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Early College School Choice Compact

Charlotte Engineering Early College and Charlotte Teacher Early College
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Purpose of the Compact

The Early College School Choice Compact establishes the shared expectations of **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS), The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, students, and families**. Early College students participate in an accelerated high school and college program designed to prepare them for success in college, career, and life while providing an opportunity to earn substantial college credit.

By signing this compact, students and families/guardians understand the academic, attendance, behavioral, and personal responsibilities required to succeed in an Early College program.

I. School and Program Expectations

The Early College program is a partnership between **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and The University of North Carolina at Charlotte**. Students receive an accelerated educational experience that combines high school coursework with college coursework. Depending on a student's academic progress and program of study, students may earn:

- A CMS high school diploma
- Career or industry certifications
- 60+ transferable college credits toward a bachelor's degree

Early College schools are located on the UNC Charlotte campus. Students are expected to navigate both the high school and college environments and understand that the two institutions have different policies, procedures, calendars, grading systems, and expectations.

School and District Supports

CMS and the Early College schools will provide students with appropriate support and access to resources, which may include:

- Access to tuition-free UNC Charlotte coursework as permitted by the Early College program and UNC Charlotte requirements
- High school and college academic advising
- Textbooks and required instructional materials for UNC Charlotte courses, as provided by CMS
- Chromebooks and/or hotspots as needed and available
- Transportation through the CMS Magnet Express Stops program, when applicable
- Opportunities to participate in tutoring, intervention, college readiness, and enrichment programs
- Support in developing an appropriate high school and college course plan

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II. Student and Family Commitment

Families are essential partners in the success of an Early College student. Students and parents/guardians are expected to actively participate in the Early College experience.
By signing this compact, students and parents/guardians agree to:

Enrollment and Orientation

- Attend required Early College information sessions and orientation activities.
- Complete all required enrollment, transfer, and registration documents by established deadlines.
- Review and understand Early College and UNC Charlotte policies and procedures.
- Commit to the Early College program for a **minimum of four years**. Early graduation after three years is not permitted.

Communication

- Remain responsive to communication from the Early College and UNC Charlotte.
- Regularly monitor school and college communication systems, including email and other designated platforms.
- Communicate proactively with high school and college instructors, counselors, advisors, and administrators when you need assistance.
- Ask questions and seek support before academic or personal concerns become barriers to success.

Academic Responsibility

Students and families agree to:

- Understand that Early College coursework is accelerated and that high school courses are generally taught at the **Honors level**.
- Monitor grades, academic progress and standards in both CMS and UNC Charlotte courses.
- Understand that UNC Charlotte courses are college courses and are subject to UNC Charlotte grading, attendance, academic progress, and academic integrity policies.
- Understand that parents/guardians may have different levels of access to college academic information once a student is enrolled in UNC Charlotte courses.
- Complete assignments and coursework independently and on time.
- Attend required tutoring, intervention, advising, or academic support sessions when assigned.
- Take responsibility for meeting course prerequisites, registration requirements, and program deadlines.

Attendance and Behavior

Students agree to:

- Attend school and college classes regularly and on time.
- Follow all CMS and UNC Charlotte attendance requirements.
- Follow the CMS Student Code of Conduct and UNC Charlotte Student Code of Conduct.
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior in both the high school and college environments.
- Understand that attendance, behavioral concerns, or violations of CMS or UNC Charlotte policies may result in probation, loss of program privileges, or removal from the Early College program.

Family Partnership

- Families agree to support student attendance, communication, and academic progress.

- Participate in orientation, conferences, meetings, and school engagement opportunities as needed.
- Encourage students to take increasing responsibility for their education and college success.

III. Characteristics of Successful Early College Students

Successful Early College students demonstrate the ability and willingness to take responsibility for their education.

Students who thrive in the Early College environment typically:

- Have demonstrated successful completion of previous EOG tested courses, generally earning at least a Level 3
- Maintain satisfactory attendance and demonstrate appropriate school behavior
- Are prepared for an accelerated combination of Honors high school and college coursework
- Manage their time effectively without constant reminders
- Complete assignments and meet deadlines independently
- Communicate and advocate regularly and proactively with high school and college faculty
- Think critically and solve problems independently
- Care about their personal, academic, and future success
- Take responsibility for their choices and academic progress
- Can independently navigate a unique combination of high school and college courses; and
- Demonstrate maturity and flexibility when adjusting to the expectations of a college environment

IV. Early College Course Progression

Early College is an accelerated program. Students gradually transition from primarily high school coursework to primarily college coursework.

Typical Course Progression

Grade 9

Students primarily complete Honors level high school coursework while developing the academic and organizational skills necessary for college success. Students will be doubling up on math, science and CTE electives for the duration of the year.

Grade 10

Students primarily complete Honors level high school coursework and some may begin UNC Charlotte coursework.

Grade 11

Most students take fewer high school courses, typically **one to two, while completing most** of their coursework through UNC Charlotte.

Grade 12

Students typically complete the remaining CMS graduation requirements while continuing to take UNC Charlotte coursework aligned with their individual four year plan. Students participate in a yearlong research project.

Grade 13 – Optional Year

Eligible students have the opportunity to participate in an optional **Grade 13 year** to complete:

- Transferable college credits;
- Career or industry certifications;
- Other approved college coursework.

The Grade 13 year is **not an additional year for completing CMS high school graduation requirements**. All CMS high school graduation requirements must be completed by the end of Grade 12 to qualify for Grade 13. Students participating in Grade 13 must continue to meet UNC Charlotte and Early College academic progress requirements. Students must complete an Early College seminar/course designed to support the transition to college during the first semester of Grade 13, as required by the program.

