



# LCHS ASCENT Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the ASCENT Program?

Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) is a fifth-year high school program that allows students to participate in concurrent enrollment the year after 12th grade. LCHS ASCENT students enroll in postsecondary courses at either Front Range Community College or Aims Community College and earn college credit at no tuition cost to them or their families. See the [CO Department of Education website](#) for more information.

### How would ASCENT benefit me?

- **Save money:** ASCENT students earn college credit without paying tuition, potentially saving thousands of dollars on their postsecondary education.
- **Guaranteed Credit Transfer:** ASCENT courses are guaranteed to transfer to any public institution within the state of Colorado. However, while courses transfer, it is still important to determine if they will apply to your college degree or certificate. Learn more about the transfer of credits here: [How Will My Credits Transfer?](#)
- **One full year of college credit accumulation:** By participating in the ASCENT program and enrolling full-time each semester, you can potentially earn one full year of college credit at no tuition cost.

### How do I qualify for the program?

You must:

- Have completed, or be on schedule to complete, at least 9 credit hours of transcribed, credit-bearing, college-level postsecondary coursework\* prior to completing your 12th grade year.
- Be under the age of 21.
- Be in good academic and disciplinary standing along with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0.
- Meet all high school graduation requirements by the end of senior year and be college ready.
- Apply to, and be accepted into, a Colorado postsecondary institution that has an agreement with Liberty Common High School.
- Register with the [Colorado Opportunity Fund \(COF\)](#). You are required to authorize the use of your COF to help pay for your college course costs at a college that receives COF funding. *Please note that college-level credits earned through ASCENT will be deducted from the student's COF lifetime credits account maximum.*
- Remain enrolled at LCHS for a fifth year (you will not attend classes at LCHS)
- Have not participated in the ASCENT program in previous years.

\* LCHS concurrent enrollment classes and AP test scores of 3 or higher must be transcribed to a college transcript no later than June 30th of the student's 12th grade year.

**Who should take advantage of the ASCENT program?**

Any LCHS senior who meets the requirements above and wants to attend either Front Range Community College or Aims Community College to pursue a degree program they are interested in.

**Should all qualified students participate in ASCENT?**

No. It is at the discretion of the student and their parent/guardian to determine if the ASCENT program is the best fit for the postsecondary education. Students should be aware that college credits earned during their ASCENT year don't always transfer to an out-of-state college or every degree program at a 4 year institution.

**Will the cost of books and fees be covered?**

Yes. LCHS will reimburse up to \$500 per semester for course books and fees.

**Is an ASCENT student eligible for financial aid?**

No. A student is retained by their school to participate in ASCENT, and is still considered a high school student, so they are not able to accept financial aid. One thing to consider: if you are also applying to colleges and the scholarships and financial aid packages you receive end up being a better opportunity for you, you may not want to participate in ASCENT.

**How is an ASCENT student funded?**

ASCENT participants remain students at LCHS for one year following their 12th grade year. LCHS receives ASCENT specific per-pupil-revenue funding that it used to pay their college tuition at the resident community college rate. College-level credits earned through ASCENT will be deducted from the student's COF lifetime credits account maximum.

**If I stay enrolled at LCHS for a 5th year, when will I be considered a high school graduate?**

Until you complete the 5th year ASCENT program, you will still be classified as a high school student. Your high school transcript will show that you have completed your LCHS graduation requirements and that you are an ASCENT student for a 5th year. Once you complete or stop participating in the ASCENT program, you will receive your high school diploma along with your final transcript and be classified as a high school graduate.

**Will I be able to participate in my high school graduation?**

Yes! You will still participate in the graduation ceremony with your high school class. You will receive a certificate stating that you are an ASCENT student for the upcoming school year. At the completion of your ASCENT year, you will receive your high school diploma.

**Which community college can I enroll in to participate in ASCENT?**

Aims Community College or Front Range Community College

**Is there a maximum and minimum number of credits I can take?**

A student can take up to 18 credits, approximately 15 is recommended, and must take at least 12 credits.

**Which college classes can I take?**

Students enroll in Guarantee Transfer credit courses, a state approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) postsecondary program, or a specific postsecondary degree program pathway including coursework related to apprenticeship programs and internship programs. Course credit, grading scales, and all other academic policies are governed by the college institution in which the student enrolls.

**Can I enroll in online courses?**

Yes. Students can enroll in online or in-person classes.

### **Can I complete more than one certificate program while participating in ASCENT?**

Yes. Students that successfully complete one program can enroll in another program provided it has been discussed with the LCHS ASCENT coordinator. Approval must be granted prior to enrolling in an additional certificate program.

### **Do I have to enroll in the spring semester?**

If an ASCENT student earns a postsecondary credential in the fall semester, they are not required to enroll in the spring semester, but it is encouraged.

### **Can I transfer schools while participating in ASCENT?**

Yes. This must be approved by the LCHS ASCENT coordinator prior to transferring to another institution.

### **How do I apply for the ASCENT program?**

During your senior year you will start by filling out an ASCENT Program Interest Form and submit your application. If it is determined that you have met, or will meet, the program requirements, then your application is reviewed by the Student Services/ASCENT committee. If you are selected to enter the program, then a meeting with the LCHS ASCENT Coordinator, yourself and your parent/guardian will be scheduled to discuss the program and sign the ASCENT Agreement and Registration Form.

### **What happens after being accepted into and registering for the program?**

- Apply and be accepted to the community college you plan to attend for your ASCENT year.
- The LCHS ASCENT Coordinator will connect you with the concurrent enrollment or ASCENT office at community college where you will be assigned an advisor and register for classes.
- Attend any required orientation sessions.

### **What program responsibilities do I have during my ASCENT year?**

- Because you are still a LCHS student, it is imperative that you stay in communication with the LCHS ASCENT Coordinator. Check and respond to emails in a timely manner.
- Prior to adding, dropping, or withdrawing from a class, you must see your community college advisor and the LCHS ASCENT Coordinator.
- You are required to meet all of the course expectations and prerequisites as noted in the college course catalog and/or syllabus.

### **What else do I need to know?**

- You may only participate in the ASCENT program for one academic year.
- ASCENT students who apply for college admissions after completing the program are NOT transfer students, despite accumulating college credits or even a 2-year degree. You will apply to college as a first-time, undergraduate student.
- The grades you receive during your ASCENT year will be on your college transcript and can affect admissions and/or scholarship opportunities positively or negatively. Your ASCENT courses will not count toward your LCHS GPA received after your senior year.
- Students participating in the program have alumni status at LCHS. They are not eligible to participate in LCHS events or programs such as dances, athletics, etc. ASCENT program participants may not be on the LCHS campus during the school day other than as alumni visitors.

If you are interested in the ASCENT program or would like more information, please contact the LCHS ASCENT Coordinator, Mrs. Kelly Moran at [kmoran@libertycommon.org](mailto:kmoran@libertycommon.org).