

FREE COLLEGE FOR CURRENT ELIGIBLE FHS STUDENTS UNDER OHIO'S PSEO PROGRAM SENATE BILL 140 – AMENDED HOUSE BILL 215

The State of Ohio's **Post Secondary Enrollment Option Program** has been established to permit high school students to earn college and high school graduation credit through the successful completion of college courses. The program is intended to provide expanded opportunities for appropriately qualified high school students to experience course work at the college or university level.

Qualified students at Fairfield High School are able to take college courses at Miami University's Hamilton campus, Cincinnati State, University of Cincinnati's main campus in Clifton, UC's Raymond Walters branch campus in Blue Ash and at other area colleges. Most students choose to take PSEO courses at a campus close to their home. To be eligible for the program, sophomores, juniors and seniors must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average in high school preparatory courses for UC, a minimum of 3.25 GPA for MU and place 'college ready' on the COMPASS test. The COMPASS test is an English, Math and Reading assessment test administered at the college. Generally, students eligible for the PSEO program must have a minimum composite score of 22 on the ACT or a 1010 on the SAT I or be in the top 20% of their class. Sophomores are limited to one college class per semester/term and have both the testing and rank requirement. Requirements for freshman are more restrictive. Courses are not given honors credit.

Approximately twenty students at the high school participated in the program last year. Most attended Miami University's Hamilton campus.

Students and their parents must sign an intent form by March 30, 2012 if they intend to participate in the program for the 2012-2013 school year. Parents and students must attend a counseling session with their high school counselor prior to application at the college. For additional information, contact your child's high school counselor.

- **Obtain an informational packet from your counselor. Notify your counselor of your intent to participate in the PSEO program by completing and returning the Intent to Participate form by March 30 of the school year prior to participation.**
- **Your high school counselor will verify your eligibility for program participation.**
- **Decide which college you plan to attend and obtain an application packet from your high school counselor.**
- **You and your parents must meet with your high school counselor to review and sign the Parent/Guardian and Student Acknowledgement form.**
- **Complete the college application packet for PSEO including the appropriate application fee. Submit to your high school counselor.**
- **The college will notify you in writing of your acceptance and additional placement testing (COMPASS TEST).**
- **Meet with your college PSEO advisor to plan your schedule.**
- **Maintain contact with your high school counselor regarding your courses.**
- **Re-apply at the college each quarter/semester following the college procedures. (The application fee is required only at the initial application.)**

A high school student may enroll at a college on a full or part-time basis and complete nonsectarian courses for high school and college credit.

OPTION A

A student may elect, at the time of enrollment, to receive college credit only. The student may not need additional high school credits and/or may wish the grade point average to be unchanged, thus choosing college credit only. In this option, the student must assume all financial responsibilities (tuition, fees, books, materials).

OPTION B

A student may elect, at the time of enrollment, to receive high school credits and college credits concurrently. Ohio's Department of Education assumes all financial responsibilities (tuition, fees, books, materials).

ADVANTAGES OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM

The student has:

- increased number of courses from which to choose;
- more opportunities to study in-depth special interests or special needs courses;
- opportunity to earn college credit in high school;
- opportunity to earn college credit paid for by the public;
- opportunity to experience college level work to preview college life.

RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM

The student may have:

- increased responsibility for own learning;
- reduced opportunities for high school activities (extracurricular), due to time conflicts;
- additional financial responsibilities;
- reduced work hours on part-time job;
- increased responsibility for emotional maturity;
- less counseling at college level (grades, attendance, personal concerns);
- less counseling at the high school level, due to absence from the building;
- less information about high school day-to-day activities, due to absence from the building;
- class rank and GPA affected (no weighted grades for PSEOP courses);
- sports eligibility affected at college level (some PSEOP college courses may not be approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse).

Also, college credits earned through the PSEOP may not be accepted by all colleges if the student transfers.

1. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY FOR EITHER OPTION

- student must be classified as a high school student (9-12) by the home school;
- student must be enrolled in either a public or private high school. To be eligible, a home-schooled student must first enroll in the appropriate high school;
- student must have been accepted by a college;
- student must assume responsibility for applying to college;
- student must enroll in program at home school by MARCH 30;
- a freshman enrolling in program at the beginning of year may participate for up to four academic years;

- a sophomore enrolling in program at beginning of year may participate for up to three academic years;
- a junior enrolling in program at beginning of year may participate for up to two academic years;
- a senior enrolling in program at beginning of year may participate for up to one academic year;
- a PSEOP student is considered to be a non-degree student and is not eligible to earn a college degree while enrolled in this program.

2. HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Credit per course will be awarded according to this scale:

Five semester (seven and one-half quarter) college hours equal one Carnegie unit of high school credit. Fractional Carnegie units will be awarded proportionally.

College Semester <u>Hours</u>	High School Carnegie Units <u>of Credit</u>
5	1.00
4	0.80
3	0.60
2	0.40
1	0.20

College Quarter <u>Hours</u>	High School Carnegie Units <u>of Credit</u>
7.5	1.00
7	0.93
6	0.80
5	0.67
4	0.53
3	0.40
2	0.27
1	0.13

All grades will receive regular credit for the grade point average (no weighted grades). The college may allow student to take class for PASS/FAIL grade. The PASS grade would not be computed into the grade point average, but the FAIL grade would.

3. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR TUITION, BOOKS, FEES, MATERIALS

- Under Option A, the student assumes all financial responsibilities.
- Under Option B, the Ohio Department of Education reimburses the college after student completes course. **IF STUDENT WITHDRAWS FROM CLASS (EITHER FORMALLY OR BY NON-ATTENDANCE), ALL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES REVERT BACK TO THE STUDENT. IF THE STUDENT IS ATTENDING COLLEGE UNDER OPTION B AND IS THEN EXPELLED FROM THE HOME HIGH SCHOOL, ALL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES REVERT BACK TO THE STUDENT.**

4. CRITERIA FOR TRANSPORTATION AID

- Student must take class for high school credit.
- Student must provide own transportation to college campus. School does not provide car/bus.
- Student, if eligible under the National School Lunch Act (free/reduced lunches), may request reimbursement for travel expenses, calculated by district per capita cost per student. Costs for parking are not included.

5. AVAILABLE SUPPORT SERVICE

- High school should provide information about high school graduation requirements, college entrance requirements, ACT/SAT tests.
- High school is not responsible for finding college for student.
- College admission offices can provide information to student.
- Parents are responsible for monitoring attendance at the college level and reporting medical records and concerns.

6. SCHEDULING

- Student must meet all high school graduation requirements to receive diploma; no exceptions can be made.
- Scheduling conflicts between high school classes and college classes are not the responsibility of the high school district. The high school does not rearrange the master schedule in order to offer classes at convenient times for student to attend college.
- The number of credits a student may earn per year may not exceed the number of Carnegie units he/she would earn if attending the high school full time. All credits or any part thereof may be earned at the college level.
- Student must be enrolled in school (high school plus college) for a time comparable to the full school day at the high school. College classes may be taken at night or during the day of the academic school year. Under Option B, college classes may not be taken during the summer.
- Vocational school students are the responsibility of the home high school.
- College must assume responsibility for reporting student's choice of classes, grades, and attendance to parent, student, high school, and state superintendent of education. Colleges have the right to establish prerequisites for their courses. Therefore, all courses may not be available to all students at each grade level.

7. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING COLLEGE CLASS

- For Option B, the failing grade will be averaged into the high school grade point average and the college grade point average.
- Student must still pass at least five solid subjects (2.5 Carnegie units) to participate in sports and extracurricular activities.
- Student must meet all graduation requirements to receive high school diploma.
- Ohio's Department of Education pays financial costs if student completes college course but receives failing grade. If student withdraws from class (either formally or by non-attendance), all financial responsibilities revert back to the student.

8. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Student must meet all graduation requirements to receive high school diploma.
- The class of 2007 and classes thereafter will be required to pass the Ohio Graduation Test.
- Some college courses (exact or similar) may count for the required high school courses.
- All college courses (nonsectarian) may count for high school elective courses.
- Student may participate in graduation ceremonies if college course ends after graduation day. The diploma itself cannot be awarded until all graduation requirements have been met.
- Student must have paid all financial responsibilities in order to participate in graduation ceremonies and/or receive a diploma. This includes any financial responsibilities incurred when dropping a college class (either formally or by non-attendance).

9. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS

- Student must assume responsibility for own learning, attendance, etc.
- Student will be with an older age group at college and may be expected to act accordingly.

10. USE OF COUNSELING SERVICES AT COLLEGE OF STUDENT'S CHOICE

- Each student is encouraged to seek assistance, if needed, at the college's counseling/admissions office.