Early College Information Session Script

Home School Students

|  |
| --- |
| Website Text (No Audio)To view this session… |
| 1. Have Adobe Flash, all pop-up blockers disabled, and speakers and headphones (hearing and/or sight impaired students can contact the Student Success Center to arrange for an accommodation). The presentation loads faster if you only have one window open on your computer.
2. [Access the online session](http://departments.weber.edu/ssc/GenStudiesOnline/player.html%20) that takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.
3. Remember, this session is for high school students who are interested in taking Weber State classes on-campus or online before high school graduation.

Slideshow Script (Numbers are Slide #s) |

1. Before we get started: Be sure your volume is turned on and your pop-up block is turned off. There are a lot of links in this module, so make sure you don’t exit this screen when looking at pop-ups.
2. Welcome to the Early College Information Session. We will cover the basics of the Early College Program and provide you with information you need to apply. If you are a high-school student interested in taking classes at one of WSU’s campuses or online, the Early College Program may be a good fit for you.
3. In the Early College program, we are looking for students who are highly motivated and want to be challenged academically. Many of our students want to take classes not offered in their high schools or are working to earn the New Century Scholarship. If this sounds like you, then consider enrolling in the Early College program to help you reach your academic goals.
4. If you’d prefer a more interactive format where you can ask questions throughout the presentation, please attend one of our in-person information sessions, held monthly at the Ogden and Davis Campuses. Click this link to view more information and RSVP to attend one of these sessions.
5. A lot of information will be provided in this session. Click this link to print out a worksheet on which you may take notes.
6. In this session we will explore your options for earning college credit before finishing high school, suggest course options for Early College students, review the costs of the Early College program including scholarship opportunities, outline the Early College admissions process, and discuss your next steps after admission into the program. To be eligible for the Early College program, you must complete all sections of this presentation and fill out an interest form at the end, or you must attend an in-person information session.
7. There are a few options available for home-schooled students to earn college credits before finishing high school. These options include Advanced Placement, or AP exams, CLEP tests, Concurrent Enrollment courses, and courses through the Early College Program. AP courses are taught in the high schools by high school instructors. At the end of the year, students in these courses take a comprehensive test. Home-schooled students can either take these classes at a local high school, or study the subjects on their own and take the AP exams at a local high school when administered in May. To check if this is an option for you, ask the Counseling Center of your local high school if they may administer AP exams to you. Scores on these tests determine if a student is eligible for college credit. Letter grades are not assigned to credits earned from AP tests that will appear on your transcript. Note that different colleges and universities apply AP credits differently, and that there is a fee charged for taking the exams and posting your scores on your college transcripts. For more information about how AP exams can count for college credit at WSU, click the green circle.
8. CLEP tests are another option for home-schooled students to earn college credit. Students study independently for these exams and their scores determine if college credit is awarded. Again, letter grades are not assigned to credits earned from CLEP tests that will appear on your transcript, and different higher education institutions apply scores differently for credit. Note that there is a fee charged for taking CLEP exams and posting your CLEP credit on your college transcripts. For more information on CLEP tests, click the purple circle or contact the WSU Student Services Testing Center directly.
9. Students may also earn college credits in high school through Concurrent Enrollment courses. These courses are taught in high schools by qualified high school teachers. Students in Concurrent Enrollment courses earn letter grades that are a permanent part of their college transcripts. The credits and grades earned through Concurrent Enrollment at WSU are automatically on your WSU transcript and transferrable to other Utah state institutions. To be eligible for Concurrent Enrollment courses, you generally must be either a high school junior or senior, and you must apply for admission to the college offering the Concurrent courses you wish to attend. Concurrent Enrollment course options are limited to what is offered in local high schools. Home-schooled students are eligible to take Concurrent Enrollment courses with permission from the Higher Ed institution and the high school offering the courses. For more information on Concurrent Enrollment, please talk to a counselor at your local high school.
10. WSU’s Early College Program is another option for earning college credit while still in high school. Students in Early College can take WSU courses on-campus and online. These courses are taught by WSU instructors. Early College students have the same course options available to them as any WSU student, and the credits and grades earned in these courses are automatically on their WSU transcripts and transferrable to other Utah state institutions. To be eligible to participate in Early College, students must be the equivalent of high school sophomores, juniors, or seniors, apply to the Early College Program, and meet academic standards reviewed later in this presentation.
11. Before we continue, it is important that you know that there are limits on the number of college credits high school students can earn. At WSU, you can only earn up to 30 total credits through CLEP exams.
