

**START YOUR
COLLEGE
EDUCATION
WHILE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL**



POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

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A member of Minnesota State

PSEO

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a program that offers 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students the opportunity to take college level courses. The credits earned apply towards both high school graduation and college degree requirements. Tuition and textbooks for college level courses are at no cost for students in the PSEO program. Developed by the Minnesota legislature in 1985, the purpose of the program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wider variety of options to eligible students.

Eligibility

10th Grade Students

- Students must have received a passing score (proficiency level of “meets or exceeds”) on the 8th grade Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) in reading, or
- For students who did not take the 8th grade MCA, an Accuplacer reading score of 250 can be substituted.
- Students need to meet specific course eligibility requirements and pre-requisites set by the college.

Students are limited to enrolling in one Career and Technical Education (CTE) course during the first semester of their 10th grade academic year. Students who enroll in an eligible CTE course the first semester of their 10th grade year and receive a grade of “C” or better may enroll in additional courses second semester.

11th and 12th Grade Students

- Current high school GPA is the primary determining factor.
- If GPA does not meet minimum requirements for grade level, students may provide documentation of Accuplacer, ACT, SAT, or 10th grade MCA reading scores to determine eligibility.
- Students must meet all course pre-requisites for the courses they plan to enroll in.

Options

PSEO students have an opportunity to work toward completing:

- Individual courses
- 40 credit MN Transfer Curriculum (MNTC) package
 - www.alextech.edu/MNTC
- 60 credit AA and AS transfer degrees
 - www.alextech.edu/la-tp
- Many other certificate, diploma, and AAS degrees
 - www.alextech.edu/programs

Advantages

The advantages of participating in PSEO at ATCC include:

- Assistance and guidance with career and educational planning
- Option to earn a college degree and a high school diploma at the same time
- One-on-one advising with course selection and registration each semester based on individual needs
- Flexibility to choose to be a part-time with as little as one college class or a full-time college student
- Take classes on campus, online, or both
- Ability to participate in high school sports, organizations, and activities regardless of number of college courses/credits enrolled
- May also participate in certain college sports, organizations, clubs, and activities

Considerations

Things to consider when deciding to participate in PSEO include:

- Attendance is critical for success. Must be committed to attending class.
- Time management skills are necessary to complete assignments and handle multiple deadlines without reminders and fewer instructions.
- 15 credits are equal to a full-time job. Trying to work more than 20 hours per week may cause difficulty in keeping up with the faster pace of college.
- Expect to spend two hours outside of class in preparation for every one hour of classroom lecture.
- Social maturity is important in handling the academic challenge of college. Take the initiative to seek help when needed.
- Grades become part of a permanent college record. Poor academic performance may impact future eligibility for financial aid as well as high school graduation.

The decision to participate in Post-Secondary Enrollment Options at any college is an important one. Ask questions and be informed to make the best choice!

Applying

- Complete the PSEO application forms. These forms are available online at www.alextech.edu/PSEO.
- Plan ahead as students must inform their district by **May 30** each year of their intent to enroll in postsecondary courses during the following school year. This deadline is for both fall and spring semesters.

Return the completed application forms along with a copy of your high school/home school transcript to pseo@alextech.edu or mail to:

PSEO Department
Alexandria Technical & Community College
1601 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, MN 56308

Contact Information

320-762-4545
pseo@alextech.edu
www.alextech.edu/pseo