



AVID[®]

*Purpose Driven,
Future Ready*



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AVID Early College Explained

Just think about earning college credit while in high school without the tuition bills. Rising ninth graders residing in Richland School District Two may be eligible to earn up to two (2) years of college credits from the University of South Carolina - Sumter. The Richland Two AVID Early College started their cohort of freshmen beginning in the 2017-18 school year.

The AVID Early College is open to students who are willing to become part of the AVID class for all four years of high school. Eligibility will be determined through a number of factors to include eighth grade PSAT score (if taken) or MAP and Lexile scores. The Richland Two AVID Early College was established and is still housed at Ridge View High School. Rising ninth graders can apply now regardless of their attendance zone or magnet school selections.

The Richland Two AVID Early College is offered in partnership with UofSC - Sumter, and students have the potential to graduate high school to start college as a second-semester sophomore or first-semester junior. Completion of the coursework will require strict adherence to the four-year plan for completion of all courses and will require summer courses in the summer before their Junior and Senior years. Early Bird classes may be required some semesters. Furthermore, students in the Early College may have a difficult time scheduling to take Fine Arts electives (e.g. Chorus, Orchestra, & Band). Students in the Early College will not take any Advanced Placement (AP) classes but will instead take dual-credit courses with UofSC and Richland Two faculty. With the credits from the University of South Carolina, accepted students may transfer to a public state college or university as a junior (depending on your major).

Our goal in offering the AVID Early College is to pave a realistic and more affordable pathway to a four-year college degree for students who may consider college and the expenses associated with college out of their reach. Students in the AVID Early College will take rigorous coursework and will benefit from college and career planning and academic coaching through the AVID class. There is NO cost to district students who attend except for textbooks. Funds to pay UofSC - Sumter are being provided by the SC Lottery system and use of these funds does not take away from a student's ability to use four years of lottery funding after high school. Using these funds does require that a student in the Early College maintain a 3.0 GPA or future use of lottery funds is forfeited.

Accepted students will attend high school at Ridge View High School. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination and is a college-readiness system that prepares students for success in high school, college, and careers.

Freshmen year courses (all semester-long except AVID):

- AVID 1
- English 1 Honors
- Algebra 1
- Spanish 1
- Biology 1 Honors
- English 2 Honors
- Geometry Honors
- Personal Health & Wellness (online VirtualSC)
- Physical Education (online VirtualSC)

Sophomore year courses (all semester-long except AVID):

- AVID 2
- English 3 Honors
- Spanish 2
- Creative Writing
- Algebra 2 Honors
- Physics 1
- Chemistry 1 Honors
- Economics Honors

Summer semester after sophomore year:

- CSCE 102 - General Applications Programming
- BIOL 110L - General Biology w/ LAB

Junior year courses (all semester-long except AVID):

- AVID 3
- Pre-Calculus Honors
- ENGL 101 - Critical Reading and Composition
- POLI 201 - American Government
- HIST 111 - United States History to 1865
- ARTE 101 - Introduction to Art
- ENGL 102 - Rhetoric and Composition
- MUSC 113 - Special Topics in Popular Music
- HIST 112 - United States History from 1865
- SPAN 109 - Beginning Spanish I

Summer semester after junior year:

- HIST 102 - European Civilization from Mid-17th Century
- ENGL 200 - Creative Writing & Community

Senior year courses (all semester-long except AVID):

- AVID 4
- SPCH 145 - Public Communication
- PSYC 101 - Introduction to Psychology
- SPAN 110 - Beginning Spanish II
- CHEM 105 - Chemistry and Modern Society
- SOCY 101 - Introductory Sociology
- THEA 170 - Fundamentals of Acting
- JOUR 101 - Media and Society
- ANTH 102 - Understanding Other Cultures

Frequently Asked Questions About Expanded Choice Programs

Where is the AVID Early College located?

The AVID Early College was established in 2017 and is still housed at Ridge View High School.

How many students are accepted into the program?

District-wide, only twenty-five (25) students are in each cohort.

What grade level of students can apply?

Only rising 9th graders can apply, as this program has 4 full years of a rigorous program-of-study coursework.

Where are the courses offered?

Every course is taught on the campus at Ridge View High School or through the University's online learning platform, Blackboard.

What is dual-enrollment?

The South Carolina State Department of Education defines dual enrollment as the process of where high school students take college level coursework and earn both college and high school credit.

What is the tuition cost for these courses?

