

Q: *What is Early College?*

A: *Early College is a dual enrollment program where high school students take college courses for both college and high school credit. The earned college credits not only satisfy your high school requirements for graduation, but can be applied towards a degree at Great Bay Community College (GBCC) or transferred to another college or university.*

Q: *Why would Early College interest me?*

A: *Early College gives motivated students like you an opportunity to get a “jump start” on college while still in high school. You will have the opportunity to take courses your high school does not offer; get exposed to potential career paths; and learn what is expected of college students. Once you graduate from high school and enroll in college, you will be way ahead of your peers. The opportunity to accelerate your time line towards a college degree is exciting, not to mention it will save you time and money.*

Q: *How is Early College different than Running Start?*

A: *Both *Early College* and *Running Start* provide opportunities to earn college credits. The difference is that *Running Start* is taught by high school instructors on high school campuses. *Early College* courses are taught by college professors on the college campus. Both programs use college-approved curriculums. Students may not take *Early College* courses for which a *Running Start* course is available at their high school.*

Q: *How do I qualify for Early College?*

A: *To qualify for *Early College*, you must meet with your high school counselor. Your counselor will help you decide if you are ready and if there is a college course you can take that will satisfy your high school requirements for graduation. GBCC encourages Junior and Senior high school students to take advantage of this opportunity. Exceptions can be made for younger students who are highly motivated and academically prepared.*

Q: *If I am a home-schooled student, can I participate in Early College?*

A: *Absolutely. Please work with a school counselor from either your area high school or an advisor associated with your home-school program. Follow the same procedures as if you were enrolled in high school.*

Q: *How much will it cost me?*

A: *The cost for you to take a course at GBCC through the *Early College* program is \$107.50 per credit, which is 50% of the in-state tuition. Most GBCC courses are three to four credits so a 50% discount is substantial. In addition to the tuition, you must be prepared to pay for your own books and/or materials as well as lab fees. You are also responsible for your own transportation to the college.*

Q: *Can I receive financial aid or have a payment plan for the tuition, books, or materials of my course(s)?*

A: Sorry, as a high school student, you are not eligible for Financial Aid. This is why GBCC has tried to make the tuition affordable to you and your family. Payment for the course is expected at the time of registration.

Q: *What is matriculation?*

A: Matriculation means that you are officially accepted into an academic college program. As a high school student you are not eligible to matriculate or “declare” a major. When you register as an *Early College* student, you are registering as a non-matriculated student. The courses you take now, however, will someday apply towards your college degree (depending upon your chosen major).

Q: *How do I register for the college course(s)?*

A: With your school counselor, fill out an enrollment form (in your packet). On the form, identify the courses you want to take. Once completed, contact Admissions to schedule a registration appointment, at which time an advisor will help you with the “official” registration form. Course offerings can be found for the fall, spring, and summer semesters online: www.greatbay.edu

Q: *Does this mean I am a college student?*

A: Yes. Once you have registered for a college course, you are a college student and may enjoy the rights and privileges associated with this status. Among other things, you may get a student ID, access student support services, and participate in student life activities.

Q: *How many Early College courses can I take at GBCC?*

A: There is a limit of two courses per students. Please work with you school counselor to determine if one or two courses is appropriate based on school, work and family commitments.

Q: *May I take online classes?*

A: Early College is about experiencing the college classroom, campus resources, and college life. Early College is more than just going to class, it’s about getting involved. For most students we encourage on campus courses but exceptions can be made. If you are interested in an online course, we recommend you look into eStart on the system webpage: www.ccsnh.edu

Q: *How do I get a record of the course(s) that I took through GBCC?*

A: A record of the course you take at GBCC is called an academic transcript. There are both “official” and “unofficial” transcripts. Your high school may want to see an “official” transcript in order to give you high school credit. A transcript request form is included in your packet. You may also request an “official” transcript, at no cost, at the One Stop office or online at greatbay.edu. You can print an “unofficial” transcript from your Student Information System (SIS) account.

Q: *What is SIS or Student Information System?*

A: Every college students has an SIS account. This is an online resource that allows you to review your registration information and your grades. Should you apply to Great Bay, you will also see your application and financial aid information. SIS is also where you get your “EasyLogin” which you will need to access your student email and Blackboard accounts. Go to: <http://www.ccsnh.edu/online-resources> for instructions. Click on the button that says “new users”.

Q: *What happens to my Early College record if I decide to attend GBCC after I graduate from high school?*

A: Your *Early College* record is part of your official Great Bay Community College record. As long as you successfully complete the course, and it is required of the degree program in which you enroll, you will already have completed a course towards your degree!

Q: *What if I decide to attend a different college, other than GBCC, after high school? Will my courses transfer?*

A: If you earn a grade of C or better in the course, it is very possible the course will transfer to another college. Transferability, however, is determined by the receiving college.

Q: *What if I have any questions once I am on the college campus?*

A: There are many places you can go on campus to get your questions answered: the One Stop Office, Advising Center, and CAPS (Center for Academic Planning & Support). Your college advisor for *Early College* will be in the Advising Center, so that is a great place to start (Room 200).

Q: *Can I participate in Student Life activities?*

A: GBCC is a busy place and there are many activities open to ALL students. Once on campus, don't hesitate to visit the Student Life Office to find out what is available to you as a non-matriculated student. You can also visit GBCC's website to see the weekly calendar of events: www.greatbay.edu/calendar

Q: *What if I have to miss a class?*

A: The attendance policy for your class will be in your syllabus; be sure to read it carefully. Should you miss too many classes, the instructor may drop you from the course. If you do have to miss a class, communicate this to your instructor. Then be sure to take responsibility for finding out what you missed.

Q: *What if I am unable to complete the class?*

A: For various reasons, students often have to drop classes. If this happens to you, visit the Advising Center and fill out an official drop form. **Don't just stop attending.** The consequence of disappearing from a class without doing an official drop is an "F" on your transcript. Don't let this happen to you. Be sure to review the add/drop schedule given to you at the time of registration.

Q: *If I am having difficulty with the class, is there someone that can help me?*

A: Of course! The Center for Academic Planning & Support or CAPS is located on the second floor and offers free tutoring for all students in credit-bearing courses. CAPS also offers many other support services that you will want to know about. Any one of the people below can help you.