

Frequently Asked Questions 20-21

1) What is an early college high school?

- a. The Early College High School Initiative in the United States allows students to receive a high school diploma and an associate degree, or up to two years of college credit, by taking a mixture of high school and college classes. At early college, students also have fewer high school classes because some of their college classes replace their high school classes.
- b. Early College High School Students graduate with their high school diploma and an Associate's degree or up to 60 credit hours of "guaranteed transfer" college credit—for free!

2) Why choose Odyssey?

- a. Early college students graduate with their high school diploma and an Associate's degree or up to 60 credit hours of "guaranteed transfer" college credit—for free!
- b. There are ZERO out of pocket expenses! Unlike other early college programs, our students do not pay for textbooks or classroom fees.
- c. To ensure student success we provide our students with academic supports such as time management, organization, and note-taking skills through AVID classes.
- d. We assess every student who enrolls, determine their academic skill level and work with students at their level.
- e. For students that are not quite ready for college, we offer college prep classes to students that count toward high school graduation requirements.
- f. By attending Odyssey, students experience a smooth transition from high school to college.
- g. According to Jobs for the Future, early college students are outperforming their peers nationwide: 90% graduate from high school vs. 78% of students nationally; 94% earn free college credits while in high school; 30% earn an Associate's degree while in high school; the average graduate will save over 30% on a Bachelor's degree and over 60% on an Associate's degree.
- h. For further information click here to watch YouTube videos about early colleges
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLX9Yqzu3II>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQe4pbnrtjY>

3) Is Odyssey ECCO an Alternative School?

- a. No. Odyssey Early College & Career Options is a non-traditional High School with similar programs, clubs, and activities that you would expect to find at other traditional High Schools.
- b. Odyssey Early College & Career Options students are typically either, high achieving, first-generation college students, and/or underrepresented student populations. That does not mean students need to be any of the above to be successful, including college "college core classes ready" as freshman. However, students must be willing to practice grit, self-determination, and self-efficacy towards meeting their college goals.

4) What kind of degree can my child earn at Odyssey ECCO?

- a. Students can earn up to 60 college credits through Odyssey ECCO, or enough credits to earn an Associate's Degree.

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5) What is an Associate's Degree?

- a. An Associate's Degree is the lowest college degree students can earn.
- b. An Associate's Degree is earned after completing at least 2 years of full-time college course work. 60 college credits are required to earn an Associate's Degree, this is equivalent to half of a Bachelor's Degree. **Are there different types of Associate's Degree?**
- c. Yes. There are 3 different types of Associate's Degrees students can earn. Within those types, there are more than 190 different concentrations or majors that students can choose from.
- d. The 3 types of Associate degrees are: An Associate of Arts (AA degree), an Associate of Science (AS degree), and an Associate of Applied Science (AAS degree).
- e. AA and AS degrees are designed for transferring and continuing educations with a 4-year university. There are statewide agreements in place, between Colorado 4-year universities and colleges and the Colorado Community College system that allow students to transfer easily and seamlessly into a 4-year institution. In addition, many colleges and universities provide guaranteed admission, special scholarships, and reduced application fees for students with AA or AS degrees.
- f. An AAS degree is designed to prepare students quickly for the workforce with specialized skills, training, and in the field knowledge.

6) What are the requirements to earn an Associate's Degree?

- a. All PPCC Associate degrees require 60 credit hours.
- b. There are too many Associate Degrees available to list the requirements for them all.
- c. To see a list of available Associate degrees from PPCC click here <http://www.ppcc.edu/degrees-certificates#!/search>
 - i. To see a description of each degree, click on the [Website](#) link in the lower right corner of each degree.
 - ii. To see the specific course requirements for each degree, click on the [Catalog](#) link in the lower right corner of each degree.

7) What if my child's career goal requires more than an Associate's Degree?

- a. There are statewide agreements in place, between Colorado 4-year universities and colleges and the Colorado Community College system that allow students to transfer easily and seamlessly into a 4-year institution. In addition, many colleges and universities provide guaranteed admission, special scholarships, and reduced application fees for students with AA or AS degrees.
- b. When a student's career goals require them to earn a higher degree than an Associate's degree, Odyssey ECCO will work with your child to determine which PPCC courses are recommended, and will best prepare your child, to transfer to a 4-year university.

8) What if I feel like my child is not ready for a college course?

- a. Many students are not ready for college courses when they first begin at ODYSSEY.
- b. ODYSSEY will work with your child to get them ready for college courses in the shortest amount of time possible.

