

**COLLEGE OPTIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:
BEST PRACTICES FOR AWARDING COLLEGE CREDIT TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
FOR COURSES COMPLETED PRIOR TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
December 17, 1998**

Washington's public baccalaureate institutions encourage high school students to complete rigorous college preparatory courses in high school or to take college courses while in high school if they have had adequate preparation. In some cases college credit may be awarded, in accordance with general college or university credit transfer policies, when consistent with the following practices. College credit will only be awarded once for coursework assessed in multiple ways (e.g., Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, College in the High School, etc.).

1. High School Courses

Some high schools may offer instruction at the college level, and when consistent with institutional and departmental policies, college credit may be awarded if student achievement is validated by an approved national examination such as Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate, or a review or examination administered by the receiving college or university.

2. Running Start Program

Credit will be awarded for transferable college courses taken prior to high school graduation when such courses are completed through the state's Running Start Program.

3. College in the High School

- a. All college courses taken by high school students must be college level, academic in nature, included in the college or university's catalog or appropriate supplement, and taught as part of the college or university's regular curriculum.
- b. All college courses taken by high school students must be taught by faculty holding adjunct or regular faculty appointment at the offering college or university.
- c. The college or university offering the course(s) credit must be regionally accredited.
- d. The course must use the same grading, transcripting, and tuition-payment policies that apply to courses in the college or university's regular curriculum.
- e. Students enrolled in the course must be graded or assessed by the same standards as students enrolled in courses in the regular curriculum.
- f. Postsecondary institutions in Washington offering one or more courses on a high school campus, or on their own campus, or any other setting where most of the enrollment in the course will be high school students, should conduct assessments or evaluations of each course to show that they are effective and comparable to college courses enrolling matriculated high school graduates.
- g. Institutions accepting college in the high school credit should conduct studies of student outcomes to review comparability between students completing courses in high school and college settings.
- h. Institutions offering these courses should test for readiness.