

Kankakee Community College

EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

Collaborating with High Schools to Enhance Student Success

KCC's Early College Program allows selected students to do two things at once: earn your high school diploma and work toward a college degree by attending Kankakee Community College full-time during your junior or senior year of high school. Program participants are chosen by their high school.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING...

ARIA WORDLAW

Kankakee High School Class of 2022,
now attending University of Illinois



"I had an excellent time gaining independence & becoming more confident in advocating for not only for myself but my education. I was also able to earn 26 course credits for college while still participating in my high school extra curriculums & getting that high school experience."

"I feel doing early college was the best decision I could have made for my senior year. I have learned what I want in my future college & important skills to make college less stressful & difficult."

Caleb Meister, 2022-23

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"KCC's Early College Program benefited me in several ways. I was able to save time and money by taking classes here. All the staff were very helpful giving responses to any questions that I had. They are also very kind and caring. This program opened many doors for me and helped me see college in a great way!" - **Pricila Carmona, 2019-20**



PROGRAM STRENGTHS & CONSIDERATIONS

- A jump start on college!
- You may receive discounted college tuition.
- Ease the transition from high school to college.
- Engage in challenging, more rigorous courses.
- Stay involved in high school activities and sports, and/or join KCC clubs.
- Gain maturity and knowledge from higher-level coursework and the diverse mix of students.
- College offers a different social environment compared to high school.
- College schedules may conflict with high school extracurricular activities.
- You'll follow the KCC calendar, not the high school's.
- A withdrawal, schedule change, or failing grade could affect your high school graduation requirements.

Also note: Being part of the Early College program means you will start a permanent college transcript.

ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

Following are KCC's Early College Program requirements. Consult your high school to see if it has additional requirements.

- Entering 11th or 12th grade.
- Under age 19 as of Sept. 1 in the year which college courses are taken.
- Submit required paperwork by established deadline.
- Recommended achievement of college-ready levels on placement tests.
- Attend mandatory in-person Early College Program orientation.
- Maintain KCC academic eligibility.
- Enroll in at least 12 credit hours per semester.
- Work with your Early College Program advisor and your high school counselor to create an educational plan.
- Adhere to the KCC Code of Campus Affairs and Regulations.



Here are 7 of the 101
Early College Participants for 2023-24

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW AS A STUDENT...

You will be considered “regular college students.” Faculty will have the same expectation from you as every other student.

Attendance – You are expected to attend all class meetings. Some professors include attendance in the final grade.

Withdrawing/Dropping a Class – Withdrawing from a class may have serious implications on your high school graduation. To withdraw, you must first meet with the KCC Early College Program advisor and fill out the correct form.

Class Pace – College has a quicker pace than high school. For example, a two-semester high school math class is taught in one semester at college.

Course Modality – KCC has classes in these formats: face-to-face, virtual/online, and hybrid.

Homework – You’ll need to study about two to three hours outside of class for every hour in class. If you are enrolled in 15 credit hours, that means 30 to 45 hours studying each week.

Class sizes – Classes can vary from 10 to 25 students.

Grades – Your high school will receive your grade reports at the end of each semester. Grades/GPA earned in the Early College Program will be reflected on both your high school and KCC transcript.

Academic records – When you successfully complete Early College Program classes, you receive both high school and college credit. Your grades become part of your permanent college transcript.

Academic standards – You face dismissal or sanctions from KCC if you are academically deficient. Review the Code of Campus Affairs and Regulations section in the college catalog.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- One of the major benefits to the Early College Program is the opportunity for students and their parents/guardians to save tuition expenses.
- Once a student is accepted into the Early College Program, payment for the program (tuition, fees, books and supplies) will be at the discretion of your high school district.
- You may be responsible for additional costs not covered by the high school district. Consult your high school counselor for information.
- Students are not eligible for Financial Aid (FAFSA) through the government during Early College Program participation, because they have not completed a high school diploma or GED.
- In accordance with FERPA, KCC will communicate directly with the student, not parents/guardians regarding grades, attendance, appointments and course schedule.
- The college is not allowed to give information regarding attendance or progress to parents without written permission from the student.

