



GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE

7/25/2011

The legislature has made some significant changes to Running Start. Essentially, students can still access Running Start part or full-time tuition free. In the past, however, students were able to attend more than full time, either at the college or by combining college course work with course work at the high school. Due to the budget crisis, the state is now limiting the total number of credits that it will pay for a student to take at one time.

Enclosed with this letter is the "Verification Form" that may look a little confusing at first, but we will sort it out together to help students make the most of their Running Start opportunity. The Verification Form will help the college and high school communicate about the students' wishes: where they want to take classes (the college and the high school) and how many classes in each place. This will allow students to access Running Start without incurring tuition charges unless that is their choice.

Traditionally students had an entire *FTE they could use at the college plus an entire FTE they could use at the high school. This made it possible for the student to go full time at both places. This option no longer exists. It has changed to 1.2 FTE to be shared between the high school and the College.

Most of you have already registered for college and high school. You will need to determine if you are within the 1.2 FTE limit. Either I or the staff at the high school can help you with this. We will be using the enclosed form. It is a statement of how you intend to use the free 1.2 FTE between the high school and the college.

The grid below reflects examples of different possibilities:

Hours in High School	Credits at College	Total FTE
1 (.20 FTE) Approximately 1 class	15 (1.0 FTE) 3 5-credit (cr.) classes or any combination of classes = 15 cr.	1.20
2 (.40 FTE) Approximately 2 Classes	12 (.80 FTE) 2 5-cr. classes & 1 2-cr. or any combination of classes =12 cr.	1.20
3 (.60 FTE) Approximately 3 Classes	9 the 10 th cr. can be waived (.60 FTE) 2 5-cr. classes or any combination of classes = 10 cr.	1.20
4 (.80 FTE) Approximately 4 Classes	6 (.40 FTE) 1 5-cr. class & 1 1-cr. class or any combination of classes = 6 cr.	1.20
5 (1.0 FTE) Approximately 5 Classes	3 (.20 FTE) 1-3-cr. class or any combination of classes = 3 cr.	1.20

This is like an account that the students will be able to spend at either place, always totaling no more than 1.2 FTE. They can take more if they are willing to incur tuition charges at the college. There will be more clarifications as we learn and refine the process. Next are some examples of how this works.

**An FTE (Full Time Equivalency) is the measure used to understand the time a student is in classes for state payment.*

Can Students still go to Running Start full time?

Yes, they may have to pay for credits depending on how many classes they wish to take at the high school; see chart above. It is like a bank account in which a student can only spend 1.2 FTE's between the college and the high school.

Example:

1. Students who take *more than* 15 credits (full-time) at the college will be charged for credits 16,17,18 etc.
When a student is getting free tuition for 15 credits they may only take 1 class at the high school because they would only have .20 FTE left.
 - a. if the student wishes to take 2 classes at the high school (.40 FTE) and come to the college full-time (15 credits) they will pay for 3 credits at the college. They would receive .80 FTE tuition free.
 - b. if the student wishes to take 3 classes at the high school and attend college full-time, they will pay for 5 credits. They will be spending .60 FTE at the high school and .60 FTE at the college.

What happens when students want to take part-time Running Start and part-time high school? Examples:

1. If a student wishes to take one 5-credit college class per quarter tuition free (.40 FTE), they can take up to 4 classes at the high school for .80 FTE
2. If a student wishes to take 2 5-credit classes at the college (.60 FTE), they can take up to 3 classes at the high school (.60 FTE).

What about Vocational Programs such as Automotive, Welding, Carpentry or Diesel Technology that requires students to be in 16 credits or more per quarter?

3. When students are taking Vocational Technical classes such as Welding and the credits are over 15 they can still receive a waiver for the credits that are over 15 provided that they are not taking more than 1 class at the high school. (I am still waiting for confirmation on this last point)

Can students still complete an Associate Degree while attending Running Start?

1. Students who enter Running Start with no credits on their transcript (some enter with AP or Tech Prep or College in the HS credits) and want to complete any associate degree will be paying for a few extra (approx. 3-6) college level credits in order to finish the Associate Degree. Credits are \$86.53 each for the 2011-2012 academic year.

What happened to the 10% tuition charge for Running Start that passed the legislature?

The 10% tuition increase that passed the legislature will not be implemented this year: \$95.79 per credit.

Next steps:

- (1) You will need to review your schedule with your high school counselor and complete the Verification Form as soon as possible so you have time to make decisions and change your classes if needed.
- (2) Bring the completed Verification Form to my office and turn it in. You may simply drop it off if you don't have questions or you may make an appointment to speak with me if you have questions.
- (3) You may wish to add or drop a class. I have enclosed a sheet on adding and dropping classes for your convenience. Add/Drop forms are available at your high schools and in my office.

Please feel free to e-mail or call me with questions. It is my goal to be as responsive as possible. I anticipate many calls and e-mails so please forgive me if I take a day or two to get back to you. Your form will need to be completed and turned in before college starts on September 19th.

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