



Running Start Parent/Guardian Information

2020 - 2021

For a successful Running Start experience, parents/guardians and students should consider the following:

1. Review the “Running Start Financial Responsibilities” resource attached with the Admission email. Running Start students must pay quarterly fees to the college, plus other costs associated with attending college, such as books and supplies. Fee Waivers and financial assistance are available for qualifying students.
2. All grades from Running Start college classes will appear on both the high school and college transcript. Discuss the academic responsibilities associated with attending college. Students are expected to participate fully in all course activities, including labs and field trips.
3. Discuss the personal responsibilities associated with attending college.
 - Students should take charge of reading, understanding, and following the instructions for enrolling and participating in classes. Each course provides this information via a syllabus.
 - If a student wishes to stop attending a class, or discontinue participation in Running Start, college policy requires the student to officially withdraw through the Running Start office. Withdrawal deadline dates can be found online on the Registration Calendar.
 - Students must make their own transportation arrangements. WCC provides a bus pass to all registered students for unlimited trips on Whatcom Transit Authority buses.
 - WCC student email is our official form of communication. Students are responsible for checking their WCC email account regularly.
4. Prepare to keep up on the required paperwork. Students must complete a new Enrollment Verification Form (EVF) every quarter including an authorizing signature from the high school, student and parent.
5. Make a plan to maintain open communication. In order to comply with federal law, WCC cannot release a student’s educational records to anyone other than the student, not even to parents, unless a special procedure is followed. It is good practice to discuss Running Start participation prior to registering each quarter.

The following is the “fine print” from the Enrollment Verification Form, an official Washington State document. We have reproduced it at a larger, more readable size. Parents and students must agree to these terms for every quarter of Running Start enrollment.

- The student is responsible for understanding when his or her choice of schedule will result in tuition charges. If the student enrolls for more high school and college credits than are identified in the Running Start State Funding Limit Table, the student is responsible for:
 - 1) paying all college tuition and fees associated with exceeding the college credits identified in the table; or
 - 2) withdrawing from the excess college or high school course(s).
- The student is required to pay any class/lab fees charged for college classes.
- Enrollment in specific college classes cannot be guaranteed – even if the classes are needed to fulfill high school graduation requirements.
- To add/withdraw from a course, the student must complete the college Add/Drop process by the college deadline and notify the high school counselor.
- The student is responsible for ensuring that college courses completed as part of the Running Start program will meet high school graduation requirements.
- If the student plans to transfer, it is the student’s responsibility to determine college admissions policies/deadlines and whether credits will transfer.
- The student and parent’s signatures provide permission for the high school and college to share the Running Start student’s academic records, which can include the student’s grades, billing, registration, and attendance records regardless of whether FERPA rights belong to the student or parents.
- After completing the college coursework, students are responsible for requesting official college transcripts through the college’s registrar office.