

Kalamazoo County Early/Middle College Program Overview

Overview:

The Early/Middle College (EMC) program is an opportunity for students to earn an associate's degree or certificate along with their high school diploma. Students will be able to save both time and money as they pursue a college degree and access support services designed to enhance their success as they work towards achieving their educational goals.

How does EMC work?

Students are enrolled in a focused program of study at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Students have an additional 13th year of high school for program completion. The local school district pays the tuition and fees up to an allocated amount.

The EMC program is structured so that students gradually increase their exposure to college courses over a five-year span:

- Initially (9th/10th grades), the bulk of the student schedule will be comprised of traditional high school classes.
- As the student progresses through their educational plan, they will be exposed to more and more college courses.
- By the time they reach 13th grade (or 5th year), all of their coursework will be through Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

What additional supports are available through EMC?

Students who participate in EMC also receive support services to assist them in their transition from high school to college:

- All EMC students take a College Success Strategies Course in 10th grade to enhance their academic preparation, study skills development, and social maturity skills.
- All EMC students have a coach that they meet with regularly.

What programs are available?

Most EMC programs begin with attending a CTE class in 11th grade at the Career Connect Campus or a satellite location. The CTE class includes college credit and/or credentials. Students need to complete the CTE application for consideration. A seat in a CTE class is not guaranteed.

The General Education/Liberal Arts program does not include attending a CTE class. Students attend KVCC courses in 11th grade at the Career Connect Campus. The focus is typically on completing the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) and taking additional courses towards a transfer degree.

Students may participate in one of the following programs. For specific options within each program, please refer to the EMC website at www.kresa.org/emc.

Degrees in Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

AAS degrees are occupational in orientation and are designed to prepare graduates for immediate employment. They require successful completion of a minimum of 62 credit hours.

Certificates (CERT)

Certificate programs prepare graduates for a specialized occupation. They require the successful completion of 30 credits hours or more.

Certificates of Achievement (COA)

Certificate of Achievement programs require fewer courses than a regular certificate program providing training in a specific set of skills for employment in a specific occupation. They require successful completion of more than 3 but less than 30 hours of credit.

Transfer Degrees in Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS)

AA or AS degrees are for students planning to transfer to a four-year university. They require successful completion of a minimum of 62 credit hours.

The application packet and other information can be found on the Kalamazoo County EMC website www.kresa.org/emc.