



Alternative Courses of Study

References: WAC 392-121-107, WAC 392-121-182, WAC 392-410-340, School Board Policy C04.00, School Board Policy C16.00, School Board Policy C57.00

Running Start

Running Start (RS) is a recognized course of study offered by community colleges and available to high school students who have earned sufficient credits to obtain at least 11th grade standing. Eligible students must be enrolled in a Washington state public high school, or meet all applicable requirements for home-based instruction students, and demonstrate readiness for college level or professional/technical coursework in a college environment.

The RS program provides high school students the opportunity to enroll in college-level courses for credit, with free or reduced tuition, while earning high school credit at the same time for up to six quarters. Students may take up to 18 credits at RS regardless of credits taken at student's home school.

- **Eligibility for participation in running start** - Qualified students who are enrolled in the public school and are in their junior or senior year of high school. All students must take a community college placement test to determine their eligibility. If they are not already enrolled in a public school they must enroll prior to entry into this program.
- **Necessary documentation** – Eligible students must complete SPS Running Start Form prior to starting a new course.
- **Acceptance of running start credits** - Acceptable RS courses must be designated at the 100 level or above by the college. A 1.0 RS credit is equivalent to .2 high school credit. For a 5-credit RS course, the student would earn 1.0 high school credit.

Correspondence, Online, Private School or College Courses (other than Running Start) for High School Credit

- **Portable Assisted Study Sequence (PASS)** – Offered by the Office of Secondary Education for Migrant Youth. The OSPI grant for the PASS program is specifically for migrant students who are unable to complete traditional high school course work because they (or their families) are doing seasonal agricultural work.
- **Online Courses** – SPS students are allowed to take on-line courses, at their own expense, for placement and/or credit.
- **Public School Online Academies** – There are several school districts within Washington that offer online course work. Credits earned by students in another school district's online academy are to be treated like credits from another public high school, not as Equivalency Courses, so long as the student presents a transcript from the public school district. Students cannot be enrolled in SPS and another school district absent an agreement entered into by the two districts through enrollment services in conjunction with the SPS legal office.
- **Other Alternative Courses of Study** - Planned learning experiences conducted away from the school under the supervision and linked to one or more of the state learning goals and related essential academic learning requirements may be undertaken with prior approval of the Principal or principal designee, and require completion of the necessary Alternative Equivalency Courses of Study forms in advance. Students may earn credit by participating in National Guard high school career training and National Guard youth challenge.

Necessary Documentation

Students must submit an Equivalency Course of Study Proposal to the Principal or the Principal's designee for approval prior to beginning the experience in order to ensure that credit will be recognized. Receipt of credit will be contingent upon provision of an official transcript reflecting satisfactory completion of the course, as well as documentation establishing that the work performed in the course meets or exceeds Washington Grade Level Expectations (GLEs). For programs approved by the Superintendent or Superintendent designee, that do not issue transcripts, counselors may accept other forms of documentation, such as a report card.

Alternative Learning Experiences

Alternative Learning Experiences (ALEs) are options for students to earn credit in program models that are not reliant on seat-time as the measure of attendance. Any program that elects to use the ALE model must obtain prior approval from the Instructional Director and Chief Academic Officer, and annually present their policies to the School Board for review and approval. Students taking ALE courses are required to have detailed student learning plans. Credit earned in ALE courses is to be processed by the staff at the school or program, in accordance with all district policies on grade marking and credits. Current ALE schools include Cleveland, Interagency, NOVA and Middle College.