

Early College FAQ's

Q1. How do students apply for the ECP? Is there a deadline? How will school counselors find this information out?

Students will need their principal or headmasters' approval to apply for participation in the ECP. Once they have received approval, the student would apply and go through the college's enrollment process established by the college.

For a list of colleges approved for the Early College Program and the contact information, visit the [AOE Early College Program webpage](#).

Q2. What are the admissions requirements for an ECP student?

Each college has its own admissions requirements that can be found on the college website. ECP students will be held to the same standards as other students seeking admission to that college.

In addition to the college admissions requirements, students must have their principal or headmaster's approval to participate in an ECP.

Q3. Who will grant the ECP student a high school degree? (What name will appear on the transcript?)

ECP students will graduate from their sending high school with the exception of students in the Vermont Technical College VAST Program, which is an accredited high school and can grant high school diplomas.

Q4. Who ensures that the classes that the ECP student takes will qualify for high school graduation?

The ECP student, high school guidance counselor/advisor/principal, and the ECP director will work together to ensure that the courses taken at the college complete high school graduation requirements.

Q5. Can the ECP student take any courses at the college including online courses?

ECP students enroll in courses offered by the college through their published course catalog. ECP students may be required to take orientation courses that are required for all first-year college students at that college and may be required to take courses for a major that has specific requirements as determined by the academic department directors and/or registrar (e.g., nursing). Any changes that ECP students make to their course selection must be approved by the high school guidance counselor and the college ECP program director to ensure alignment with high school graduation requirements.

Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information please contact:

AOE.EarlyCollege@vermont.gov.

Q6. Are ECP students required to live on campus?

Many Early College Programs do not offer residential options for Early College students. In these cases, ECP students will be responsible for getting themselves to and from the college for classes or other activities.

Q7. Are all costs covered?

Only the college tuition is covered. All other college costs such as student support services, room, and board (if applicable), and course materials including books and lab fees are billed to the student.

Q8. Are ECP students graded in the same way as other college students in the course?

ECP students are held to the same grading standards and assessments (e.g., papers, portfolios, quizzes, labs, etc.) as other students enrolled in that college level course.

Q9. Can students return to their high school during the add/drop period if they realize that college is not for them?

Yes. There should be a team at the high school to discuss necessary transition planning and re-enrollment processes with the student.

Q10. Does a student have to pass all their classes to be eligible to continue in the spring semester?

No. If a student is failing a college class – they are considered college students and therefore subject to the college policies (e.g., academic probation, etc.). Note: The College will need to consult with the high school contact, in order to determine impact on completion of graduation requirements.

Q11. What if a high school has a student who is currently a junior, but they have all their credits earned, can they graduate early, or would that student be eligible for Early College next year?

If the student chooses not to pursue a high school diploma for the spring semester, that student will still be a publicly funded senior, VT resident, without a high school diploma, so yes, that student would qualify for the Early College Program.