

EARN
COLLEGE
CREDIT

Early College Experience

IN HIGH
SCHOOL



Student Handbook



NWACC EARLY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Maximize Potential.
Exceed Expectations.

One College Drive,
Bentonville, AR 72712
479.725.4688
nwacc.edu/earlycollege
earlycollege@nwacc.edu

Early College Experience

What is Early College Experience?

Early College Experience (ECE) is a partnership between NWACC and northwest Arkansas high schools. Under this partnership, eligible students can take college courses through Concurrent Enrollment and earn college and high school credit.

What is Concurrent Enrollment?

Concurrent Enrollment simply means that a high school student is enrolled in both high school and college courses. Concurrent Enrollment is available at NWACC through regular admissions or through Early College Experience.

How is Early College Experience different from regular Concurrent Enrollment?

Both choices allow a high school student to take college courses while still enrolled in high school. However, unlike regular concurrent students, who must leave their high school to attend classes on an NWACC campus, ECE classes are offered on the high school campus during the school day and as part of the regular school schedule.

What are the benefits of taking college courses through of Early College Experience?

Concurrent Enrollment courses through ECE are taught in your high school by qualified high school teachers or college instructors, so you don't have to leave your campus. You gain confidence from exposure to college work, and are better prepared after completing courses that are as rigorous and challenging as college courses. Lower tuition saves you time and money!

What is the difference between Early College Experience and AP courses?

Early College Experience courses are taken each semester, while AP courses are one year long. Most importantly, you will be evaluated and receive a college-credit letter grade based on multiple and varied assignments as laid out in the course syllabus, instead of just one high-stakes test at the end of the year to determine if you will earn college credit.

Are Early College Experience courses hard?

Early College Experience courses are challenging because they are college courses. They have the same learning outcomes, study requirements, and textbooks as the courses offered on the NWACC campus.

What courses are available through Early College Experience?

Check with your high school counselor for a list of courses for the upcoming semester. Early College Experience courses are normally offered in English composition and mathematics, but courses in history, science, social science, communications, and business are also offered.

Eligibility

How do I qualify to begin Early College Experience courses?

Requirement One is a 3.0 cumulative high school grade point average. You may request a waiver of this requirement if you don't have a 3.0 GPA. The waiver form is available in the counseling office and **MUST** have your reason for requesting the waiver. It is subject to approval by the NWACC Early College Experience office.

Requirement Two is college-level placement test scores on the ACT, SAT, or COMPASS in the subject area of the class you wish to take. OR you may use ASPIRE, PLAN, PSAT, or EXPLORE scores for college-level placement in the subject area.

Please note that the test score requirement is Arkansas State Law and **CANNOT** be waived. Your placement test score report **MUST** be dated **BEFORE** classes begin.

Requirement Three is approval by your counselor. If you are under 18 at the time of registration, your parent or guardian must also approve.

How do I qualify to continue with Early College Experience courses?

You must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in high school, maintain at least a 2.0 GPA in your NWACC coursework, and pass any pre-requisite courses with a C or better.

What is a pre-requisite?

A pre-requisite is a course that must be completed successfully in order to take another course. For example, English Composition II requires a pre-requisite of English Composition I.

How does Concurrent Enrollment affect my eligibility for Financial Aid?

NOTE: This affects students who drop courses after the official refund date.

Effective July 1, 2011, changes to Federal Student Financial Aid rules regarding Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) impact students enrolling in concurrent and dual enrollment courses.

Federal law requires that all college coursework be measured to determine academic success, including Concurrent and Dual Enrollment courses.

Before each term (fall, spring, and summer) colleges and universities will review grades, including concurrent courses taken in high school, to make sure students maintain a 2.0 GPA and a 67% course completion rate. If not, students will have one term to correct this or potentially lose their federal student financial aid. Failing a course and not completing a course carries the same consequence.

Test Score Requirements

For **All college-level** courses, one of the following minimum scores is required:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| ACT Reading | 19 |
| COMPASS Reading | 83 |
| SAT Critical Reading | 480 |
| PSAT Critical Reading | 48 |
| ASPIRE Reading | 428 |
| PLAN Reading | 15 |
| EXPLORE Reading | 14 |

For **English Composition I**, one of the following minimum scores is required:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| ACT English | 19 |
| COMPASS Writing | 80 |
| SAT Writing | 480 |
| PSAT Writing | 48 |
| ASPIRE Writing | 428 |
| PLAN English | 16 |
| EXPLORE English | 14 |

For **College Algebra**, one of the following minimum scores is required:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| ACT Math | 21 |
| COMPASS Algebra | 65 |
| SAT Math | 500 |
| PSAT Math | 50 plus Algebra II with a C or better |
| ASPIRE Math | 434 plus Algebra II with a C or better |
| PLAN Math | 21 plus Algebra II with a C or better |

You may enroll in Trigonometry or Finite Math with one of the following:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| ACT Math | 24-28 |
| COMPASS College Algebra | 46 or higher |
| Completion of College Algebra | with a C or better |

Where can I take the COMPASS test? What is the cost?

You can take the COMPASS at NWACC Testing Center. For appointments and information visit http://www.nwacc.edu/web/ldc_testingcenter/. The cost is \$10. Check with your counselor to see if your high school offers the test.

How do I register for a course?

Registration forms are available at your counseling office. Complete this form and turn it in at the time of registration. If you are under 18 when the semester begins, your parent or guardian must also sign the form. Early College Experience registration normally takes place soon after high school classes begin.

Only registered Early College Experience students may take ECE courses.

Tuition and Refunds

How much does it cost to take courses through Early College Experience?

