

EARLY COLLEGE FAQs

Q. What is the Early College Program?

- A. The Early College Program (ECP) is a two-year, full-time program for rising juniors. Students spend their junior and senior years attending all classes at SPC campuses to work toward simultaneously earning a high school diploma from their assigned school and an AA degree from SPC.

Q. What is the cost to participate in ECP?

- A. There is no cost for application, tuition or required textbooks. Textbooks are loaned to students by PCS and must be returned at the end of each semester.

Q. How do I qualify for ECP?

- A. Qualified students are required to earn passing scores on the [College Placement Test, PERT or PSAT/SAT/ACT/CLT](#) and hold an unweighted high school GPA of 3.0+.

Q. How do I get started?

- A. All ECP students must [complete an online application](#) for one of our high school programs to get an SPC ID number and SPC e-mail address. There is no residency/citizenship required for ECP students, and the application fee is waived upon enrollment. Carefully read the [Early College Program Checklist](#).

Q. How will students be chosen to attend ECP?

- A. Students who meet the entrance criteria and whose completed ECP application packet is received by the ECP/EA office on or before **the established January/February deadlines** will be eligible to be entered into the lottery. The computer-generated lottery will create a list of students who will be invited to attend ECP, as well as a waitlist. As an opening occurs, students will be invited to attend ECP in the order they appear on the waitlist.

Q. Where are the ECP classes held?

- A. Classes are held at the Clearwater, Seminole and Tarpon Springs Campuses of SPC. Classes may not be taken at the high school.

Q. Can I apply for ECP at multiple campuses?

- A. No. ECP applicants must choose one campus. Each campus has a limited number of seats available. If you are not selected for your chosen campus and are placed on the waitlist and a spot becomes available at a different campus, you may be given the option to take that available spot or remain on the waitlist for your original campus choice.

Q. Can I still participate in the extracurricular activities or athletic programs at my high school?

- A. Yes! Students are encouraged to maintain a connection with their assigned high school. Participation in extracurricular activities, including athletics, must be after school hours.

Q. Are ECP students able to participate in extracurricular activities on the SPC campus?

- A. Yes! ECP students are strongly encouraged to be actively involved in the SPC community by participating in student clubs, organizations and extracurricular activities.

- Q. What if my student is not zoned for their current high school? At which high school could they participate in extracurricular activities?**
- A. Your student could participate in extracurricular activities/athletics/student organizations at the high school they left prior to coming into ECP, as long as the activities occur after school hours.
- Q. Will my credits from SPC transfer to other Florida colleges and universities?**
- A. Yes, your credits will be fully transferable within the state of Florida; however, for private or out-of-state schools, you should contact that school to inquire.
- Q. What academic and/or student resources are available at SPC?**
- A. SPC provides a variety of academic resources aimed at student success including:
- SPC instructors have office hours for one-on-one student help.
 - Libraries and Learning Centers on each campus offer resources and free tutoring.
 - Students can map out their classes in SPC's My Learning Plan software.
 - New students can also register to take a one-hour orientation that includes a tour of their home campus so they'll know where to get the services they need to succeed.
 - A [Technical Support Center](#) is available at 727-341-HELP (4357) for help in MyCourses (SPC's Learning Management System) and other technology issues.
 - If you have hearing or vision loss, a chronic illness, an emotional, learning or physical disability, or need assistance with life issues, SPC offers a variety of [Student Support Resources](#) to meet student needs, including [Accessibility Services](#) and [Student Assistance Programs](#).
- Q. As an ECP student, where would I go for resolution of an academic or non-academic issue?**
- A. SPC is committed to providing a prompt and fair resolution of all student concerns, whether inside the classroom or outside the classroom. The [Student Complaints](#) site will help guide you through the College's procedures to help you get resolution.
- Q. Is the high school Seminar class a "real class"?**
- A. Yes. Seminar meets once a week for one hour. You are expected to complete all class assignments related to the course requirements, and you will receive a grade for the class, which is reflected on the high school transcript.
- Q. Am I permitted to work while enrolled in ECP?**
- A. Yes, but it is highly recommended you focus on your academics and make that your first priority.
- Q. Is transportation provided for ECP students?**
- A. All students are responsible for their own transportation; however, PSTA offers free bus rides for SPC students who have an ID badge and are currently enrolled.
- Q. Is lunch provided to my student? He/she gets free/reduced lunch at school.**
- A. No, your student is responsible for getting his/her own lunch. There is a café on every SPC campus.
- Q. Will my participation in ECP affect my status in a Magnet Program?**
- A. Yes. Because ECP is considered a special program, ECP students are not permitted to be enrolled in multiple programs.

Q. Does the PCS Code of Conduct pertain to me?

A. At SPC, all ECP students must abide by guidelines in the Student Performance Contract. If you visit your high school for any activities, you must abide by the high school's Code of Conduct.

Q. If I don't like the Early College Program, can I return back to my high school?

A. Students can only return to their high school after semester break, and only to their zoned school. Students cannot return to a magnet program or application school.

Q. Will my student still be eligible for Bright Futures?

A. Yes, as long as your student meets eligibility requirements.

Q. As an ECP student, if I desire to remain at SPC after I graduate high school, what do I need to do to become a traditional SPC student?

A. We would be glad for you to remain a student at SPC after you've met all high school graduation requirements. Please go to the [SPC Supplemental Application](#) to complete the steps necessary for a successful transition from Early College student to traditional SPC student. You will then need to meet with an SPC Academic Advisor on your home campus to complete the required steps to enroll.

Q. How do I learn more?

A. Plan to attend an Information Session in November or January during your sophomore year. Watch the website and/or your U.S. mail for details. Further details can be found on the [Early College Program website](#).