



EARLY COLLEGE: DOES IT PAY OFF?

AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: US

YOU'VE ENROLLED IN AN EARLY COLLEGE CLASS...

Early College classes are high school classes where you have the potential to earn college credit. Advanced Placement (AP), College in the High School and Tech Prep classes are all Early College classes. Taking classes like these will better prepare you for your future college experience. It will get you ready because you will be working at a faster pace, reading more and honing your study skills.

But did you know Early College classes can also move you toward college graduation? When you take Advanced Placement classes and score a 3 or above on the exam, not only are you working toward high school graduation, but you may be working toward fulfilling college and university general graduation requirements.

HERE IS HOW THIS EARLY COLLEGE CLASS MEASURES UP:

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College	Exam Score	Equivalent College Course	Credits	College Gen. Ed. Requirement?
EvCC	3, 4 or 5	POLS202 American Government	5	Yes!
CWU	5	POSC210 American Politics	5	Yes!
UW	4 or 5	POLS202 Intro to American Politics	5	Yes!
WSU	4 or 5	POLS101 American National Government	3 (sem)	Yes!
WWU	3, 4 or 5	POLS250 American Political Systems	5	Yes!

Even if a course does not fulfill college general education requirements, it could still count toward a degree.

DOES EARLY COLLEGE SAVE YOU MONEY?

YES!

Here is how 2010-11 tuition rates at five public colleges and universities in Washington State compare to Early College tuition:

Advanced Placement (\$87 per exam):

3 exams = **\$261.00**

Everett Comm. College (EvCC):

15 Credits = **\$1,045.00**

Central Wash. University (CWU):

15 Credits = **\$2067.00**

University of Washington (UW):

15 Credits = **\$2708.00**

Washington State University (WSU):

12 Credits = **\$4296.00**

(WSU is on a semester system)

Western Wash. University (WWU):

15 Credits = **\$2027.00**

COLLEGE-GOING VOCABULARY

Here are some definitions that will help you understand college requirements and graduation:

Credits: Just like high school, college students earn credits when they pass classes. Colleges count a student's accomplishments by credit rather than time using a *quarter system* or a *semester system*.

Quarter System: A *quarter system* divides the school year into 4 quarters including the summer. Typically, a full-time college student takes 15 credits per quarter.

Semester System: A *semester system* divides the school year into 2 semesters and a summer term. Typically, a full time college student takes 12 credits per semester. 1 semester credit = 1.5 quarter credits.

General Education Requirements: Colleges and universities typically require a student to earn 90 quarter credits in a variety of courses to fulfill general requirements before the student chooses an area of concentration, or a major. This way, colleges and universities can ensure all their graduates are well-rounded individuals.

Major: Once a college student has earned 90 quarter credits, the student is required to declare a major. The major indicates the field of study in which the student will concentrate for their degree. Colleges and universities list specific courses the student must take to earn the degree in the area of study they have chosen.

Degree: A degree is like a diploma; it is the document you earn when you finish a course of study in college. Typically, a student can earn an Associate Degree in about 90 quarter credits or continue on to earn a Bachelor degree in about 180 credits.