Park Hill School District

EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY

PARK HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Early College Academy Handbook

2026-2027

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Introduction

Park Hill Early College Academy (ECA) is a program at Metropolitan Community College (MCC) that allows motivated high school students to earn college credits and/or work towards an Associate in Arts degree as they earn a high school diploma. Students take classes at MCC-Maple Woods for half the day and classes at their home high school the other half of the day. The cost of the program (tuition and books) is covered by the district. Transportation is available for students that need it.

Program Participation

Initial Eligibility

The Early College Academy is available to rising juniors and seniors with a GPA of at least 2.5, a 90% high school attendance rate, and college-level placement in reading, writing and math based on ACT or Accuplacer scores.

Students entering the Early College Academy need to be prepared for the college course they will be taking through this program and that rigor that accompanies those courses. MCC uses ACT or Accuplacer test scores to determine a student's college readiness in reading, writing and math. To help ensure students have the best chance of being successful in this program, only those students meeting the college readiness criteria will be accepted into the program. Qualifying scores have been set by MCC and are not negotiable.

Students taking the Accuplacer test are required to achieve the following scores:
Reading: 248
Writing: 246
Advanced Algebra and Functions: 237

Students taking the ACT are required to achieve the following scores:
Reading: 18
English: 18
Math: 22

Students can apply to the ECA before they have taken either test. Applicants will have the opportunity to take the Accuplacer test in the spring before acceptance decisions are made.

Continuing Participation

Students that begin the ECA their junior year do not need to reapply for their senior year. If a student decides that they do not want to continue as a senior, they should contact the Educational Programs Facilitator and their high school counselor so they can be removed from the ECA roster and their high school class schedule can be adjusted.

Students must demonstrate success in their ECA classes or they may be withdrawn from the program. A student that fails and/or withdraws from one course will meet with the Educational Programs Facilitator and their high school counselor to determine if continued participation in the ECA is in the student's best interest. Students who fail/withdraw from two or more courses will be removed from the Early College Academy.

Process Overview

October - December: Student Recruitment
January - March: Student Applications and Placement Testing
April: Acceptance Decisions
May: Student Enrollment in MCC Fall Courses
August: Orientation at MCC-Maple Woods and Fall Semester Begins

Benefits for Students

Advanced Learning Opportunities
Academic Challenge: Students can tackle more rigorous coursework that might not be available in their standard high school curriculum.
College Experience: Gaining exposure to college-level classes helps students adapt to the academic demands of higher education.
Cost Savings
Reduced Tuition: Tuition and books are paid for by the Park Hill School District, which can significantly reduce the overall cost of a college degree.
Early Credit Accumulation: Students can earn college credits while still in high school potentially leading to a shorter time to complete a college degree.
Students can take advantage of the discounted tuition rate at MCC for ECA students by taking classes in the summer and paying the lower tuition.
Accelerated Pathway
Early Graduation: By earning credits in high school, students may be able to graduate from college sooner, allowing them to enter the workforce or pursue advanced studies earlier.
Associate's Degree: Earning credits toward and Associate's degree allows students to enter the workforce or pursue technical/vocational training earlier.

Increased College Readiness
Skill Development: Students develop important skills such as time management, critical thinking, and independent learning, which are crucial for college success.
Enhanced College Applications
Competitive Edge: Completing college-level coursework can strengthen a student's college application, showcasing their ability to handle advanced material.

Credits and Transcripts

Students earn both high school and college credits through the Early College Academy. Courses taken at MCC through the ECA will appear on both the student's high school and college transcript.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has established the equivalency between college course credit hours and high school credits.

College Credit Hours	High School Credits
3-hour and 4-hour courses	.5 credit
5-hour courses	1 credit

Park Hill students are required to take a full schedule of 4 credits per semester. ECA students will take two classes at their home high school and two to four classes at MCC-Maple Woods to make a full schedule.

