

Running Start Eligibility and Equivalency

Eligibility: Maximum combinations of tuition-free, college-level credits and high school courses a student may take each quarter are shown in the chart below. Students exceeding the funding limit will be charged tuition for the excess credits unless they are eligible for a Running Start fee waiver (see Financial Responsibilities). These calculations are based on the 2018-2019 school year and are subject to change.

6 classes per term		8 classes per term		8 classes plus credited Advisory*	
HS Classes	WCC Credits	HS Classes	WCC Credits	HS Classes	WCC Credits
0	15	0	15	1	15
1	15	1	15	1+Adv	14
2	12	2	13	2	14
3	10	3	11	2+Adv	12
4	6	4	8	3	12
5	3	5	6	3+Adv	10
6	3	6	4	4	10
		7	3	4+Adv	8
		8	3	5	8
				5+Adv	6
				6	6
				6+Adv	5
				7	4
				7+Adv	3
				8	3
				8+Adv	3

* Advisory = Raiderade at Bellingham, Anchor at Sehome, Thor at Squalicum, etc.

Running Start Funding Year: Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters are covered by Running Start funding. Students may take courses in summer quarter, but will be required to pay tuition.

Credit Equivalency: Whatcom Community College (WCC) courses will be transcribed at the high school (HS) based on the following equivalency chart. Most college classes are 5 college credits.

WCC	=	HS
1.0 credits	=	.20 credits
2.0 credits	=	.40 credits
3.0 credits	=	.60 credits
4.0 credits	=	.80 credits
5.0 credits	=	1.0 credits
6.0 credits	=	1.2 credits

Course Equivalency: To determine which WCC classes meet high school graduation requirements, find your individual school's course equivalency guide at <http://whatcom.edu/running-start/equivalency-guides>

Running Start Financial Responsibilities

The Running Start program saves families thousands of dollars in tuition money. However, the program is not entirely free. Cost should not prevent students from participating, so please let us know if you have a special financial need.

Quarterly Tuition

Running Start students are not charged tuition in most situations. Tuition is only charged in these situations:

- Student opts to take additional credits above their eligibility (see reverse). The rate is \$122.05 per credit. This tuition can be waived for low income (see below).
- Student opts to take courses that are below the college level (number below 100). The rate is \$122.05 per credit. This tuition cannot be waived.

Fees

Running Start students are required to pay the same mandatory fees as other college students. These fees are proposed and approved by the WCC student government. Fees cover services such as the Student Recreation Center, computer labs, Learning Center tutoring, and a WTA bus pass.

Credits	College Fees* 2021-22
1	\$32.32
2	\$44.64
3	\$56.96
4	\$69.28
5	\$81.60
6	\$93.92
7	\$106.24
8	\$118.56
9	\$130.88
10	\$143.20
11	\$149.52
12	\$155.84
13	\$162.16
14	\$168.48
15	\$174.80

All students must pay the following Lab & Materials Fees.

- Art & Graphic Design - \$15 to \$25
- Science Lab Classes - \$20 to \$30
- Dance - \$25
- CIS - \$15 to \$25
- PE 126 - \$20
- Other classes may be added to this list during the year.

Fee Waiver

Students who qualify for free or reduced-priced meals at school, are in foster care, or receive government assistance (i.e. food stamps, medical) are eligible for a waiver. If you are eligible, we encourage you to complete the Fee Waiver Petition, available at Admission and in the Running Start Office. Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) is not available until a student has graduated high school.

Books and Supplies

All college students are responsible for obtaining their own textbooks and supplies. You can find the required and recommended textbooks and supplies in MyWCC about a month before the quarter begins.

Some ways to acquire your textbooks:

- Purchase or rent textbooks from the WCC Bookstore or an online retailer (like Amazon or Chegg).
- Apply for our Running Start Book Loan program under the Registration tab in MyWCC. Priority is given to students on a Fee Waiver.
- WCC Library has many textbooks on reserve to use in the library for two hours at a time.