

College Credit Plus Program

Summary: In the next school year (2015-16), Ohio students have a “new” program available to them. It’s called College Credit Plus (CCP), and it replaces the old program called PSEO. The CCP program supports students who qualify to take college courses at any public Ohio college. There is no additional fee to the student/family. Students in grades 7-12 can qualify. The main element of qualification is a non-remedial ACT/SAT score. For the ACT, these numbers are 18 on English, 21 on reading and 22 on math. Scores from an ACT Compass test can also be used.

Key resources

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/School-Choice/College-Credit-Plus>

<https://www.ohiohighered.org/ccp>

Map of all public colleges in Ohio: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/campuses/map>

Homeschool and non-public school students”

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/School-Choice/Home-Schooling/College-Credit-Plus-for-Home-School-Families> ** Homeschool families – use this link to understand the process that you should follow

** for non-public school students, check with your school to determine the process to follow. It was noted for homeschool and non-public school that the process to follow is VERY date/deadline-driven and to fill out every line on the applications for funding

Key dates

April 1: Date by which students that plan to participate in the fall must indicate this to their school guidance counselor. This is not a commitment, but it is a **required indication that you intend to participate**. Here is the [letter of intent form families](#) will need.

The following is a rough documentation of the notes I took attending the CCP Informational Session jointly presented by Michelle Brown of OSU (an admissions officer) and Jackie Stewart of Columbus State Community College. Please excuse any errors in the document; it is intended to communicate the spirit and details of the program, and every effort was made to clarify details where possible. Some details were still in flux at the time of the meeting. – Beth Probst, At The Core LLC

There is a **requirement** for all participating families **to receive some form of counseling** prior to indicating their intent to participate. For families that could not attend an information session, an excellent option is to schedule an appointment for this counseling with your HS guidance counselor.

The CCP program results in **transcribed college credit**. Any/all of the **public colleges** in Ohio, including regional campuses **must participate**. See the list of those schools here:

<https://www.ohiohighered.org/campuses/map> **Online courses** are included in the program, and some school districts (not Olentangy, confirmed with Jack Fette) offer the classes inside the high schools.

Classes included in the CCP program are only those offered during the regular academic year – not in the summer.

Per year, a student may earn as many as 30 credit hours. The idea is that the student cannot be more than a full time student, so the number of HS credit hours is balanced with the number of college credits taken.

The student is “dually enrolled” in their regular school and in the college. The **student must apply to the college**, but the application process is NOT the same as a matriculating student. The application is for this student to take these courses at this school – different from a regular inbound matriculating freshman to a college, whose application/credentials are considered in a very different way. Courses in the college setting count dually for college credit and for a corresponding HS credit. **Courses are weighted as AP classes** are weighted on the HS transcript.

(NOTE: if your HS offered/offers a program called “**Dual Enrollment**,” this program now falls under the CCP program. Such dual enrollment programs are typically a subset of the CCP program – less classes, tied to just one college, taught by different instructors, classes may only include district students versus including the entire college population, etc.)

There was a discussion of the **risks of participating in the program**.

- If the student fails or drops out past the deadline, the school can charge back/recoup the cost of the class
- The coursework is more rigorous
- No transportation is provided
- The credits earned may not transfer to another institution*
- Federal Financial Aid may be impacted (although they stated that the rule is that students that participate must still be considered a freshman when they move on to college – they cannot be held at a disadvantage)
- Because the coursework is rigorous, if the student does poorly, the grade can impact the HS GPA and may in turn impact the student’s chances of receiving academic merit scholarships.

* Personal commentary note: it’s true the credits offered may not transfer, but they *may* transfer too! Transferability is a key piece of information to investigate when looking at colleges. If you amass

transcripted credits through CCP and your ultimate goal is to use as many as possible in a transfer, then you need to find schools that are known to accept credits from many sources and have a high limit on the number of credits they will accept. AP courses are different – I consider them *potential* college credit (versus transcripted) – all colleges define their credit transfer programs differently. Typically, more elite colleges will be less willing to accept ANY transferred credits – they want students to take their version of the class. A good resource to start with is www.transferology.com, but the actual college websites are best. Larger universities usually have a “credit transfer” tool to show you exactly how class credits will or won’t transfer in. End of personal commentary!

The speakers addressed the question, “**Who should participate?**” They told a few stories of successful and unsuccessful students from the prior program (PSEO) and they noted the following indicators for success:

- Able to self advocate, motivated and mature
- Academically strong
- Students who want to explore academic areas not available in their HS
- Students with time to devote to the college coursework (for every hour in a college class, plan for two outside of class)

The speakers addressed the question, “**What is the best preparation for the student? AP? IB? College Credit Plus? Honor classes?**” The short answer was, “The most rigorous college-prep program that’s appropriate for the student.” The OSU admissions officer stated that they recommend students choose the path for which there is “a reasonable expectation of success and it’s challenging.” If at each turn the student chooses the easier path to “protect your GPA,” this is not considered favorably by admissions. She stated they look for “how well the student did and how much they pushed themselves.

Next steps??? If you want to participate this fall, you must meet with your HS guidance counselor and complete the letter of intent by April 1. Separately, with separate deadlines, the student must complete a special application process to the college of choice. Applications will likely include a HS transcript and a letter of recommendation. Most colleges have links specifically for CCP students – see this as an example for Columbus State: <http://www.csc.edu/admissions/apply.shtml>

The speakers addressed the question, “**What classes can they take?**” The answer was that they can take any class for which they have met the prerequisites.

The speakers addressed the question, “**Does this affect academic eligibility?**” The answer was to contact your school’s Athletic Director.

The speaker from Columbus State noted that **students have access to the helpful tools** all CSCC students have – tutors, writing lab, counseling, disability services, etc. She also stressed college affordability and the growing trend of students completing general education requirements at a school like Columbus State, and then transferring CSCC is an open enrollment college with no GPA requirements.