12. In the state of Utah, you may earn no more than 30 credits through Concurrent Enrollment courses in one school year. This includes Concurrent Enrollment courses taken through WSU and other higher education institutions, but does not include courses through WSU’s Early College program.
13. Each semester, you may take no more than 20 total credits through WSU Concurrent Enrollment and WSU Early College. Most year-long Concurrent Enrollment Courses are counted towards the total credits for the Fall semester.
14. Next, we will review course selection for Early College students.
15. All Early College students are accepted into the program as General Studies majors, seeking an associates degree in General Studies. This degree helps you to gain a sound educational base from a broad variety of courses, learn important life skills, and explore potential careers and other majors. However, Early College students also have the option of working towards different majors or just taking a few classes in specific areas of interest.
16. For an Associate Degree in General Studies, you need to complete a minimum of 60 credit hours. A credit hour is a measure of how much time you spend in class each week. Most courses at WSU are worth 3 credits, meaning you attend class for about 3 hours each week. Of those 60 credits, 20 need to be in residence at WSU which means those credits are taken through Weber State. Concurrent Enrollment courses through WSU and courses taken through Early College count towards this requirement. You need to maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative WSU grade point average (GPA), and complete the General Education requirements including the Diversity Requirement. Completing the General Education requirements will take between 35 and 50 credits. To get your 60 total credits, you will also need between 10 and 25 credits of electives. If you are seeking the Associate of Arts rather than the Associate of Science degree, you will also complete a foreign language requirement.
17. For a printable version of what we are about to cover, click the link below and then choose the most current year so you can follow along. Once you are accepted into the Early College program, you will have a chance to review these requirements in-depth with your early college advisor and get assistance choosing and registering for classes.
18. General Education requirements are divided into the Core and Breadth areas. In the core area, you are required to take courses to fulfill the Composition, American Institutions, Quantitative Literacy, Computer and Information Literacy and Diversity requirements. With the exception of Diversity, you must earn grades of C or better to fulfill requirements in the Core. In the Breadth, you will take courses in Humanities and Creative Arts, Social Sciences, and Physical and Life Sciences. The Diversity courses marked on your printout may also help fulfill a Breadth requirement. You must earn passing grades to fulfill the Breadth and Diversity requirements. Some requirements in the Core and Breadth areas may be fulfilled with passing grades in Concurrent Enrollment courses, or minimum scores on AP or CLEP exams.
19. We highly recommend that Early College students take Foundations of College Success, UNIV 1105. In this course, you will learn study skills, test-taking skills, time management skills, and you will also explore majors and careers. It is a great class to help you take advantage of campus resources and connect with university life. For more information on this course, click here.
20. Now we’ll share info on the costs of the Early College Program.
21. To apply to WSU as an Early College student, there is a $30 application fee. If you previously applied to WSU as a Concurrent Enrollment student, you do not need to pay this fee again. However, you still need to complete the entire Early College application online. There is a $10 fee to get your Wildcard. Your Wildcard is your Weber State ID card. It allows you access to services such as the library and gym. It also allows you access and discounts to special events. Early college students are also responsible for the cost of tuition and student fees, although scholarships are available for eligible students. You will also be responsible for the cost of course textbooks and, if you are planning to park on campus during the day, you will need to purchase a parking permit. All of these charges are typical costs at any college. Click the links at the right to get more information about these costs.
22. Now that we’ve shared the costs of Early College, let’s talk about available scholarship money.
23. WSU has two types of scholarships available to Early College students, Academic Scholarships and Need-Based Scholarships. Academic scholarships for home-schooled students are awarded based on ACT or SAT scores and need-based scholarships are awarded based on financial need. Like all state-funded scholarship money, our funds are dependent on legislative approval each year. Also, Early College scholarship money is available only for Fall and Spring semesters. We do not have any funding to assist students taking summer classes. Please also note that Early College scholarship money can only be awarded to Utah residents and Early College students are not yet eligible for Federal Financial Aid.
24. To be eligible for Academic Scholarships through the Early College Program, you must be admitted to the program and have a composite ACT score of 23 or higher or an SAT score of 1070 or higher. For SAT scores, we combine only the Reading and Math portions of the exam. You must also register for classes and apply for the scholarship online through your Weber student portal. If your composite ACT score is 23 or 24, you qualify for a scholarship covering 15% of your tuition. If you have a 25, 26, or 27 you qualify for a scholarship covering 30% of your tuition. If you have a 28 or 29, you qualify for a scholarship covering 50% of your tuition, and if you have an ACT composite score of 30 or above, you qualify for a scholarship covering full tuition and regular student fees at WSU. This scholarship does not cover any special course fees associated with your classes. Please note that for the 30% and 50% scholarship levels, you are required to take at least 6 credits through the Early College Program to receive the full amount of the scholarship. If you are eligible for one of these scholarships and take fewer than 6 credit hours, you will only be funded at the 15% of tuition level. At the 15% and Full Tuition and Fees levels, you may take between 3 and 18 credits.