Currently, NWACC provides a scholarship to each Early College Experience student for about 60% the tuition plus another scholarship for all the administrative fees associated with NWACC courses. After the scholarships are applied, Early College Experience students pay about 40% of the regular tuition. **Students are responsible for purchasing the required textbooks.**

Will I receive a bill?

NWACC sends an invoice to your high school for the tuition, so you will not receive a bill. However, you pay for your ECE courses directly to your high school. Check with your counselor to see how the high school collects payment from you. **Remember, tuition is due the first week of classes, and payable to your high school.**

Is it possible to withdraw from a class and get a refund?

If you withdraw within the first week of classes, you receive a 100% refund. If you withdraw by the end of the second week of classes you receive an 80% refund and a W in your college transcript. Refund time periods are posted on the Academic Calendar on the NWACC website. Remember that any refund will be sent directly to your high school, so you need to check with your counselor about your high school's refund policy.

Grades, Transcripts and Credit Transfer

How do I get a copy of my grades?

You may request a transcript from NWACC, using the Transcript Request form that is available through your counselor or at www.nwacc.edu/earlycollege. You may use *My NWACC Connection* to view an unofficial copy of final grades as well.

Will my grades appear on an NWACC transcript?

Yes. Your NWACC transcript will show the grades from all you college courses, including ECE and courses taken on the NWACC campus.

Can I transfer my Early College Experience courses to another college?

You can expect the credits earned through Early College Experience to transfer to most colleges and universities. Please contact the college or university you plan to attend to verify its transfer policy.

How do I transfer my Early College Experience courses to another college?

You must request an official copy of your NWACC transcript to be sent to that college. A PDF file of the request form can be found at www.nwacc.edu. Click on *Current Students* and then click on *Transcript Resources*. Print out the form and follow the instructions.

Phone or email requests are not accepted, so you must mail the form to NWACC Student Records, One College Drive, Bentonville, AR 72712, or fax at (479) 619-2229.

NWACC Internet Resources

Do I have access to NWACC Internet resources?

Yes. **My NWACC Connection** gives you access to your own email account, NWACC Library, Tutoring Services, and much more.

To access My NWACC Connection:

- Go to www.nwacc.edu
- Click on *My NWACC Connection*
- Enter your login and password
- Change your password, as prompted

How do I get an NWACC ID card?

You can get your ID in the NWACC Library, which is located on the first floor in Burns Hall.

Can I use the NWACC library?

Yes, with your NWACC ID card you will have full access to the NWACC library. You can also access the library through our website: <http://www.nwacc.edu/web/library/>

What if I need help with my courses?

Tutoring is available at the Academic Success Center <http://www.nwacc.edu/web/asc/>
The Writing Center at <http://www.nwacc.edu/web/writingcenter/> can help as well.

Student Conduct, Responsibilities and Rights

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You are expected to do your own work, so do not resort to finding shortcuts to doing the work. The college policy on academic dishonesty is in the NWACC Student Handbook and Daily Planner. Please review it!

Plagiarism

Plagiarism results when a student presents the words or ideas of someone else as if they were his/her own. If the words of someone other than the writer are reproduced without acknowledgment of the source or if someone else's ideas are paraphrased in such a way that leads the reader to believe they originated with the writer, then plagiarism has occurred.

Plagiarism can be either intentional or unintentional. Intentional plagiarism is the knowing, deliberate copying, downloading or buying of information with the intent of passing it off as original work from the writer. Intentional plagiarism is a very serious form of academic dishonesty that can lead to suspension from school. Unintentional plagiarism is the misrepresentation of information through ignorance or carelessness.

It is your responsibility as an NWACC student to understand what plagiarism is and to learn the proper methods of documentation to avoid this form of academic dishonesty.

Students with Disabilities

For information or to schedule an appointment, please email (preferred) disability@nwacc.edu or call the main office at (479) 986-4076. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is located in Room 114 on the first floor of the Student Center on the main Bentonville campus.

Academic accommodations and related supports are available to NWACC students with disabilities through the Disability Resource Center (DRC). If you have received Special Education services (IEP or 504 plan) and/or if you have a disability or medical concern which you feel may impact your access to or progress in the Early College Experience program, and would like to request accommodations during your time at NWACC, please contact the DRC for more information.

It is important to understand that even though you are still a high school student, your access needs for any course that you take through the ECE program is subject to the NWACC process and that any plan you and your guardian(s) have participated in through your high school (IEP or 504) will not apply to your ECE course(es).

Privacy Act Notice

Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code requires you to give your correct SSN or ITIN (if you are not eligible to obtain a SSN) to persons who must file information returns with the IRS to report certain information. The IRS uses the numbers for identification purposes and to help verify the accuracy of your tax return. NWACC must obtain your correct identifying number to file certain information returns with the IRS and to furnish Form 1098-T to you. This form contains information about qualified tuition and related expenses. The information about your tuition will help to determine whether you, or the person who can claim you as a dependent, may take either the tuition and fees deduction or claim an education credit to reduce federal income tax. Failure to furnish your correct SSN or ITIN may subject you to an IRS penalty. SSNs and ITINs are maintained confidentially and used only for official business by NWACC.

Survey Participation

Request for Survey Participation

To receive and maintain NACEP accreditation mentioned earlier in this handbook, NWACC must survey current and former Early College Experience students. Please help us by completing all surveys when requested!

EARN
COLLEGE
CREDIT

Early College Experience

IN HIGH
SCHOOL



NWACC EARLY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Maximize Potential.
Exceed Expectations.

One College Drive,
Bentonville, AR 72712
479.725.4688
nwacc.edu/earlycollege
earlycollege@nwacc.edu