

Early College and Career Academy FAQs

Which programs are included in the Early College and Career Academy?

Students have the option to enroll in one of six programs:

- Automotive
- Computer Networking
- Criminal Justice
- Health Professions – Certified Nursing Assistant
- Health Professions – Emergency Medical Service
- Manufacturing

Please see the program guide for specific information about each program.

Who is eligible to be enrolled in the program?

The Academy is open to any junior or senior in Parkland College's district. There will be an early enrollment period for those students who attend an EFE #330 high school (see list of EFE #330 high schools).

Where is the Academy located?

All of the Early College and Career Academy programs will be held on Parkland College's campus.

Will I earn high school and college credit if I participate in the program?

Yes! This is a true dual credit opportunity. Students will be earning high school elective credit that will count towards their graduation requirements, but also earn college credit if they successfully complete the coursework. The amount of college credit earned will vary by program. See the program guide for specific information.

How long are the Academy programs, one-semester or an entire school year?

Students will be enrolled in a year-long program. There might be future opportunities to enroll in a semester-long program. This information will be shared with high school guidance counselors. If you have any questions about this, please contact Nick Elder at the EFE #330 office (217-355-1382 or nelder@efe.k12.il.us).

Will the Academy programs follow my high school calendar?

This is extremely important. No, the Early College and Career Academy will follow the Parkland College school calendar. Your high school is aware of this. If you will be utilizing a school bus, your school will still provide the bus on days when your school is not in session, but Parkland College is in session. If your school's spring break is not held on the same week as Parkland's, you will still be responsible for attending your Academy program. If you have any questions about this, please contact Nick Elder at the EFE #330 office (217-355-1382 or nelder@efe.k12.il.us).

What time are the programs held?

All Academy programs will be held for at least 1.5 hours per day, each day that Parkland College is in session during the fall and spring semester during the hours of 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. Each program will have a unique start/end time, but it will be between the hours of 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. If you have any questions about this, please contact Nick Elder at the EFE #330 office (217-355-1382 or nelder@efe.k12.il.us). This was done to allow the student to travel back to their home district and continue their daily schedule.

How do I sign up for the Early College and Career Academy?

Students should contact their high school guidance counselor if they wish to sign up for an Academy program. The Academy application materials will be turned into the student's high school counseling office and then be delivered to the EFE #330 office. If you are a homeschooled student, please contact the EFE #330 office (217-355-1382) for application information. Application materials are available by clicking this link.

Will there be "college-age" students in my courses or only other high school students?

The Academy courses will only be offered to high school students.

Should I purchase textbooks before class begins?

No. Your textbooks will be delivered to you at one of your first class sessions. These textbooks will be loaned to you by the EFE #330 office. If you would like to purchase the books at the conclusion of the program, you will purchase the books from EFE #330. The cost will vary depending on the program. If you wish to purchase your books, please contact the EFE #330 office (217-355-1382).

Does my home high school pay for the cost of the program?

This will vary by school. Please check with your high school guidance counselor for clarification.

Can I apply for financial aid to pay the cost of the program?

Unfortunately, financial aid is not available for high school dual credit students.

Will the college credits I earn in the Academy have an effect on my financial aid eligibility once I enroll in college?

It is unlikely a former Early College and Career Academy student would experience financial aid impact solely because of their enrollment in the program. However, if a former Academy student, once in college, changed majors several times, failed or withdrew from several courses, and/or accumulated several developmental course credits he/she could exceed the maximum number of credit hours for which financial aid is allowed. Contact the EFE #330 office (217-355-1382) with questions or download the Parkland College Dual Credit office's Impact on Future Education handout that explains this in detail.