

Collegiate Academy Frequently Asked Questions- January 2014

What was the genesis for the program?

When Mr. Whiston was interviewed for the position of Superintendent in our district he outlined a goal to bring a program such as this to Dearborn.

What is this program all about?

The Collegiate Academy is a unique early college program started in the fall of 2013. There are other early college programs in the state but Dearborn is the only school district that offers this particular program. Students will have the opportunity to attain both a high school diploma and a two-year Associate Degree in five years at no cost to the student or parent.

Does Dearborn Public Schools really cover the cost of college books, tuition, and fees?

The district covers the cost of all required college classes in the program, any fees associated with the class or enrollment, and all books required to attend the class. There are no costs to parents or students to take part in this program.

Does my child have to attend a certain high school?

Students enrolled at Dearborn, Edsel Ford, or Fordson can be part of this program. Students will take their high school classes at their home high school and in 11th grade will start taking college classes at Henry Ford Community College.

Will my child be able to participate in sports and other activities?

Students enrolled in the program will still be able to take part in high school activities at their home high school through their 12th grade year. Sports, drama, music, clubs, homecoming, prom, commencement programs, senior party, and other activities normally associated with the high school experience will all be available to students enrolled in the Collegiate Academy.

Is this an accelerated program?

This is an accelerated program and the district is very aware of that. This is the reason for having very specific requirements for participation and support mechanisms in place once students are enrolled. Students need to be college ready, and the PLAN Test will tell us whether they are, or not.

What is the PLAN Test?

The PLAN Test is the 10th grade version of the ACT. Prior to the PLAN Test, students take the Explore Test in 9th grade. Scores achieved on the Explore Test provide the student with an indication of how they might score when they take the PLAN Test the following year. This gives students time to work on those subject areas where they may be having difficulties so they can achieve the needed scores on the PLAN Test.

Who is eligible to enroll in the Collegiate Academy program?

Any 11th grade Dearborn Public Schools student who has been successful in all 9th and 10th grade courses and has achieved a score of 15 in English, 19 in Math, and 18 in Reading on the PLAN Test given in the spring of 10th grade is eligible.

What if you get one of the scores, and not the others?

Students need to achieve all 3 scores to be eligible to apply to the program; if one score is below the minimum the student does not qualify.

What if the student fails a class in high school? Can they qualify for this program?

Students need to be on track for graduation in order to apply to the program.

We just moved to Dearborn and have a child in 11th grade. Can s/he enter the program?

Students must have attended the Dearborn Public Schools during their entire 10th grade year to be eligible to take part in the program.

When does a student apply to the program?

Students will submit applications in May of their 10th grade year after they have received the results of their PLAN test.

Is there a cap on the number of qualified students who can participate in this program?

No, however HFCC does have the option of setting a cap if they feel it is necessary.

How is scheduling class times going to work out? Does this program mean longer days?

No, students can schedule a class for a Saturday, later in the day or on-line. Currently we have student athletes taking dual enrollment classes and they plan the college classes around their schedules. This program will be able to work in the same way providing plenty of flexibility for high school students involved in extracurricular activity or work.

Can you give a general overview of a schedule?

Students begin taking college courses in their first semester of 11th grade. The initial class, College 101, is designed to prepare students to take college classes. It will cover such topics as: What is college like, how do you prepare, how do you study, what's the expectation with interacting with the instructor, etc.

Second semester of 11th grade, students will be taking a more rigorous Political Science class, which replaces a Government class and a Humanities Class. As they move to 12th grade they will take English 131 & 132 replacing Language Arts 7 & 8. Their senior year is mostly at the college with one class at their home high school. The 13th year is totally at the college.

How does this program compare to dual enrollment?

Some students take part in dual enrollment to experience a single college class or complete their senior year schedule. This program is a degree program with more rigorous classes designed for the more advanced student.

What if a student is currently attending or would like to attend the Dearborn Center for Math, Science, and Technology (DCMST)?

Students can be in the Collegiate Academy and still be a part of the DCMST during their 9th, 10th, and 11th grades.

Can a student in this program take AP (Advanced Placement) classes?

Students in the Collegiate Academy are taking college level classes in their 11th, 12th, and 13th year. Therefore students do not need to take AP classes and they are not part of the course selection for students in this program.

What if the student's grades fall below what is expected?

Students need to stay current as far as passing classes are concerned but there isn't a GPA requirement.

What type of associate degree will my child earn?

The program offers students the opportunity to earn an Associate in Arts or an Associate in Science degree. See the "Typical Course Sequence" handout for an example of possible courses.

What do these degrees prepare a student for?

These degrees can be all the education a student needs to pursue a career or they can continue their education to attain additional degrees in business administration, criminal justice, pre-law, pre-med, anything that falls under an Associate of Arts or Sciences degree.

My child wants to go to a four year university right out of high school. Will this program help them?

Yes, but they would transfer to a four year university upon completion of their thirteenth and final year in the program. This would be one year later than their peers but they would have already earned enough college credit to enter the university as a Junior, one year ahead of their peers who would only be starting their Sophomore year.

When my child completes the program, will course work transfer to a four-year university?

College credit earned at the Collegiate Academy is transferable to most bachelor degree programs. In fact, counselors assigned to the five year program will assist students with this process.

Can a student transfer to a highly competitive university, such as the University of Michigan or Michigan State University?

Yes, when the student has earned their associate degree they could apply to one or both of these universities. In fact, the University of Michigan, Dearborn, has the perfect fit with a 2+2 arrangement; two years at a community college, and two years at their campus.

Can a student who graduates from this program qualify for scholarship money to transfer to a four year college?

Yes. Counselors are available to assist students with scholarship programs.

What if a student receives an athletic or academic scholarship to a four year university?

The skills, talents, and abilities of a student receiving a scholarship to a four year university will allow them to pursue a different path toward a college education. However, if financial reasons are the only factor in considering a scholarship parents and students will need to consider if the scholarship covers all or just a small part of the expenses during the four years. In the long run, taking part in the Collegiate Academy and having two years of college paid may actually be more of a financial benefit as opposed to a partial scholarship for four years.

What happens if a student decides not to complete the program?

Students may withdraw from the program through the 11th grade up to the first semester of 12th grade.

Can a student come back if they have a family emergency and miss their 13th year?

No.

What about transportation to the college?

The parents and students are responsible for transportation to and from the college campus.

What's the difference between this program and the Henry Ford Early College (HFEC)?

The Henry Ford Early College program is specifically for students interested in entering the health care profession. The HFEC program is a separate school from grades 9-12. It doesn't allow as much flexibility to take part in traditional high school experiences as students enrolled in the program are not part of their home high school. The HFEC program is housed completely at HFCC, and Henry Ford Hospital.

The Collegiate Academy is designed for university-bound students who want to get ahead of their peers, save money, and still be able to participate in athletics, arts, social events and other high school activities. The program is designed for students who are university-bound, but working on the two year plus two year concept.