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Columbia Basin College – Running Start Frequently Asked Questions

What is Running Start?

Running Start is a joint program between CBC and your high school, offering junior or senior students the chance to classes that count toward high school graduation and earn college credit at the same time. College level courses at the 100-level or higher can count for credit both at CBC and CHS.

Who is eligible to participate in Running Start?

Juniors and seniors who have passed the necessary portions of the COMPASS test are eligible to take courses at CBC.

If I'm interested in participating in Running Start, what should be my first step in gathering more information?

Talk to CHS' Student Services Coordinator, Ms. Custer, in the CHS office. She can provide you with a listing of the graduation requirements you'll need to cover, how and which courses cross credit by academic area and how courses will need to fit your High School and Beyond plan.

Talk to the Director of Running Start at CBC, Cheryl Holden. She can be reached at her office in the Hawk Union Building on CBC's campus or by calling 542 4481 or 542 5507.

Is Running Start the right option for me?

Students and their guardians should give careful consideration to how suitable running start is for them as there are substantial benefits and definite limitations to the program. In any case, the Student Services Coordinator at CHS, Ms. Custer, must be consulted with prior to application in the program. Both Jimalee Custer at CHS and Cheryl Holden at CBC are available to meet with students and parents to discuss the options and appropriateness.

How do I go about taking the COMPASS test?

The COMPASS test is offered through the testing center at CBC. Dates, times and information on supplies and expectations are all available by calling the testing center at 542 4860 or 542 5549.

What is the cost of Running Start?

Tuition for any college level class is free through the running start program. Texts, transportation, fees and all other supplies and materials are the responsibility of the student.

Questions about fees for specific courses, and other associated costs, can be answered by contacting the running start office at 542 4481 or 542 5507.

Can I take classes at CBC and at CHS?

Absolutely. Most students are encouraged to keep ties to their local high school.



Scheduling for classes at both CBC and CHS must be done in consultation with Jimalee Custer at CHS. Meeting on registration needs as early as possible will help to mesh the offerings at CBC with those at CHS in the best fashion.

Do I still have to meet all of the local graduation requirements for CHS?

Absolutely. All 22.5 credits, in the appropriate areas, plus 7 required writing expectations and the culminating project must all be completed. For seniors planning to graduate that particular spring, the 'non-credit' requirements are all due 17 school days prior to graduation.

If I spend much of the day at CBC, how can I best stay in communication with events at CHS?

Either pick up a copy of the CHS bulletin in the CHS office daily, or check online at www.csd400.org under the high school section for the daily bulletin.

Watch for CHS mailings coming to your home from the counseling center at CHS.

You will need to meet several times per year with Jimalee Custer in the CHS office to review your High School and Beyond plan to make sure progress toward graduation is sufficient.

If I am accepted into the Running Start program, how do I sign up for classes?

Any classes you will take at CHS are signed up for through the CHS office; pick up a registration form from Ms. Custer in the CHS office. Registration for the following school year typically begins in early February.

Classes through CBC also must go through the CHS counseling office; you will need Jimalee Custer's signature on your completed course registration form before taking it to the registrar at CBC. Registration at CBC occurs separately for each quarter, and typically opens six weeks prior to the start of the new quarter. Pay attention to the CHS counseling center mailings, or check the CBC events calendar on their website at www.columbiabasin.edu.

If I still have questions about Running Start, or if my parents do, where should I go with them?

Talk to CHS' Student Services Coordinator, Ms. Custer, in the CHS office, 545 8573.

Talk to the Director of Running Start at CBC, Cheryl Holden. She can be reached at her office in the Hawk Union Building on CBC's campus or by calling 542 4481 or 542 5507.

Go to the running start website at CBC --

<http://www.columbiabasin.edu/home/index.asp?page=108>