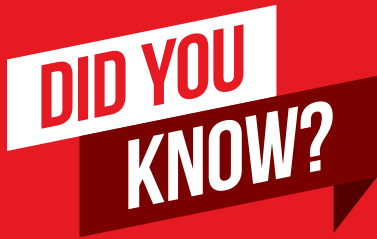




EARLY COLLEGE CREDIT FAST FACTS

Earning college credit at Stillwater Area High School has never been easier. By enrolling in early college credit courses, you get a head start on your future for free.



SAHS now offers 35 college courses on campus through concurrent enrollment and College In Schools. We also offer 12 Advanced Placement courses. Students do not need to leave campus to earn college credit!

Early College Credit Options

Early college credit refers to any course where students can earn both high school credit and college credit in the same course. Here are the types of early college credit offered to our students:

At SAHS	Off Campus
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Articulated Credit (ACC): When a student earns an ACC credit, they are earning credit at one of our local community colleges. These credits often align with CTE courses and majors. When students earn a C- or higher, they are awarded credit at that community college.2. Advanced Placement (AP): When a student takes an AP course, they take a test in May. Based on the score, individual universities and colleges determine if and how the credit will be awarded on their campus. Students must send their AP scores from the College Board to individual universities and colleges to determine which goal areas the AP credits will apply towards.3. Concurrent enrollment (CE) & College in the Schools (CIS): When a student takes a concurrent enrollment or College in the Schools course, they are taking the same college class as the partner university, while building a college transcript for free while in high school. If a student earns a C- or higher, they are automatically awarded college credit from the partner college. Individual colleges and universities will determine which goal areas the credits will apply when students send their college and high school transcripts.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO): Students in PSEO take college courses from a participating institution either on campus or online. Like CE and CIS, when students take a PSEO course, they are building a college transcript for free while in high school. If a student earns a C- or higher, they are automatically awarded college credit. Individual colleges and universities will determine which general goal areas the credit will apply, similar to CE & CIS.5. 916 Career & Tech (916): Seniors can attend hands-on courses through Northeast Metro 916 at Century College. Complete the course to possibly earn credits applicable to certain Century College programs.

SAHS is shifting to more concurrent enrollment classes

Over the past five years, we have seen a shift among our students in their course registrations. Fewer students are enrolling in Advanced Placement courses, and for those who do participate, colleges and universities are requiring higher scores on the AP exam to earn college credit. Students are also leaving our high school to take Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) courses at nearly double the rate they were five years ago. In response to this trend, we're offering more rigorous, college-credit courses on the high school campus through concurrent enrollment and College In The Schools.

• What are the benefits of CE and CIS classes:

Students have the opportunity to start and build their college transcripts and earn college credits without having to leave school. Their teachers are already familiar with rigorous curriculum and are credentialed to teach specific college classes. Another benefit is students do not have to take a high-stakes test at the end of the term to determine whether they possibly earn college credit.

• How does concurrent enrollment compare to Advanced Placement?

AP and CE both offer rigorous, college-level coursework and the opportunity to earn college credit, depending on the institution's policies. AP relies on a single high-stakes exam to determine credit eligibility, while CE awards transcripted credits based on a student's performance throughout the course, offering a more balanced and accessible option. CE classes are taught by highly qualified high school staff, many of whom are also trained in AP curriculum. These courses maintain a rigorous pace and help students develop college-ready skills while experiencing a curriculum comparable to that of a college setting.



Students can take an AP exam even if they don't take the corresponding AP course.

• How does concurrent enrollment compare to PSEO?:

CE and PSEO both allow students to earn college credits while in high school, but they differ in delivery and consistency. CE courses are taught at the high school by the school's teachers, ensuring a consistent level of rigor and alignment with high school support systems. PSEO courses, on the other hand, are taken off-campus or online through a college, where the institution controls the instructors, course content, grading policies, and teaching practices. This means students may encounter a wide range of rigor and varying experiences, even for the same course, at the PSEO level.

Will Early College Credits Transfer To My Preferred College or University?

Each of the early credit opportunities has its own pros and cons. We encourage students and families to meet with their school counselor to discuss which of the opportunities make the most sense based on student interests, strengths, future plans including college type and major, and outside school activities and/or responsibilities.

Do these courses have weighted grades?

No courses at SAHS will have weighted grades starting in the 2025-2026 school year. CE/CIS and PSEO courses are already guaranteed college credit since students are building their college transcript.

How will prospective colleges know we are taking a concurrent enrollment course?

Colleges and universities are well-versed and equipped to review early college credits earned in high school when college transcripts are provided to college admissions. Here are the ways we identify CE and CIS courses on a transcript:

- Classes have a CIS or a CE abbreviation in the course name. These names will also appear on students' transcripts indicating concurrent enrollment.
- There is a designation on student transcripts stating: "Rigorous college level courses are designated by: ACC, AP, CIS, and CE."
- CE and CIS courses are also included in our School Profile under the "Rigorous Course Opportunities."
- When students apply to colleges via the Common Application or other college applications, our counselors are required to fill out a rigorous course evaluation metric which these courses will also fall under.

Resources

Transferology: [Transferology.com](https://www.transferology.com)

Minnesota Transfer Curriculum: minnstate.edu/admissions/transfer/mntc.html

College Board: collegeboard.org

Schedule a meeting with your school counselor to discuss questions and academic planning.