

POLICY

The Early College Program policy outlines responsibilities of high schools and Ocean County College (OCC) regarding high school dual-credit course offerings. Early College at OCC provides high school students the opportunity to earn college credits while they are still in high school. The Early College Program includes two options: Early College at the High School and Early College at OCC.

Early College at the High School (EC@HS) allows high school students the opportunity to earn college credits as part of their regular high school day. The courses are embedded into the students' high school schedule.

The courses in the EC@HS program are agreed upon through articulation agreements between OCC and the individual school districts. The agreements allow district secondary schools to offer courses that grant credit to meet high school curriculum requirements and college-level credit.

Early College at OCC (EC@OCC) allows high school students who are ready for college coursework the opportunity to take standard OCC college courses during the semester at any OCC location. High school students in all grade levels who wish to enroll as college students may do so with the permission of their High School Counselor or Principal.

PROCEDURE

Early College Program students must adhere to maximum semester credit requirements as outlined in OCC Policy #5132, Students, Registration, General Requirements.

1. Early College Program students must adhere to College policies, procedures, and practices regarding prerequisites and testing as outlined in Policy #5165, Students, Academic Standards, College Skills Assessment Program.
2. EC@HS students may take 29 credits maximum unless their high school has been designated as an “additional location” by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Those students pursuing more than 29 credits are recommended to continue their enrollment on campus through EC@OCC.
3. Early College Program students from Ocean County high schools and other partner districts will be charged tuition rates according to Policy #5300, Students, Tuition/Fees Schedule, and Policy #5327, Students, Tuition and Fees, Ocean County High School Students.
4. All payment and registration deadlines, course prerequisites and readiness requirements, and refunds will follow established college policies and procedures.

Information and requirements contained in the procedure are subject to change without notice to maintain compliance with the education rules of the State of New Jersey.