Woodinville High School
Running Start
Frequently Asked Questions

This document goes over frequently asked questions regarding Running Start. Please make sure to review the **WHS Running Start Packet** which contains all the steps to participate in the RS program at Woodinville High School.

1. **What is Running Start (RS)?**
    - Running Start (RS) is a program that allows 11th and 12th grade students to take college courses at Washington's 34 community and technical colleges. Students earn both high school and college credits for these courses, which accelerates their progress through the education system. The credits and grades students earn will be transcribed on their permanent college transcript. All of Washington's public four-year colleges and universities accept Running Start credit.

2. **Is RS free?**
    - Running Start funding covers tuition depending on the number of classes taken at the student's home high school. RS students are still responsible for mandatory fees, books and transportation. Tuition is waived by completing the RS Enrollment Verification Form each quarter.

3. **What classes do I need to take in 9th and 10th grade to prepare for RS?**
    - Students should have completed their Health, Life Fitness, and PE credits before joining RS. There are no specific high school course requirements to participate in RS. You should be an independent student who is self-directed, driven, and ready for college. The expectation is that you are doing well in your current high school classes.

4. **Which is better–Running Start or Advanced Placement (AP) classes?**
    - It depends on your goal. Both options do show colleges that you are pursuing rigorous course options.
    - AP is a standardized curriculum that most colleges and universities will recognize and understand in terms of academic rigor. If you are planning to attend college/university out of state, there is a chance that your college/university will not take all of the credit that earned through RS.
    - RS is recognized by Washington colleges and universities. If you are planning to stay in Washington for college, RS is a good way to work towards your general education requirements because most of your credits will transfer. Many colleges have a transfer course equivalency list/tool by community college (i.e. UW, Gonzaga, WWU, WSU)
    - RS classes are taught at a much faster pace compared to an AP class taught at WHS.
        i. RS classes are taught on a quarter system. One 5-credit RS class is equivalent to 1.0 high school credit.
        ii. RS classes are usually 10 weeks long compared to a one year long high school class.

5. **If my plan is to participate in RS my junior or senior year, do I still need to register for classes at WHS?**

- Yes, in order to do RS, you must be registered as a full-time WHS student. You will need to go through the WHS course registration process as you normally would. Once you complete the WHS RS process, you will be dropped from the WHS classes you do not plan to take for the following school year.
- Please add YYN181 as an **alternate course request in StudentVUE** to denote your plan to pursue RS.

6. **What is the deadline to sign up for RS? When is it too late to register?**
   - The priority deadline to complete all the steps is **mid-May**. We have set this deadline because most colleges open their Fall course registration around this time, and we want students to have the earliest possible chance to sign up for classes.
   - Typically, the **final** deadline to apply for RS at the college is early September. We recommend that you complete all needed steps because the school year ends, because WHS counselors do not work over the summer.

7. **What is the difference between full-time and part-time Running Start?**
   - Students who take at least 1 class at Woodinville High School are considered part-time Running Start.
   - Students who take 0 classes at WHS are considered full-time Running Start.
   - This is different from a full-time college student–a student taking 3 college classes is considered a full-time college student.

8. **How many classes do I need to take?**
   - If you are taking 0 classes at WHS, you are expected to take 3 classes at the college.
   - To maintain full-time enrollment, you must:
     i. Be enrolled in college classes each quarter (Fall, Winter, and Spring)
     ii. Juniors: Complete at least 7 credits across the entire school year.
     iii. Seniors: Complete at least 6 credits across the entire year
   - Failure to maintain full-time enrollment will result in the student coming back to WHS for a full high school schedule.

9. **What college course counts as English, U.S. History, Civics, Health, etc.?**
   - Please refer to pages 3 and 4 of the **WHS Running Start Packet** to review the Northshore School District and Woodinville High School course equivalency charts.

10. **What time do Running Start classes occur?**
    - It depends. As a RS student, you select which courses to register for. Students may choose in-person, hybrid, online, or asynchronous courses.
    - If you are a part-time student, it is your responsibility to ensure your RS classes do not conflict with your WHS schedule.

11. **My goal is to earn an associate's degree at the same time as my high school diploma. Who do I speak to about that?**
    - You will need to reach out to an academic advisor at your college to come up with a plan to earn your associate's degree. Your WHS counselor is in charge of making sure of your high school graduation requirements.