

Through the tuition-free Early College program, City Colleges of Chicago provides opportunities for qualifying Chicago students to access and complete college coursework prior to high school graduation. Robust supports are provided so students can thrive and gain confidence in their ability to attain a college degree.

What is Early College?

Early College consists of opportunities (through both dual credit and dual enrollment) for high school students to earn college credits before they graduate from high school. Per the Dual Credit Quality Act (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3117&ChapterID=18>), the goals of Early College are to:

1. Reduce college costs
2. Speed time to degree completion
3. Improve the curriculum with college and workplace expectations
4. Facilitate the transition between high school and college
5. Enhance communication between high schools and colleges
6. Offer opportunities for improving degree attainment for underserved student populations

Dual Enrollment is when an academically-qualified high school student enrolls at one of the City Colleges of Chicago and enrolls in a college credit class. High school students apply as a non-degree-seeking student and begin their official college transcript.

Dual Credit is when an academically-qualified high school student enrolls into a college credit class at their high school. High school students apply to City Colleges as a non-degree-seeking student and begin their official college transcript.

Students who successfully complete a dual enrollment/dual credit course will have credits that will count toward degree or certification completion at City Colleges, as well as credits that can transfer to most four-year universities. Some dual credit or dual enrollment courses are eligible to fulfill CPS graduation requirements. Please contact your high school counselor for more information.

Students with previous balances or debts with City Colleges must pay them in full before enrolling in dual enrollment/dual credit courses. Students can only enroll in one course per semester at a City Colleges campus.

Active Pursuit Policy

Measures of active pursuit may include: class attendance, class participation, taking required quizzes and examinations, submission of required papers and homework assignments, and/or completion of online academic activities. Active pursuit cannot be tied to a specific grade. It is a measure of a student's participation in class via attendance and the completion of coursework. In short, a student could be failing while actively pursuing the course. Students who are not actively pursuing a class at midterm may be withdrawn. After midterm certification, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the class prior to the withdrawal deadline.

Student Academic Progress Federal Guidelines

City Colleges' Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy follows federal regulations for SAP, which define the standards students must meet to maintain their financial aid eligibility for their entire college career. SAP is cumulative in nature: It considers all classes attempted. City Colleges requires all students to maintain a GPA based on the number of credits attempted (see chart below) and a 67% course completion rate—regardless of payment method or enrollment status—to remain in good academic standing. For more information, visit www.ccc.edu/services/Pages/SAP-Appeal.aspx

Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA according to the following chart:

Total Number of Credits Attempted	GPA Requirement
1–15	1.5
16–30	1.75
31 or more	2.0

Measures in Place to Safeguard Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students are supported and monitored with the following parameters:

- High school students are limited to enrolling in one class based on their City Colleges academic standing as a dual enrollment participant. Students may enroll in a second class if the student is a participant in an accelerated certification program such as Jumpstart or Model Pathways, or has consented to earning their degree prior to their high school graduation.
- High school students have access to City Colleges tutors and scheduled office hours with their college professors.
- High school students should consult with their college advisors or professors for guidance on whether they need to withdraw from a course. Additionally, students should review their Study List, available in their student portal, which includes the specific withdrawal deadlines for the current term.

Please initial (in ink) each box below:

☐

I understand that the dual enrollment student must follow the eligibility requirements outlined in the City Colleges Academic and Student Policy Manual.

☐

I understand that the dual enrollment student can withdraw from the dual enrollment/dual credit course without impact on their SAP before the transcript date after the course starts.

☐

I understand it is the dual enrollment student's responsibility to withdraw from a course prior to the student-initiated withdraw deadline.

Please fill out the required information, then sign and date (in ink) below:

I have read this document and understand the benefits and considerations of Early College, and I grant permission for my student to take part in Early College with City Colleges of Chicago while my student is enrolled in Chicago Public Schools.

Student First Name: _____

Student Last Name: _____

DOB: _____ CCC ID #: _____

Printed Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: If you wish to revoke permission at any time, please contact in writing the Early College coordinator at the college at which your student attends.