FAQs

WHAT IS AN EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL?

- The Early College High School Initiative in the United States allows students to receive a high school diploma and an associate degree, or up to two years of college credit, by taking a mixture of high school and college classes. At an early college, students have fewer high school classes because some of their college classes replace their high school classes.

WHY CHOOSE ODYSSEY ECCO?

- Early college students graduate with their high school diploma and an Associate degree or up to 60 credit hours of "guaranteed transfer" college credit—for free!
- There are ZERO out-of-pocket expenses! Unlike other early college programs, our students do not pay for textbooks or classroom fees.
- To ensure student success, we provide our students with academic support such as time management, organization, and note-taking skills through AVID courses and after-school tutoring in most subjects.
- We assess every student who enrolls to determine their academic skill level and create an individual plan for each student's success based on their skill level.
- We offer college prep classes that count toward high school graduation before they begin taking college courses. This greatly increases the student's success once they begin college coursework.
- By attending Odyssey ECCO, students experience a smooth transition from high school to college with the support of counselors who are trained to support them in navigating their high school and college requirements.
- Research from the American Institutes for Research and the U.S. Department of Education shows that Early College students can gain a significant head start on their college journey. About 30% of Early College students earned an associate degree within 10 years, compared with 12% of similar students. Early College students also earned substantially more college credit while in high school, helping them enter college with a valuable head start on their degree.

For an informational video about early colleges, visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQe4pbnrtjY .

WHAT IF MY CHILD'S CAREER GOAL REQUIRES MORE THAN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE?

- If a student's career goals require them to earn a higher degree than an Associate degree, Odyssey ECCO will work with your child to determine which PPSC courses are recommended, and will best prepare your child to transfer to a 4-year university.

WHAT IF I FEEL LIKE MY CHILD IS NOT READY FOR A COLLEGE COURSE?

- Many students are not ready for college courses when they first begin at Odyssey. Our course plans are designed to prepare them and help ensure they will be successful in their classes.

WHEN WILL MY CHILD BEGIN TAKING COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES?

- Odyssey ECCO utilizes the ACCUPLACER test to determine the student's level of skill and competence in Math and English. For a description of the ACCUPLACER Next Generation tests, what students should know for them, practice tests, and available study materials, visit: https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice.
- Students must meet the minimum score, established by PPSC, for each test to qualify for enrollment in college courses.

ARE THERE LAPTOPS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS AT ODYSSEY ECCO?

- Yes! Odyssey is a 1:1 computer school. Currently, there is no cost to rent a school laptop.
- Visit the RJWAC Media Center if you would like to check out a computer.

FAQs

IS TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS THAT ARE TAKING CLASSES AT PPSC?

- Yes, currently a D-11 bus picks students up from the Wasson Campus at 7:10 am, Monday through Friday, and takes students to the PPSC Centennial Campus only. Students are picked up from the PPSC Centennial Campus at 2:10 pm and returned to RJWAC campus at 2:40pm.
- In addition, students may ride the city bus for free (at any time and any location) with their PPSC Identification Card.

WHAT IF MY STUDENT NEEDS EXTRA HELP?

- Our Math Department uses Khan Academy (https://www.khanacademy.org) to help improve our student's skills.
- Our English department uses EdReady (https://pikespeak.edready.org) to improve student's reading and writing skills.
- Practice ACCUPLACER tests and study guides are available at: https://accuplacerpractice.collegeboard.org
- There are many tutoring opportunities available to students after school at Odyssey. Your child should talk to their teacher to determine when help is available.
- In addition, all PPSC students are able to seek help from the PPSC Learning Centers.
  For more information on PPSC tutoring, go to: https://www.pikespeak.edu/academics/learning-commons/tutoring/index.php

HOW CAN I GET INFORMATION ABOUT MY STUDENT'S PROGRESS AT ODYSSEY ECCO?

- Log on to PowerSchool to view Odyssey ECCO's high school-level courses.
- Have your student log onto PPSC online campus (D2L) to check their progress in PPSC courses.
- Email or call your child's instructors. Their contact information can be found on our website under the staff directory.
- It is important to know that college instructors, both on Odyssey's and PPSC's campuses, require the student to sign a FERPA waiver giving the instructor permission to speak with parents. This form can be found in the student's D2L portal.

WHAT ARE THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS?

- View the Colorado Springs School District 11 graduation requirements at: https://www.d11.org/academics/futureready/graduation-requirements
- To better prepare your child for the rigor of college coursework, your child will enroll in high school-level college prep classes (such as Alg 1/2, Alg 3/4, MAT 076, MAT099, and ENG092.) While they are taking these classes, students will earn credits toward their graduation requirements.

WHAT IS ICAP AND WHAT ARE THE ICAP REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION?

- ICAP is a multi-year process for students in grades 6-12 to explore, discover, and connect their coursework learning to activities and experiences in relation to their future education and workforce goals. Completion of an ICAP is a graduation requirement for all seniors.
- ICAP has different requirements for each grade level. At a minimum, students must have met the stated goals for 12th grade.
- The goals for 12th grade include, but are not limited to: completion of the FAFSA, creating a resume, and applying to college.
- For more information or to see all the requirements for ICAP, visit: https://www.d11.org/schools/school-counselors/d11-futures-icap