V. Admission and Continuation Requirements

Entrance Requirements

Students seeking admission to an Early College must:

- Apply through the CMS School Choice Lottery process
- Complete the required Early College application and supplemental materials
- Submit all required documentation by established deadlines
- Meet the admission requirements established by CMS and UNC Charlotte

Students should review the current Early College application requirements provided by CMS and The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Admission through the School Choice Lottery does not guarantee continued enrollment. Students must meet the academic, attendance, behavioral, and program requirements to remain in the Early College.

Continuation Requirements

Students must meet **both CMS and UNC Charlotte requirements** to remain enrolled and progress successfully through the Early College program.

CMS Academic Requirements

- Students in Grades 9 and 10 must maintain a **minimum 2.5 weighted GPA at the end of each semester**, as required by the Early College program.
- Students whose academic performance falls below required standards may be placed on an academic support plan, probation, or subject to the CMS Magnet Continuation Review process.
- Students may be required to participate in tutoring, intervention, or other academic support when their grades indicate a need for additional assistance.
- Students with more than 10 absences per semester may be recommended for return to their home school.

Early College and UNC Charlotte Communication Support Systems

- Students in UNC Charlotte coursework have access to the UNC Charlotte Writing Center, Math Center, PALS, Early College University advisor, and professor office hours. UNC Charlotte issues early alert warnings and midterm warnings for students in danger of course failure; these warnings are shared with Early College staff and subsequently with parents to provide academic support and notify families that immediate corrective action is needed.
- Students are responsible for checking university email at least once daily.
- Communication with college faculty is the sole responsibility of the student and emails outside of the charlotte.edu email system will not be opened by UNC Charlotte faculty.

- Emails, phone calls, professor office hours, and additional support can be found in the course syllabus and is up to the student to seek out individually.

UNC Charlotte Academic Requirements

Students enrolled in UNC Charlotte coursework must meet **UNC Charlotte Academic Standing** and all applicable requirements for continued enrollment.

- Students must maintain the UNC Charlotte GPA required to continue participating in college coursework.
- Students generally must maintain a **minimum 2.0 GPA in UNC Charlotte coursework** to access and continue in college courses, subject to current UNC Charlotte requirements.
- Students who fall below a 2.0 cumulative UNC Charlotte GPA, will be placed on academic probation with the University. Students must either increase their cumulative GPA to a 2.0 in the following semester or achieve a 2.3 overall GPA for the subsequent semester.
- Students who fail to meet the GPA requirements with UNC Charlotte after a probationary semester will be suspended from the University.
- The UNC Charlotte Suspension and Probation process is facilitated exclusively by UNC Charlotte. This communication occurs through UNC Charlotte email.
- Students who meet the Fall UNC Charlotte GPA requirement, but do not earn at least a 2.0 UNC Charlotte GPA in the Spring semester, may be placed on an academic contract as a condition of participating in Grade 13.
- Grade 13 students who do not earn a Fall UNC Charlotte GPA of at least 2.0 may be required to participate in mid-year graduation, as determined by the program and applicable requirements.

Important: UNC Charlotte academic policies and standards may change. Students and families are responsible for reviewing the current UNC Charlotte requirements that apply to their enrollment.

VII. High School and College Policies

Early College students are members of **two educational communities: CMS and UNC Charlotte.** Students and families acknowledge that:

- CMS and UNC Charlotte have separate policies and procedures
- CMS and UNC Charlotte may have different attendance policies
- CMS and UNC Charlotte have different grading systems and academic progress requirements
- College courses are college level courses and become part of the student's college academic record
- Students are responsible for understanding the expectations of each institution
- UNC Charlotte courses may appear on a student's college transcript and may affect future college admission and academic standing
- Students must follow the academic integrity policies of both institutions
- When policies differ, students should consult the appropriate CMS or UNC Charlotte administrator, counselor, advisor, or instructor for clarification

VIII. Academic Calendar

Early College schools operate on a calendar that incorporates both **CMS and UNC Charlotte schedules**.

Students and families understand that:

- The Early College calendar may differ from the traditional CMS calendar;
- UNC Charlotte holidays, semester breaks, registration periods, and other college dates may affect the student's schedule
- Students are responsible for knowing the calendars and deadlines that apply to both institutions
- Families should review the Early College and UNC Charlotte calendars regularly when planning travel, appointments, and other activities
- In the rare case when CMS is not operating (due to workdays or weather), students are responsible for attending their UNC Charlotte classes or communicating with professors if attendance is not possible

IX. Transfer or Exit from the Early College

Students and families understand that participation in the Early College is a commitment.
A student who chooses to leave the Early College must:

1. Notify the Early College administration
2. Participate in an exit conference or interview, as requested
3. Complete the required CMS transfer process
4. Request reassignment to the student's designated CMS home high school.

Students who cannot meet the academic, attendance, behavioral, or progression requirements may also be subject to the CMS Magnet Continuation Review or program revocation process.

X. Acknowledgment and Agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the **Early College School Choice Compact** for Charlotte Engineering Early College and Charlotte Teacher Early College.

I understand that participation in the Early College program is a commitment that requires academic preparation, regular attendance, personal responsibility, effective communication, and the ability to navigate both CMS and UNC Charlotte expectations successfully.

I understand that meeting admission requirements does not guarantee continued enrollment. I understand that I must meet applicable CMS and UNC Charlotte academic, attendance, behavioral, and progression requirements to remain in the program.

I understand that if I choose not to continue in the Early College program, I must complete the required transfer process to return to my designated CMS home high school.

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I also understand that CMS and UNC Charlotte policies and program requirements may be updated, and that students and families are responsible for following the current requirements communicated by the school, CMS, and UNC Charlotte.

Student

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____