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“The Early College Program is one of the best decisions I’ve made!”
- Jayce Meier, 2022-23

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“I loved the program that KCC had to offer. I now feel confident going into college, & got to spend my senior year of high school at college!”
Thomas Gray, 2019-20

ACADEMIC & SUPPORT SERVICES

- KCC's Office of Disability Services works with students and instructors to accommodate and facilitate equal access according to federal law. To request accommodations and schedule an intake, contact the Office of Disability Services. More information is at www.kcc.edu/disability-services.
- Transformative Growth Counseling provides personal counseling services for KCC students. Counselors specialize in stress management, anxiety, depression, grief, family conflict, addictions, first generation college experience, sexual assault survivors, self-esteem, and LGBTQIA and other sexual minorities.
- Tutoring is available for most core classes. See KCC [Tutoring Services](#) for more information.
- Early College Program advisors assist students with course scheduling and adjusting to college.
- For more information about services, visit kcc.edu/student-resources/.

PROGRAM FAQs

Is Early College just for students seeking a bachelor's degree?

No, it is for students seeking bachelor's degrees as well as career and technology education program degrees.

Can I complete my foreign language sequence at KCC?

KCC does not offer the continued sequence of foreign language courses started in high school. College foreign language admissions and graduation requirements vary. It is your responsibility to verify and fulfill the requirements for your selected college or university.

How is my Early College course schedule created?

First, your course schedule will include KCC courses that fulfill high school requirements. Remaining courses will be selected based on your educational goals with approval from your high school counselor. You will be required to be registered for at least 12 credit hours (4 courses).

Can I participate in high school activities, organizations, & clubs?

Yes! You may participate in high school activities, organizations, or clubs as permitted by your high school. For sports, you must meet and maintain IHSA eligibility requirements as monitored by the high school.

Can I participate in KCC activities, organizations, & clubs?

You may participate in KCC activities, organizations and clubs; but not intercollegiate sports.



"Choosing to participate in the Early College Program at KCC has been one of the best decisions I've made. I've spent my senior year of high school at college and I do not regret it one bit. Not only have I been challenged academically but I have also gained a sense of independence that will benefit me in whatever path I choose to follow. The experience you gain from this program will make that transition from high school to college a lot easier- you gain more confidence in your abilities and learn to advocate for yourself."

Bianca Varela-Canales, Kankakee High School



MORE INFORMATION:

www.kcc.edu/earlycollege

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP:

Laura Ryan

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STEPS TO JOIN THE EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

1. Schedule an appointment with your high school counselor to review program information and determine your eligibility.
2. After receiving approval from your high school, complete the online Early College Recommendation form with your parents/legal guardians. Obtain the form from your high school counselor. Deadline: **March 15, 2024.**
3. Complete and submit the Early College Graduation Requirement form with your counselor. Deadline: **March 15, 2024.**
4. Complete the KCC admissions form. (Not required if you have completed a KCC admissions form within the last two years.)
Steps to apply:
 - Go to apply.kcc.edu
 - Click on “sign up” under the blue “sign in” button.
 - Student type: “I want to take college classes while in high school.”
 - Educational goal: “Early College Program.”
5. Submit proof of residency (driver’s license/state ID) to admissions@kcc.edu. For a full list of documents KCC accepts, go to kcc.edu/about/uploads/docs/Residency-Status-Handout-011024.pdf.
6. Take the ACCUPLACER Next Gen placement exam, unless you have any one of the following ...
 - ACT reading or English score of 19 or higher
 - SAT evidence-based reading and writing score of 480 or higher
 - ACCUPLACER Next Gen score of 250 or higher
 - Already successfully completed KCC’s English I course or another college-level English course.
 - Completed an Advanced Placement exam for English Language and Composition and earned a score of 3 or higher. Request that the College Board send your scores directly to KCC for evaluation. See www.kcc.edu/admissions/credit-for-prior-learning/.
7. Take the ALEKS math placement exam if you plan to take a course that has a math requisite (i.e.- math, chemistry, biology, physics, engineering, macroeconomics or microeconomics course)-unless:
 - You have one of these scores:
 - ACT math score of 22 or higher
 - SAT math score of 530 or higher
 - ALEKS math score of 46 or higher

Placement Testing Information:

 - Placement testing must be complete by March 15, 2024.
 - Use the [online help](#) to study for ACCPLACER and ALEKS.
 - There is no fee for the initial ACCUPLACER or ALEKS exam. Retest policies and fees: for [ACCUPLACER](#); for [ALEKS](#).
 - View testing center [locations & hours](#). To make an appointment to take either exam, email testingcenter@kcc.edu. If completing both exams in one session, allow two hours before the testing center closes.
8. Complete online [Early College Program](#) orientation.
9. After these steps are completed, the KCC Early College Program advisor, Laura Ryan, will reach out to discuss the remaining processes, including making an appointment to register for courses.