

WHAT IS EARLY COLLEGE OF MACOMB

The Early College of Macomb program offers three options for students: an associate of arts/sciences degree transferable to a four-year postsecondary college, an associate of applied science degree that is a two-year program not transferable to another institution (geared toward getting the student into the workforce at the end of the two years), or a technical certificate (in a skilled trade).

It is a three-year program that begins in a student's junior year and allows the student to gain both a high school diploma and college credit through an accelerated educational program working on both high school and college credit simultaneously. The program takes place during the 3rd, 4th, and 5th years of high school. At the completion of the program, the student will receive both the high school diploma and an Associates Degree. Students considering the Early College program should be fully advised that it is a three-year commitment, and they are expected to complete the entire three years unless there are extenuating circumstances they discuss with their high school. Students who have no intention of following through with the 3rd year commitment should see their counselor about Dual Enrollment courses instead because there is no commitment of an additional year.

The main advantages of the program are that the college courses and certification classes are free, with costs picked up by the school district and the state, and students get a head start on either a postsecondary education or skilled trade. ***The intention of the program, at its inception, was for underserved, underrepresented, and underachieving students for whom a smooth transition into post-secondary education could be more problematic.***

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING ON EARLY COLLEGE OF MACOMB

- Early Middle College is a 3-year program – committing to that 3rd year is an important consideration.
- The student will graduate from high school and walk at commencement in their senior year. However, they will not receive their diploma until after completing their 5th year of high school.
- Students' measurable skills should be appropriate for college level rigor and expectations.
- Students should be emotionally mature enough to handle the pressures of taking college classes and juggling a more varied structure. (There is a difference between academic ability and emotional maturity.)
- They will be attending classes with students over the age of 18.
- Consider the rigor of the student's high school classes (AP and/or Honors) taken at the same time as college class. Be realistic about what they can handle so they do not get overloaded and overwhelmed.
- If a student drops a course and/or enrolls in a different class, they MUST immediately inform their high school counselor. Not doing so could have an impact on graduation.
- Transportation is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and student. For safety and supervision reasons, students must leave the building after their scheduled Dakota classes.
- Athletics, Band and Choir require after school and evening participation which may conflict with the student's MCC class schedule. They might have to give up the high school activity if they are already in the ECM program and their college classes do not fit with the High school activity timeline.
- College courses enrolled in must begin AFTER the student's high school schedule ends (travel time must also be accounted for). Students should notify the ECM advisor of any planned high school activities that might created an issue.
- Some colleges may not consider transfer students freshmen, for scholarship purposes, after they complete an Early College program.
- Some universities may prefer honors, accelerated, and advanced placement courses. Check with colleges of interest before committing.
- Students on an Accelerated/Advanced Placement path may benefit from staying on that pathway.

HOW TO ENTER THE MIDDLE COLLEGE PROGRAM

1. It would be beneficial to attend the informational session the Early College has in January to get the introductory information. This is a program through Macomb Community College, not through the high school.
2. Student should review their EDP (through Career Cruising) to make sure it shows an accurate pathway of interest the ECM program will help them complete.
3. Student should complete the application process:
 - Online Early Admission Application for Macomb Community College
 - Bring Counselor the signed EDP from Career Cruising AND the Counselor Recommendation form provided on the ECM website.
4. Macomb will contact students to take the placement test. This usually takes place through the month of March. Once all applicants have been tested, the college will notify the high schools which applicants qualified based on their test scores.
5. Qualified applicants will be notified by the high school of the date of the lottery. The number of approved applicants is determined by the Superintendent of Chippewa Valley School each school year.
6. Once the lottery is held, if the student is selected and agrees, the student must follow the timeline and guidelines of Macomb Community College for registration. If the student decides courses at the high school are a better fit and do not go into the program, the next student on the lottery list will be notified and given the opportunity to attend.
7. Students will meet with a Macomb Early College Advisor to choose a program of interest and select courses for the following school year. They will bring that form to their high school counselor, so their high school schedule can be updated to reflect the ECM courses.
8. Any changes to the EMC class schedule must follow the 4-year plan and must be communicated to the student's Dakota counselor.

****IMPORTANT****

- a. The High school deadline for all documentation will be about 2-3 days earlier than the ECM deadline to give the counselors time to complete their portion and deliver it to ECM with the student's transcript (required).
- b. Dakota counselors are not able to assist with the registration process for Early College classes at MCCC. Please visit the website or call the Early College of Macomb at (586) 228-3437.