TBHS students, it is the scholar's and parent's responsibility to ensure that high school graduation requirements are being met and graduation timelines and procedures are being met. We strongly advise against leaving any graduation requirements until Spring quarter of Senior year to avoid unnecessary obstacles to graduation.
- Not all post-secondary colleges, especially those out-of-state, accept RS courses for college credit. Those who do may have rules about specific courses, etc. Students must consult directly with an individual college/university to determine policies. It is the student's responsibility to make sure she/he understands these requirements from the school(s) of their choice.
- For part-time RS scholars, your TBHS schedule will not change to accommodate your college schedule.

Student Name

Signature of Student

Date

Student ID#

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date