

Running Start – 2026-2027

Running Start allows students to take college classes to earn both high school and college credit. You may enroll simultaneously in high school and college classes (part time RS) or take all college classes (full time RS) if you are eligible.

Who's eligible to participate in Running Start?

- Students must be enrolled in a WA state high school and entering 11th or 12th grade
- Students must place into college-level English (through placement test or SBA test scores/transcript review)
- Students wanting to do full-time Running Start must also place into college-level math

Am I ready for Running Start?

Students who are successful in Running Start...

- Have 2.0 cumulative GPA and minimum 11 credits
- **Have the personal traits of a dedicated student** – mature, independent, focused, organized, self-motivated
- **Have their own transportation** or access to Metro
- **Have time for homework.** College homework may require 1-2 hours of work for every 1 hour spent in class
- **Have consistent attendance.** You should be prepared to attend college classes EVERY DAY! Remember – the credit you earn from a college class is what you would earn over the course of a whole school year in high school, so missing ONE day of college classes can be like missing a week+ of a high school class!

Students must COMPLETE the Running Start enrollment process by:

JUNE 5, 2026

STEPS TO RUNNING START ENROLLMENT

1. **Apply online** to the college of your choice.
Highline College: runningstart.highline.edu/getting-started/steps-to-enroll
South Seattle College: <https://southseattle.edu/running-start/get-started>
Tips for filling out your application:
 - a. You may leave the application question about your Social Security Number blank. You will not access financial aid for Running Start. A Social Security number is not required for participation in Running Start.
 - b. Select “Running Start” as admit type when applying for admission.
 - c. Running Start Residency Status - Undetermined
2. Receive a follow-up email from the college. **Activate your college account.**
3. **Contact the college's Placement Center** to determine math and ELA placement. You may need to get a copy of your transcript to provide to them. This can be requested from your HHS Counselor or Ms. Finlon at the Counseling front desk.
4. **Attend a HHS Orientation session with your parent/guardian (parent/guardian attendance is REQUIRED) to review the Running Start information and contract.**

HHS Orientation Dates & Times:

- a. Wednesday, March 25th 6:00pm – HHS Library
- b. Tuesday, April 21st – 6:00pm – HHS Commons
- c. Thursday, May 7th – 6:00pm – HHS Future Center
- d. Thursday, May 19th – 6:00pm – HHS Theater

You must sign-up to reserve your spot at the session you plan to attend! Use the QR to register

2026-2027 RUNNING START
ORIENTATION sign-up



5. **Meet with your HHS Counselor** (by appointment only!) to complete an Enrollment Verification Form (RSEVF) **after** successful completion of an HHS Running Start Orientation.
6. **Meet with the college Running Start Advisor** and complete the New Student Orientation at the college.
7. **Register for Running Start classes.** Let your HHS school counselor know once this step is complete.

RUNNING START – True or False?

Running Start is a great way to prepare for college.

False! Running Start IS college. You need to be ready for college if you're doing Running Start.

All high school juniors are ready for college.

False. Not all juniors, or seniors for that matter, are ready for college. But that's okay! We don't expect you to be ready for college yet. We've got ways to help you continue to prepare for college here at HHS, such as College in the High School classes, AP classes, and Career-focused programs.

You may be the only high school student in your Running Start class. **True.**

Transportation is provided to the college.

False. You are responsible for getting yourself to the college campus.

College professors are super flexible when it comes to missing their class for high school events.

False. Most professors aren't interested in your high school status. They expect you to perform as a regular college student.

If I am struggling in my college classes, my professors (or someone at the college) will seek me out to provide support.

False. Supports, including tutoring, are available but it will be up to you to seek help or meet with your professor.

I probably won't get a mid-winter or spring break.

True. Colleges don't have mid-winter breaks and their spring breaks don't usually line up with high school spring breaks.

Running Start is completely free.

False. You are responsible for books and some fees. There may be financial aid available, but it's not guaranteed and may not cover all expenses.

All Running Start credits will transfer to any four-year college.

False. Many universities out of state will not count your Running Start credits as college credits. In-state universities will accept some, but not necessarily all, of your Running Start credits. It is always smart to look at credit transfer policies of the universities you are interested in before deciding to do Running Start.

As a Running Start student, I can still hang out at HHS during the day when I don't have college classes. **False.** If you don't have a class or an appointment with someone, you shouldn't be on campus during the school day. You can still be here for activities and sports before and after school or if you have a scheduled meeting with school staff.