25. To apply for Need-Based scholarships, you must be admitted to the Early College Program, register for classes, apply for the scholarship online through your Weber student portal, and submit an essay and any evidence of Financial Need to the Student Success Center by August 1st for Fall semester and by December 15th for Spring semester. If you are awarded any need-based scholarship money, you will also need to submit a Thank-you letter to the scholarship office as the Need-Based scholarships are funded by private donors we want students to acknowledge. Click here to access the Need-Based Scholarship application for Early College.
26. Many students in the Early College program are working towards earning the New Century Scholarship. This scholarship is for students who earn an associates degree by the date their high school class graduates. You must also earn a minimum of a 3.0 college GPA and at least a 26 on the ACT. Please visit the Board of Regents New Century Website for more information about this scholarship, which may be used after high school graduation at any 4-year public college or university within the Utah System of Higher Education, as well as at Brigham Young University and Westminster College. The Board of Regents sets the requirements and the award amount for this scholarship each year and so they should be asked questions you have about its requirements and application process. Your Early College Advisor can help you work towards this scholarship by assisting with degree planning and signing you off at the end of your degree.
27. Now that you have a good understanding of the basics of Early College, we will review the application process you must follow to participate in the program.
28. To be accepted into the Early College Program, you must be the equivalent of a high school sophomore, junior, or senior and you must have at least a 21 composite ACT score or a 990 SAT score. Please note that sophomores may register for only 7 credits or two classes each semester starting in the fall of the equivalent of their 10th grade year. Sophomores must take UNIV 1105 "Foundations of College Success" their first semester participating in Early College.
29. If you meet these minimum requirements, you can apply to the Early College Program. The first step to the Early College Admissions process is to view this Information Session, which is also available in-person. You must complete each section of this session and then fill out an interest form at the end to be eligible to apply into the program. Your next step is to complete our Early College Application online, which you can access by clicking on the second box. At the end of the application you will be prompted to pay the $30 required application fee. You can pay this fee online, by calling the Cashier’s office at 801-626-8006, or by visiting the WSU Cashier’s Office in Student Services Center room 209. If you have paid this fee through Concurrent Enrollment, click the pay later option at the end of the online application. Next, you must submit a copy of your ACT or SAT scores to WSU’s admissions office, and then have your parent or guardian sign and submit the Parental Informed Consent form that you can access by clicking on the purple box. This form notifies us that you have permission from your parents to be a WSU student and have access to campus facilities and services. You can review these steps on the admissions page of our Early College website.
30. Once you have completed your application to the Early College program, there are a few next steps to take before you can register for and attend classes.
31. You must have a parent or guardian fill out the High School Counselor Contract. You can access this by clicking on the red box or visiting the Counselors page on our Early College Website. This contract lets us know if there are any particular courses or subjects your parent or guardian wants you to take to finish off your high school curriculum. Next, you must call our office to set up your required early college new student appointment with your Early College advisor to introduce you to your student portal and help you plan your courses. You will not be able to register for classes until you have completed this new student appointment. Click the green box to find contact information for your Early College Advisor. At this appointment we will also show you where to fill out the online scholarship application, and where you can fill out the Student Information Release form, granting a trusted parent/guardian access to your WSU records. Before your first semester, you will also be required to attend a new student orientation. Click the blue box to see available orientation dates and times and to sign-up for a session.
32. The main office for the Early College program is the Student Success Center, located in room 140 of the Student Services Center on our Ogden campus. We are open Monday through Thursday from 8 to 5 and Fridays until 4:30. Davis County student appointments are also available on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WSU Davis Campus. You can contact us by phone, email, or in-person.
33. To start the Early College application online, visit the Early College website and go to Step two, “Complete the Application Process”. Click the arrow that best describes you, then click the “Early College Admissions Application” link.
34. Thank you for watching our online Early College Information Session. If you have any questions, please contact us. Click the green button to fill out an interest form and request more information from your early college advisor. Remember, this interest form is required if you plan to apply to the Early College program. You can also like us on Facebook to receive important early college updates.

<http://www.weber.edu/wsuimages/earlycollege/CounselorContract.png>

<http://www.weber.edu/wsuimages/earlycollege/ECOnlineInfoSessionWorksheet_Public.pdf>

<http://www.weber.edu/wsuimages/earlycollege/ECOnlineInfoSessionWorsheet_HomeSchool.pdf>

<http://www.weber.edu/earlycollege/interestformconfirm.html>