Sample Schedules

Mornings at MCC

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Comp and Reading 1 8:00 - 8:50	Chemistry Lecture 8:00 - 8:50	Comp and Reading 1 8:00 - 8:50	Chemistry Lecture 8:00 - 8:50	Comp and Reading 1 8:00 - 8:50
Intro to Philosophy 10:00 - 10:50	Chemistry Lab 9:00 - 10:30	Intro to Philosophy 10:00 - 10:50	Chemistry Lab 9:00 - 10:30	Intro to Philosophy 10:00 - 10:50
Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom
AP US History Block 3	AP US History Block 3	AP US History Block 3	AP US History Block 3	AP US History Block 3
Ceramics and Sculpture Block 4	Ceramics and Sculpture Block 4	Ceramics and Sculpture Block 4	Ceramics and Sculpture Block 4	Ceramics and Sculpture Block 4

Afternoons at MCC

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Symphonic Band Block 1	Personal Finance Block 1	Symphonic Band Block 1	Personal Finance Block 1	Symphonic Band Block 1
ELA 3 Block 2	ELA 3 Block 2	ELA 3 Block 2	ELA 3 Block 2	ELA 3 Block 2
Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom
US History to 1865 12:30 - 1:45	Sociology 12:30 - 1:45	US History to 1865 12:30 - 1:45	Sociology 12:30 - 1:45	
General Psychology 2:00 - 3:15	Fundamentals of Speech 2:00 - 3:15	General Psychology 2:00 - 3:15	Fundamentals of Speech 2:00 - 3:15	

Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions

Will I get my Associate's degree when I graduate?
An Associate's degree requires 60 hours of coursework. Students can earn up to 48 hours through the ECA. The additional 12 hours can be achieved through AP classes, dual credit classes, and summer classes. Earning an Associate's degree is possible but not guaranteed. If an Associate's degree is your goal, you will want to plan carefully with your Success Advisor at MCC-Maple Woods from the start.

Can I take classes in the summer?
Yes, students can take summer classes. There are two things that need to be considered before taking summer classes. First, summer classes will appear only on the college transcript; they cannot be used for high school credit. Do not take any high school graduation requirements at MCC during the summer. Second, tuition for summer classes is paid by the family.

What is the schedule like?
Students take classes at MCC-Maple Woods for two blocks (either 1 & 2 or 3 & 4) and classes at their home high school for two blocks. In general, the morning classes at MCC are from 8:00 am - 10:50 am. The afternoon classes are from 12:30 pm - 3:15 pm.

How much does it cost?
There is no cost to the student. Tuition and books are paid for by the district.

What MCC resources are available to students?
Any resources that are available to a traditional MCC-Maple Woods student are also available to Early College Academy students. Success Advisors, the library, tutoring centers for reading, writing, and math, mental health services, the Career Center, and student clubs and activities are all accessible.

Can I still do extracurricular activities?
Yes, with careful planning. Students will need to take their extracurricular schedule into account when planning their MCC schedule, and tough decisions may need to be made. Students should work with their high school counselor and their Success Advisor at MCC to ensure that they take classes to keep them MSHSAA eligible.
Instructors at MCC are not obligated to treat absences due to high school activities as excused absences.

What classes are available to me? Is this still an option for students that have already taken a lot of dual credit classes?
The whole MCC-Maple Woods course catalog is available to ECA students, with a few caveats:

-Pre-requisites have been fulfilled
-Selective programs (like nursing) are not open to ECA students

MCC has a list of recommended courses to help guide students, especially in the first semester. The focus is on General Education (Core 42) credits, but electives are available for students who want/need them. Students with dual credit courses in hand will still have plenty of choices.

What if I decide that the ECA is not for me?
Registration for the Early College Academy is a one-year commitment. There is a one-week drop window without penalty at the beginning of the semester. Students can decide to withdraw from the program between their junior and senior years.

