

Flexible Pathways Talking Points - Early College

Is this Flexible Pathway option the best choice? Below are prompting questions to be used with the [Vermont Flexible Pathways Tool](#) to assist in a conversation to determine if this pathway is the best fit. These sources do not represent an exhaustive list but are intended to provide a basis for discussion.

What is Early College?

Vermont's Early College Program (ECP) allows eligible 12th grade students to enroll full-time for one academic year at one of the participating and approved higher education institutions. The ECP simultaneously serves as a student's senior year of high school and one academic year of college, tuition free. Upon completion of ECP, the student receives credit from the secondary school and from the postsecondary institution.

Students in the ECP must un-enroll from their high school and enroll as a full-time student in the postsecondary institution. Upon completion of the college spring semester, students must re-enroll in their high school to receive a high school diploma. Secondary schools are therefore responsible for helping eligible students prepare for ECP as part of the PLP process, ensuring the college coursework satisfies graduation requirements and appears on the high school transcript, and awarding the high school diploma. For more information on ECP please visit the [Vermont Early College Website](#).

Why Early College?

- Degree exploration/Career Exploration
- Already know what you want to study
- Already taken highest level courses
- Ready to explore subjects not offered in high school/interesting classes
- Increased rigor/academic challenge.
- Better understanding of college expectations and the role of college student
- Time and money savings
- Explore college campus/college environment/learn how to navigate college campus
- Interact with college professors, and students
- Learn college learning management systems and online courses
- Access to college tutoring service/library/online resources/learning center
- Develop a college-going identity
- Diversity.
- More responsibility and fulfillment
- Earn more money by attaining a degree or certificate

Are you ready for Early College?

- Early college eligibility requirements met (page 6 [Early College Program Manual](#))
- Social emotional reflection
 - Self-awareness - Demonstrates self-advocacy, self-motivated
 - Social awareness – Understanding social and ethical norms
 - Self-management – Critical thinking, problem solving

Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information please contact:

[Insert Staff or Team Name], [Division Name], at [Email] or [Phone]

- Responsible decision making – Time management
- Relationship skills – Communication, networking
- Learning environment aligns with learning style
- Academic Reflection
 - Course aligns with high school transcript
 - Prerequisite course(s) completed
 - Course aligns with learning goals in PLP
 - Taken and passed a Dual Enrollment course
 - Taken and received college credit for AP classes
 - Attendance record
 - The IEP team or the 504 team approves.
 - Updated IEP/504 documents
 - Become familiar with accommodations/modifications available
 - Accuplacer Scores in the specified approved range for the subject and institution
 - Completed CCV ICC
 - Demonstrates skills in:
 - Technology
 - Essay writing
 - Mathematical formula
 - Scientific method

Do you have?

- Family or Caregiver, Community, and College support outside of secondary school
- Do you have Transportation if needed
- Financial support for textbooks, lab fees, materials fees, and any other costs (for some courses these costs can be substantial) . Students could be eligible for a need-based (income contingent) stipend and grant, ask your school counselor for more information
-
- Adequate technology and internet access
- Time built into school schedule to work on courses

Have you?

- Scheduled a college orientation.
- Spoke with your guardians, School Counselor, and College Advisor
- Located online or in-person college resources
- Researched fees associated with classes
- Talked to your schools IT Department to see if your technology will support the colleges platform (Chromebooks do not always work)
- Researched FAFSA and Vermont Grant guidance recourses

Have you thought about?

- Leaving your high school/friends
- Time management tools you will use to balance a OBL opportunity with a desired dual enrollment course or sport/club activity and meeting personal obligations at home and/or an outside job
- Lack of access to school lunch.

- The effects of Early College on your class standing, GPA

Did you know?

- You may have to attend college when your High School is on break
- There is approximately 10 hours of work each week for a 3-4 credit course. Early College is like a full-time job
- Some/all courses may only be offered in person or only online
- Students are responsible for the grade received and it will appear on the official college and High School transcript.
- If you don't pass a course, it could mean that you lack credit for high school graduation.
- Failing college grades could cause financial aid ramifications.
- EC students are held to the same grading standards and assessments (e.g., papers, portfolios, quizzes, labs, etc.) as other students enrolled in that college level course.