



What is Running Start?

Running Start is a program where high school students earn academic credit for high school and college at the same time.

Spokane Community College, Spokane Falls Community College, and high schools in Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman counties offer this program to expand educational opportunities for high school juniors and seniors. Contact your public high school counselor to find out how to sign up for Running Start college classes. Your high school can tell you which college classes meet high school graduation requirements.

Private and home schooled students must register, but not necessarily attend, the public school in the district where you live in order to access Running Start.

What is the purpose of Running Start?

Running Start allows eligible high school students to enroll in college classes – or high school **and** college classes – to earn credits awarded by both the high school and college. Running Start classes are limited to “college-level classes” (100 level or above).

What it is like to take a class at a community college?

Once you start attending school as a Running Start student, you are considered a regular college student. Our instructors expect the same level of classroom participation, study habits and homework completion from you as they do from traditional college students.

1. **Pace:** Community college classes are taught at a faster pace than high school, often covering as much material in one quarter (about 11-12 weeks) as some high school classes do in one year.
2. **Homework:** Community colleges classes also require more prep and study time – up to two hours for each hour of class. And that’s in addition to any high school work your student is managing.
3. **Attendance:** Many college instructors don’t take attendance. It’s the student’s responsibility to attend class, be prepared and meet all deadlines.

The Community colleges operate on a quarter system. That means college and high school holidays and vacation periods will differ. Running Start students must attend their college classes even if their high school isn’t in session.

4. **Content/Class participation:** Community college classes and programs frequently tackle sensitive subjects, including sex, violence and religion. Class participation is critical, and students should be prepared for discussions that are open and candid.
5. **Parent’s access to student records:** Running Start students are responsible for following the college code of conduct, attending class, seeking academic help and addressing problems directly with their instructors. As mandated by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Running Start student records are confidential and can only be accessed by the student unless we have a signed Student Release form (CCS Form 40-200) on file. Parents cannot contact instructors or other school personnel on their student’s behalf.
6. **Cost:** Complete a Running Start Enrollment Verification Form (each quarter) with your high school counselor. This will determine how many tuition-free credits you are allowed. You must pay tuition for credits above the allowable amount and for classes below the 100 level. This tuition is in addition to lab and courses fees that Running Start students pay.

Running Start students purchase their own books and supplies and pay mandatory fees and non-course – related fees. Mandatory fees are waived for students who can document that they are or have been eligible for free or reduced lunch anytime in the last five years.

Check with your college store for the exact cost of books and supplies; current tuition and fees at www.ccs.spokane.edu/tuitionfees.

Placement tests, parking, transportation, books, supplies and noncourse - related fees are the student’s responsibility.

7. **Transportation/Parking:** Running Start students are responsible for their own transportation to and from their college.
Students who park on campus must purchase a quarterly parking pass, a day, pass or pay at the parking meter.
8. **Grade reports:** Grades are available to students about seven days after the end of the quarter. They also are sent to your high school at the end of every quarter.

Numeric grade	Letter grade	Numeric grade	Letter grade
3.8-4.0	A (Superior achievement)	2.3-2.5	C+
3.5-3.7	A-	2.0-2.2	C (Average achievement)
3.2-3.4	B+	1.6-1.9	C-
2.9-3.1	B (Above average achievement)	1.3-1.5	D+
2.6-2.8	B-	1.0-1.2	D (Minimum achievement)
		0.0	F (Failure)

9. **Satisfactory academic progress:** A student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better at the end of each quarter.
10. **Student responsibility:** Students must attend NSO at SCC or a Running Start Seminar at SFCC before registering. Students will learn how to register and identify courses that will fulfill requirements for an associate in arts degree and/or high school graduation.

Academic records: Running Start students who successfully complete college classes may earn both high school and college credit. These grades become part of your college transcript. If you want to apply to a different college, list SCC or SFCC as a college attended, then submit a request to SCC or SFCC to send an official transcript to your new school. A small fee will be charged for this service.

- SCC – www.scc.spokane.edu/?transcripts
- SFCC – www.spokanefalls.edu/transcripts

11. **Withdrawal:** As a Running Start student, it is **your responsibility** to begin the process for drop/withdrawal of classes by contacting your college Admissions Office before the quarter's drop/withdrawal date published in the current class schedule. www.ccs.spokane.edu/GenCreditInfo.

Classes dropped before the 10th day of the quarter do not show on your transcript. Classes dropped between the 10th and last day of the quarter show a "W." **A failing grade will appear on your transcript, if you do not officially withdraw from a class.** Find these dates at www.ccs.spokane.edu/GenCreditInfo.

12. **Campus safety:** Community Colleges of Spokane is committed to the health and safety of its faculty, staff and students.
- SCC – www.scc.spokane.edu/security
 - SFCC – www.spokanefalls.edu/security

What is the community college academic calendar?

SCC, SFCC and the off-campus locations operate on a quarter system, which is different from your high school academic calendar. During the 2018-19 school year, the quarterly start and end dates are:

Term	Start date	End date
Fall 2018	September 19	December 13
Winter 2019	January 2	March 21
Spring 2019	April 1	June 14

Community college holidays and vacations may be different than your high school's calendar. You may be expected to attend classes at your college even though your high school is not in session.

Websites:

- Spokane Community College - www.scc.spokane.edu
- Spokane Falls Community College - www.spokanefalls.edu
- Community Colleges of Spokane - www.ccs.spokane.edu