RUNNING START IN THE LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

College Credit While in High School

The Running Start program allows juniors and seniors to attend community and technical colleges while still in high school. Qualified students take college courses and apply the credits toward high school graduation and potential college degrees. The Lake Washington School District pays tuition for up to 21 credits. Books, registration/lab fees, parking/transportation costs are the responsibility of the student. Students eligible for free/reduced-price meals may indicate this on their Running Start Enrollment Verification Form (RSEVF) each quarter to have most fees covered.

Course Options and Fees

- Some courses listed in the attached chart are also offered online or as hybrid courses (combining online coursework with on-site sessions). Online courses generally require additional fees. Students are advised to check with the community college to confirm their financial responsibilities before enrolling.
- Students wishing to transfer college credits earned through Running Start to a baccalaureate institution should verify college course transfer equivalencies and agreements in advance. This is particularly important for those applying to private institutions or colleges/universities outside Washington state.

Graduation Requirements:

- Courses not listed on the **Running Start High School Course Equivalencies** may not meet Lake Washington School District graduation requirements. Students considering courses other than those indicated must meet with and receive approval from their high school counselor **before registering** at the community college.
- Students should check high school and college websites for registration timelines.

Athletics and Activities

- Running Start students must meet Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) eligibility standards to participate in high school athletics and activities at their home high school. Student athletes must have a WIAA agreement on file. Check with your high school athletic office for documentation.

Staying Informed

- Running Start students and their families must stay actively informed regarding school events, graduation requirements, college application/financial aid timelines, senior deadlines, weekly building updates, school emails, and class meetings.
- Students are required to complete their High School and Beyond activities/plans at their local high school.
- Required state high school assessments will be administered at the local high schools.

Qualifications for Running Start

To participate in the Running Start program, students must:

- Pass a college placement test (e.g., COMPASS, ASSET, ACCUPLACER) and be accepted for admission to the Running Start program. Students must contact the community college for the examination schedule and consult with their high school counselor regarding college plans.
- Have Junior or Senior standing with a minimum of 10 credits from an approved or accredited high school.
- Be prepared to take college level courses and do college level work. Meeting grade level standards and passing state high school assessments are indicators a student is prepared for success at the college level.
- Provide your own transportation to the community college.
- Purchase books for classes and pay any parking and/or incidental fees. Fee assistance for qualifying students/families may be available.
- Understand they will be treated like college students while taking college courses. Attendance may not be taken, parents will not be notified if a student skips class, and progress reports are not given. The high school is not responsible for a student's actions while attending the college classes.

RUNNING START IN THE LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

College Credit While in High School

Additional Information

- **Enrollment Limits**: Students may enroll in Running Start programs up to a combined maximum of 1.4 full-time equivalent (FTE), including high school and Running Start courses. Alternatively, they may enroll as a full-time Running Start equivalent (no high school classes). A ****Running Start Enrollment Verification Form** must be completed and signed each quarter.
- **Tuition**: Tuition is charged for college credits exceeding the 1.4 FTE limit in any quarter, except for vocational programs or skills centers.
- **Course Requirements**: Courses must be taken for credit, not audited. Notify both the college and high school immediately if dropping a class to avoid reimbursement of tuition fees to the district or a failing grade in the class.
- **Graduation Requirement Determination:** The Lake Washington School District decides which Running Start classes fulfill high school graduation requirements. Please refer to the **Running Start High School Course Equivalencies** each quarter, prior to course selection.
- **High School and Beyond Plan**: Running Start participants are required to complete High School and Beyond Plans at their local high schools.
- **State Testing**: State high school assessments must be taken at the student's local high school.
- **Home-Based and Private School Students:** Contact your home high school to explore Running Start options.
- **Credit Transferability:** Not all private colleges or out-of-state colleges accept community college credits earned through Running Start.
- **Summer Running Start:** Eligibility must be determined in collaboration with the high school.
- **Graduation Completion:** Early completion of graduation requirements must be coordinated with the high school counselor and principal. Students cannot continue in Running Start after completing high school graduation requirements by June of their graduation year. Students who have not completed all graduation requirements may continue in Running Start as a “second-year senior” under specific conditions.
- **Second-Year Senior Status Definition and Eligibility:** A second-year senior is a student who has not met graduation requirements by the end of their 12th-grade academic year. These students may only enroll in Running Start courses required to complete high school graduation requirements. Eligibility is restricted to students who participated in Running Start their junior and/or senior year. Students who did not utilize Running Start during their junior or senior years and fail a high school class during these years cannot enroll in the same class through Running Start during their 13th year. Second-year seniors must comply with WAC 392-169-055.