

Early College



Providing area high school students
an early start on their college education

Why would ANYONE want to start college in high school?

There are lots of good reasons:

- **BEST OF BOTH WORLDS.** You're going to school anyway, why not pick up college credit through dual credit courses? You get the best of both worlds in dual credit: college credit and high school credit.
- **SAVE SOME MONEY.** You can save money by taking college classes in high school. ICC's tuition rates and the cost for dual credit are lower than virtually all colleges and universities in the area.
- **GET READY FOR THE RIGORS OF COLLEGE.** You get a "trial run" of what the rigors of college-level work are. Find out ahead of time what college coursework is like.
- **GET AHEAD OF THE PACK.** When you graduate from high school and start college, you'll be that much ahead in your program, which means less time completing your degree.

How to get college credit while you're in high school:

- **ENROLL IN DUAL CREDIT CLASSES** at your high school, where you earn high school and college credit.
- **TAKE CLASSES ON CAMPUS AT ICC.**
 - Go to class at ICC during your high school day through the Strong Start or Fast Start programs – check to see if your school offers one of these programs.
 - Enroll in evening, online, or summer school classes outside of your regular high school class schedule. You don't need to have completed high school to take classes at ICC.

For more information:

Talk to your high school counselor or call the ICC College and Career Readiness Department (309) 690-6863.

STUDENTS

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Give your student an edge in college.

Did you know your high school student can earn college credit BEFORE graduating from high school? And that this college credit can accelerate your student's progress through ICC, as well as transfer to four-year institutions? Credit can also be applied to career and technical programs at Illinois Central College. Through the Early College at ICC programs, you can provide your student with the foundation for a successful college career, save money on college credit courses, and help your student get a feel for what college is like. And research has shown that high school students who complete 15 credit hours (about five classes) of college work are more likely to succeed in college and earn a degree.

How can your student earn college credit?

- Take classes at your high school that award college credit through dual credit classes.
- Take classes on campus at ICC.
 - Go to class at ICC during your high school day through the Strong Start or Fast Start programs – check to see if your school offers one of these programs.
 - Enroll in evening, online, or summer school classes outside of your regular high school class schedule. You don't need to have completed high school to take classes at ICC.

Are these “real” college courses?

Absolutely. ICC's dual credit courses fall into one of two categories:

- Courses that can be applied to fulfill “general education” requirements at ICC and all Illinois state colleges and universities and at private colleges and universities that have signed the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) agreement. (You can learn more about the IAI, which institutions participate, and how your student may benefit at itransfer.org/mycredittransfer/participating.aspx)
- Career and technical education (CTE) courses that fulfill coursework requirements in ICC's applied science degree and certificate programs. These programs prepare students to enter the workforce when they graduate – usually in two years or fewer.

The coursework your student completes successfully can help reduce the overall cost of college.

- ICC's dual credit courses, offered in high school, have reduced tuition per credit hour.
- ICC's regular college courses are a fraction of the credit hour cost at local colleges and universities. Other colleges charge anywhere from 4 to 15 times as much tuition as ICC.

Source: Individual local college and university websites.

For more information:

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