

RUNNING START STUDENTS

Running Start, a program mandated by House Bill 2379 in the 1990 Washington State legislature, allows qualified high school juniors and seniors to enroll tuition-free in community college courses while completing high school diploma requirements. Students may enroll in a combination of community college and high school courses, or in college courses only, so long as the combination does not exceed one full-time equivalent. Pilot tested in five community colleges from 1990 to 1992, the program became a state-wide option for 11th and 12th graders in September 1992.

Credit earned by Running Start students may apply to both high school graduation and toward future college degree completion at state colleges and universities in Washington. Generally, a five quarter credit course equates to one high school credit.

Running Start students who: a) graduate from high school in the same year as they begin their course of study at Seattle University, or b) are attending college for the first time since high school graduation, no matter when they graduated from high school will be considered "first-time freshmen" and eligibility for financial aid will include eligibility for any special scholarships reserved for such students. Both of these groups will be asked to provide high school transcripts and test scores and standard admission policies will apply for each group.

Seattle University will accept community college credit for Running Start students under the following conditions:

1. If the course is used toward the high school diploma, it must be designated on the high school record as a Running Start course.
2. The course must be a regular offering of the regionally accredited institution, open to all qualified students and not designed especially for, or offered solely to, Running Start participants.
3. Courses must be taught by contracted faculty or adjunct faculty of the Washington community colleges.
4. The course must be academic, college level and transferable by Seattle University's published transfer credit standard.
5. Transferable courses with credit and grades must be recorded on an official transcript of the Washington community college which offered the course.

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