Can I enroll in ECA and NCC or NCAPS?
No. Students may participate in only one tuition-based, off-campus program per year. ECA students can enroll in Professional Studies programs.

Can I apply if I have a 504 Plan or an IEP?
Yes. If a student has a 504 Plan on an IEP, they will need to request to meet with the Disability Support Services office at MCC-Maple Woods. Someone at D.S.S. will review the documentation and determine the appropriate accommodations.

Appendix B: Student and Parent Agreement

Park Hill Early College Academy
MCC – Maple Woods
Student/Parent Agreement

Student Name: _____

Park Hill Student ID Number: _____ MCCKC Student ID Number: _____

As a Park Hill student enrolled in college courses at the Early College Academy MCC – Maple Woods half-day program, I understand the following:

- I am expected to follow all policies and procedures as outlined in the MCCKC Student Handbook, which can be found at http://www.mcckc.edu/our-students/student-handbook/
- I am generating a permanent college record that will be applied to all of my higher education pursuits after I graduate from high school. This will include the credit hours attempted and earned and grade point average (GPA).
- My college grades may have an effect on my future college financial aid. Failing, withdrawing, or being dropped from a class may affect my eligibility for financial aid in the future and may result in my dismissal from the Early College Academy.
- Park Hill - MCC Maple Woods ECA courses are college courses requiring a level of responsibility and maturity expected from a college student. These courses will require rigorous academic work.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to assure that their student is able to handle the college environment, as well as the content of the courses in which the student enrolls. I am aware that regular classroom attendance and participation are a requirement. Failure to attend may affect my grade and the instructor may drop me from the class if I do not attend. Being dropped from a college course will affect your progress toward your high school diploma.
- I am expected to attend classes both on the Park Hill and MCC-Maple Woods Academic Calendar. I am aware that there may be times MCC is in session when Park Hill is not, and I know to attend class. I am aware that there may be times Park Hill is in session when MCC is not, but I may be required to attend school for the full day.
- Certain information necessary for enrollment into the ECA may be exchanged between high school administrators, counselors, and the college. Student

information may include, but is not limited to: student identification number, test scores, social security number, attendance, midterm and final grades, etc.

- Students who earn a grade of a D or F in, or withdraw from, any of the college courses taken as a part of the ECA will be required to reimburse Park Hill at a rate of $63.00/credit hour of the course with the grade of an F, or W. (This discounted high school rate is 50% of the regular MCC tuition rate, which is set by MCC's Board of Trustees and is subject to change.)
- I certify that none of the information I have provided on my application is false or has been withheld. I understand that giving false information or withholding information may make me ineligible for admission or continuation at MCC- Maple Woods.

Parent/Legal Guardian agrees to the following:
I agree to support my child in being successful. I understand that the final grades for any college course that my child may take will become part of his/her academic and financial aid permanent record for both high school and college. I agree to comply with all rules, regulations, and requirements at MCC - Maple Woods. I authorize ECA to release academic information to any organization that is providing funding for my education.

As a student and parent/guardian of this student, I agree to support Park Hill Early College Academy at MCC-Maple Woods expectations of student participants. These expectations include:

Academic Expectations:

_____ (*parent's initials*) I will assist my student in making satisfactory academic progress toward high school graduation, uphold academic integrity, and assist in their attendance making sure they are on time to all classes. I understand that failing, withdrawing or being dropped from a class may result in dismissal from the Early College Academy.

Behavioral Expectations:

_____ (*parent's initials*) I understand that my student is required to adhere to the MCC and Park Hill Student Code of Conduct behavioral policies and regulations.

Financial Expectations:

_____ (*parent's initials*) I understand that I am responsible to repay any tuition ($63.00/credit hour) any fees, should my student make an F or W in a course and replace any textbooks that are lost or damaged.

I have read, understood, and accept the ECA Student/Parent Agreement, and understand the expectations and requirements.

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____