

Dual Credit Opportunities

Get a head start on your future and earn credit for both high school and college, simultaneously.

Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB)



Courses denoted in course descriptions by an 'AP' (Advanced Placement) or 'IB' (International Baccalaureate) are courses designed to be the equivalent of college level work. Studies have shown that students who take AP or IB classes are better prepared for college than students who have not participated. The completion of AP or IB courses receives favorable consideration by college admissions offices. Students who successfully pass an AP or IB test will receive college credit at most colleges and universities. Such testing traditionally takes place during the first two weeks of May.

Students interested in enrolling in AP or IB classes should consult with their school counselor. For information about applying to the International Baccalaureate program contact the International Baccalaureate Coordinator at Columbia River High School.

Running Start

"Running Start" is another program which can lead to college credit, and it is operated in partnership with Clark College. Students have the opportunity as juniors and seniors to take courses at both their home school and Clark College. Credits earned count toward both high school graduation and community college degree programs. Anyone interested in enrolling in classes at Clark through this program should consult the Running Start program guidelines available from the high school counselor within the Vancouver School District.



College in the High School (CHS)



The College in the High School Program affords students the opportunity to acquire University of Washington (UW) or Central Washington University (CWU) credit through selected classes offered at participating high schools. Highly qualified VPS teachers, approved as instructors at the designated college or university provide instruction and work closely with college professors.

Career & Technical Education (CTE) College Articulation

CTE College Articulation programs put high school students on the pathway to earning a degree from a community college by allowing them to complete selected Career & Technical Education (CTE) classes while still in high school. It is a partnership between Community Colleges and participating high schools allowing students to simultaneously earn high school and college credits in courses that have been approved through a formal articulation agreement.

Career Specialists at each high school work with CTE teachers to assist students in completing the registration process and potentially earn college credit while taking high school courses.



Research suggests that participation in dual enrollment can lead to better grades in high school, increased enrollment in college following high school, higher rates of persistence in college, and greater credit accumulation.

(ed.gov/US Department of Education)