Students will utilize the Lottery Tuition Assistance Program (LTAP) to help pay for their courses, thus making them free (with the exception of textbooks). Students are expected to maintain a GPA of a 3.0 to continue using LTAP funds to cover tuition, or else they may forfeit this access permanently.

Can I take elective courses?

Depending on what credits are brought into high school from middle school, students may be able to choose some elective coursework. However, the program-of-study is set out for all 4 years of rigorous coursework needed to graduate with both a high school diploma and Associate's degree from the University of South Carolina.

Will I take A.P. (Advanced Placement) courses?

No, students will not. They will take a mixture of Honors-level, CP, and dual-enrollment college courses.

Which college credit hours transfer?

The college credit hours earned while taking dual-enrollment will transfer to any public, in-state university

(e.g. Clemson, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Winthrop University, University of South Carolina campuses, etc). Private or out-of-state colleges/universities reserve the right to refuse transfer credit hours. However, every Institution of Higher Education has a transfer credit policy available on their website. We strongly urge families and prospective students to do their research before applying to the program to see if this would be a good fit for them based on their anticipated major.

Do students have to be zoned to Ridge View as their home school to apply?

No, so long as the family can provide transportation if accepted into the AVID Early College program and are a resident of Richland School District Two.

Do students have to have been in AVID in middle school?

No, students do not have to have been in AVID in middle school. However, they will be required to be in AVID all 4 years for the AVID Early College to support their matriculation into successful college coursework as a high school student.

What is the Associate's degree that's awarded?

The Sumter campus awards students in the AVID Early College program an Associate's degree in Arts from the University of South Carolina.

Are there any other considerations?

Students will take a full load of in-person (face-to-face) Summer semester courses after their Sophomore and Junior years. If a student is not zoned to attend Ridge View, then transportation on the family's behalf must be provided. Taking elective courses may not be an option for some students. Students may not be in any other Magnet program than the AVID Early College. Every semester, students are required to complete twenty (20) hours of community service. Students are required to keep at least a C (70) average in all classes at all times. Students are expected to maintain a GPA of a 3.0 to continue using LTAP funds to cover tuition, or else they may forfeit this access permanently.

Frequently Asked Questions About Expanded Choice Programs

Who provides transportation?

Parents whose children participate in any of the district's choice options must provide transportation for their children to and from school. The inability of a student to meet the attendance expectations of the Choice school will lead to Choice being revoked. In that case, the student must then return to the zoned school.

How does AVID Early College affect participation in interscholastic athletics?

The rules of the South Carolina High School League determine eligibility for interscholastic athletics and activities for middle and high school students. It is the parents' and students' responsibility to be aware of these athletic procedures before applying for a Choice option. Any student who accepts a Choice program and participates in an athletic activity at the Choice school during the spring or summer (cheerleading tryouts, spring football practice, summer team camps) may have their eligibility affected. If you have questions regarding Choice and participation in interscholastic athletics, please contact your school's athletic director prior to applying for a Choice program or a transfer to a school other than your zoned school. Additionally, many eligibility concerns are addressed in the athletics frequently asked questions.

Can a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) apply for AVID Early College?

Students receiving special education may apply for choice to a magnet school, magnet program, virtual school, or another school within the district through the Choice program. During application periods, parents/guardians apply online and follow the district's school choice process. The decision to grant the choice request is based on the student's programming needs and program capacity at the school of choice. Richland Two adheres to state special education program capacity guidelines. Once a student is granted choice, all district transportation rules apply and the student is no longer eligible to receive district transportation, including Special Needs Transportation to and from school. Parents/guardians are responsible for transportation to their school of choice.



AVID EARLY COLLEGE CONTACT

Richland Two AVID Coordinator

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MISSION STATEMENT

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR COMMUNITY,
WE EMPOWER STUDENTS TO DISCOVER THEIR POTENTIAL
AND PREPARE FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE**

WWW.RICHLAND2.ORG/CHOICE

763 FASHION DRIVE, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29229

803-787-1910

Richland School District Two is committed to providing equal access to educational and employment opportunities regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, pregnancy, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity status, spousal affiliation, or any other protected characteristic, as may be required by law. Therefore, as required by Title IX and its implementing regulations, 106.8(b)(2)(i), Richland School District Two does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs and activities.

*Visit the Richland Two website, www.richland2.org, for more information on the Richland Two Title IX Compliance Program.
Our District Title IX Coordinator can be reached at klarkins@richland2.org or (803) 738-3338.*