

Q: *What is Early College?*

A: *Early College is a dual enrollment program in which New Hampshire high school students take college courses for both college and high school credit. The earned college credits satisfy your high school requirements for graduation and may be applied towards a degree at Great Bay Community College (GBCC) or possibly 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 may 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 timeline toward a college degree is exciting, not to mention it will save you time and money.*

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

A: *Both *Early College* and *Running Start* provide opportunities to earn college credits. The difference is that *high school instructors teach Running Start* on high school campuses. College professors teach *Early College* courses 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 guidance 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 high school juniors and seniors 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 guidance 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 50% of the actual tuition. This is a substantial discount. You will pay for your own books and/or materials. For some courses like Welding, you will also be required to pay the Academic Instruction (Lab) Fee or Materials Fees due to the high cost of delivering these courses. You are also responsible for your own transportation to the college.*

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

A: *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 being 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, may someday apply to your college degree (depending on your chosen major).

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

A: With your guidance counselor, fill out an enrollment form located on the [Dual Enrollment – High School](#) webpage. Stephanie Riotto is available as a point person for any questions, sriotto@ccsnh.edu. Bring the enrollment form to Great Bay where you will meet with an academic advisor to complete a course registration form before the course starts. Once completed, these forms may be submitted to the College’s One Stop Office. Course offerings can be found for the fall, spring, and summer semesters online: www.greatbay.edu

Q: *What is a course prerequisite?*

A: Some courses require that you have prior knowledge before taking the class. Prior knowledge is established through previous coursework, SAT scores, AP test scores, or placement testing. Should placement testing be required, you may prep by going to this website: <https://www.greatbay.edu/admissions/placement-testing/>. There is no cost for placement testing.

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

A: You are correct. 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 some student life activities.

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

A: You may take up to two college courses per semester with the early college discount. There may be times that Great Bay needs to restrict access to courses based on the number of seats that must be reserved for matriculated students.

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

A: A record of the courses 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 to give you high school credit. You can request an *official* transcript at the One Stop or online at <https://www.greatbay.edu/academics/transcript-requests/>. You can print an *unofficial* transcript from your Great Bay Community College Student Information System (SIS) account.

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

A: Every college student 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. Students access SIS with your “Easy Login” credentials which you will need to access your student email, Canvas, and Navigate accounts. Once you’re registered, check your email for instructions.

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. When 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 that 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 and the Center for Academic Planning & Support (CAPS), including Advising & Transfer. Your college advisor for *Early College* will be in CAPS, Room 210, so that is a great place to start. You can also call 603-427-7728 or email greatbayadvising@ccsnh.edu with questions.

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

A: GBCC is a busy place with 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: <https://www.greatbay.edu/events/>

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

A: Of course! The Center for Academic Planning & Support (CAPS) is located in Room 210 and offers free tutoring and Academic Coaching for all students in credit-bearing courses. CAPS also offers many other support services that you will want to know about.

Q: *What if I have a disability and need accommodations?*

A: You must supply documentation of your disability (usually your most recent 3-year evaluation report) to the Accessibility Services Coordinator at the college and work with that office to develop a Reasonable Accommodation Plan. You will want to do this as early as possible, ideally before the class begins—email avoce@ccsnh.edu for more information.

Q: *What if I must 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 as soon as possible. Then be sure to take responsibility for finding out what you missed and doing the required homework.

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

A: For various reasons, students sometimes need to drop classes. If this happens to you, connect with your college advisor 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 Registration Policies and Deadlines sheet given to you at the time of registration.

Q: If I graduate from high school in June and your summer classes start in May, am I still eligible for the Early College discount?

A: Yes, if you start classes before your high school graduation date, you are eligible for the Early College discount for the summer semester. If you start summer classes in one of our later summer terms after you have graduated, you will not be eligible for the discount.