

	High School	VS	College
Payment	Usually Free		Tuition billed by credit, most classes are 3-4 credits, additional Lab/class fees
	Grades do not have a financial impact		Grades may affect future financial aid
Class Structure	Year long classes		Semester long- may be 16 or 8 week session
	Syllabus may be flexible		Syllabus policies followed closely
	Students not usually dropped		Instructor may drop student for a syllabus violation- absences, lack of participation
	Most classes are in person		Options are face to face, online, and livestream
	Dropping a class is usually not an option as it will result in a deficit for graduation requirements and a hole in a student's daily schedule.		Students can drop a class, which will often result in a charge and a W on the transcripts. This may be preferred to a failing grade that will affect GPA.
	Many classes are taken consecutively. No testing required prior to entering a class.		Many classes require a placement test to determine if developmental classes are recommended. Courses often have prerequisites.
Grading	More assignments with greater weight		Less assignments with less weight
	Tests weight minimal		Tests weighed higher

Grading

D is a passing grade

D is not passing. Class will need to be retaken. Only C or above will transfer. Some programs require a B or above in certain classes.

GPA used for class ranking and scholarship opportunities

GPA used for scholarship and financial aid opportunities. Low GPA can lead to academic probation and affect financial aid.

Assignments may be able to be turned in late

Deadlines are firm. Communication with the instructor is required if requesting an extension due to a unique circumstance.

Progress reports

No progress reports. Final grades are sent at the end of the semester. Students are responsible for monitoring grades.

Support

Communication usually in person

Communication often through college email.

Open communication between high school and parents

Students must have signed an Authorization form on file for ECP to share information with parents.

High school counselors and instructors direct students to resources.

Free tutoring through writing/stem labs available. Early College Programs Department available to guide students to college resources.

Educational Goals

IEP available for those who qualify

Students contact Accessibility Department to determine if accommodations are available

Earn high school diploma

Earn credits leading toward a certification or degree

Students can take exploratory classes to discover interests. Goal is to fulfill graduation requirements.

Students are encouraged to choose a program to seek certification or degree. They may change their mind, but this may result in unnecessary credits and cost.