

Kankakee Community College

EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

Collaborating with High Schools to Enhance Student Success

If you're selected for KCC's Early College Program, you'll be doing two things at once:

- 1) Earning your high school diploma.
- 2) Working toward a college degree at KCC.

Note: Program participants are chosen by their high school.

ARE YOU ...

Academically ready for college?

Able to work independently?

Someone who takes initiative?

Prepared to study? (Really study. Every day.)

Ready to complete assignments throughout the semester?

Yes? Then read on!

The decision to begin college early is important. You should decide along with your parents if this program is right for you.

PROGRAM STRENGTHS

- 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.
- Coursework not offered in high school.
- Earn your high school diploma and complete a certificate, or a degree at the same time (depending if you enter program as a junior or senior).
- Experience a different setting compared to a traditional high school.



Here are 12 of the 118 Early College participants for 2025-26

PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS

- College classes come with many demands. Qualified students will benefit from developing greater independence and adjusting to the faster pace of study required in college.
- 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.

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"The Early College Program has taught me so much! I have become a confident college student and feel ready for university next year. At first going to college seemed nerve wracking, but KCC has provided me with a positive transition from high school to college. KCC offers many opportunities and provides students with a positive learning environment. The professors are encouraging and always willing to help. I have not once regretted my decision to participate in the Early College Program!"



Chloe Wagner, Iroquois-West High School

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 at a high school in KCC's district.
- Under age 19 as of Sept. 1 in the year which college courses are taken.
- Submit required documentation by the established deadline.
- Attend mandatory in-person Early College Program orientation.
- Meet with KCC and high school counselors periodically throughout the semester.
- 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.
- No discipline or attendance problems the year prior to application.
- Adhere to the KCC Code of Campus Affairs and Regulations.

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 course modalities include 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.
- 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.

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.

PROGRAM FAQS

Is Early College just for students seeking a bachelor's degree?
It is open to students with all types of college goals – including earning a bachelor's degree, an associate degree, or a professional certificate.

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 register for at least 12 credit hours (4 courses).

- 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.
- KCC is not allowed to give information regarding grades, attendance or course schedules to parents without written permission from the student per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

- Tutoring is available for most core classes. See KCC www.kcc.edu/library/tutoring/ for more information.
- Early College Program advisors assist students with course scheduling and adjusting to college.
- For more information about services, visit www.kcc.edu/student-resources/.

“So many of us are lost on where to start, but with the amazing staff that is there for us it makes things so much better, and it is such a great and amazing environment to come into! There is always someone rooting for you.”

Melanie Perez Serrano, Kankakee High School

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.

“The Early College Program has granted me so many opportunities to grow both educationally and personally. I have gained confidence, a stronger work ethic, and skills that I will carry into my future career. I am grateful for this program and for its role in my future success.”

Gabriella Fuentes, Kankakee High School

“The Early College Program at KCC has helped me experience what it is like to be a college student. My professors advocate for me and make sure I'm on the path to success for future endeavors.”

Charisma Hill, Kankakee High School



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 13, 2026.
3. Complete and submit the Early College Graduation Requirement form with your counselor. Deadline: March 13, 2026.
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: "I want to take college credit classes as part of the Early College Program."
5. Take the ACCUPLACER Next Gen placement exam by March 13, 2026, unless you have any one of the following ...

ACCUPLACER Next Gen. - Reading	SAT EBRW	ACT English or Reading
250-300	480-800	19-36

- 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/.

6. Take the ALEKS math placement exam by March 13, 2026-unless you have any one of the following ...

ALEKS	SAT Math (Enrollment within 2 years of test date)	ACT Math (Enrollment within 2 years of test date)
46-100	530-800	22-36

Placement Testing Info

- You must have an admission form on file to test (see step 4).
- Go to www.kcc.edu/examprep for help studying for ACCUPLACER and ALEKS; and retest policies and fees.
- There is no fee for the initial ACCUPLACER and ALEKS exam.
- View Testing Center locations and hours at www.kcc.edu/testhours/. Walk-ins and appointments available. To make an appointment for either exam, email testingcenter@kcc.edu for the Riverfront Campus in Kankakee, or call 815-802-8720 for the South Extension Center in Watseka. If completing both exams in one session, allow two hours before the Testing Center closes.

7. 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.



MORE INFORMATION:
www.kcc.edu/earlycollege or



PROGRAM LEADERSHIP:

Laura Ryan, Asst. Director of Enrollment Services
ryan@kcc.edu • 815-802-8513

Kimberlee Jeffreys, Director of Support Services
kjeffreys@kcc.edu • 815-802-8472

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"Joining KCC has been one of my best decisions ever! Being a part of ECP has been life changing! Not only have I been academically challenged, I have also looked at another perspective of my academic journey. And not only has Kankakee High School helped, so has KCC!"

Katia Tetlalmatzi Perez, Kankakee High School