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- 9) Why does my student need to complete a PPCC Application, if we have already registered with Odyssey?**
- Odyssey students take college classes through a partnership between D11 and Pikes Peak Community College (PPCC).
 - PPCC is a separate institution (it is not part of D11). Therefore, all Odyssey student must also register as a student with PPCC.
 - To complete an application with PPCC, visit: <https://www.ppcc.edu/> and click “Apply” in the top right corner.
- 10) When will my child begin taking college-level courses?**
- ODYSSEY utilizes the Accuplacer test to determine student’s level of skill and competence in math (via the Arithmetic test and the Quantitative Reasoning Algebra and Statistics test) and English (via the Writing test). For a description of the Accuplacer Next Generation Tests, what students should know for the test, practice tests, and available study materials, visit: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice>
 - Students must meet the minimum score (established by PPCC) for each test to qualify for enrollment in college courses.
- 11) Can my child just take a few classes at Odyssey and continue taking the other classes at her home high school?**
- No. Odyssey ECCO students must carry enough credits to be full time students (either high school credits, college credits, or a combination of both).
 - Odyssey ECCO students may choose to dual enroll in classes at their home high school if their high school offers a course that Odyssey ECCO does not offer (such as band or orchestra).
- 12) Can my child continue to play his musical instrument?**
- Yes. Odyssey ECCO students may choose to dual enroll in classes at their home high school if their high school offers a course that Odyssey ECCO does not offer (such as band or orchestra).
 - Dual Enrolled students lose 2 class periods per day at Odyssey ECCO, to allow for travel time between schools. Therefore, your child will not be able to choose any other elective options while they are participating in Dual Enrollment.
 - If you are interested in Dual Enrollment, contact both your Odyssey School Counselor and the School Counselor at the school that you wish to Dual Enroll with to begin the process.
- 13) Can my student play sports?**
- Yes. Odyssey ECCO students are eligible to play sports at any other D11 High School.
 - Interested students should contact the coach of the sport directly to inquire about the requirements to join that school’s team

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14) My child has already passed ENG 092, why is she taking it again?

- Freshmen students must complete a minimum of 2 semesters of ENG 092, as one semester is focused on writing skills and the other semester is focused on reading skills.
- Students will remain in college prep classes like ENG 092 until the score requirement on the Accuplacer test has been met.
- Students will receive an English credit for each successful semester they complete ENG 092.
- See question 10, for more information on the Accuplacer and college course requirements.

15) What happens if my child does not pass a college course? What is the difference between an 'F' and a Withdraw (or 'W')?

- ODYSSEY makes every effort to ensure that our students succeed in the classes that they are taking.
- In the event that a child is not performing successfully, we encourage students to withdraw from the course. A withdraw will appear as a 'W' on the student's college transcript, but the student will not have an 'F' on their transcript.
- If a student earns a 'W', 'F', 'D', or an Incomplete in a class, the student and student's parent/guardian may be required to pay the school district for the tuition initially paid on the student's behalf.

16) What is an ICAP and what are the ICAP requirements for graduation?

- ICAP is a multi-year process for students in grades 6-12 to explore, discover, and connect their coursework learning to activities and experiences in relation to their future education and workforce goals. Completion of an ICAP is a graduation requirement for all seniors beginning with the class of 2017.
- ICAP has different requirements for each grade level. At a minimum, students must have met the stated goals for 12th grade.
- The goals for 12th grade include (but are not limited to): completion of the FAFSA, identifying their 12th grade Post-Secondary goals, creating a resume, and applying to college.
- Follow this link, <http://www.d11.org/counseling/Pages/ICAPOverview.aspx>, for more information or to see all of the requirements for ICAP

17) What are the High School Graduation Requirements?

- There are new requirements for students graduating in the year 2021, or later. Click here to view the new requirements <https://www.d11.org/domain/569>
- Your child will enroll in high school level, college prep classes (such as Algebra 1-4, MAT 076 or MAT 099, and ENG 092). While they are taking these classes, students will earn credits toward their graduation requirements.

18) Why are some classes worth 2 high school credits/How do I know which courses are worth 2 high school credits?

- College courses that are identified as "Guarantee Transfer" courses are worth 2 high school credits.
- "Guarantee Transfer" courses are denoted at the end of a course name, by the code GT-CO1; GT-MA1; GT-AH1; GT-SS1; GT-HI1; GT-SC1, etc.

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19) Why do I have to complete the Post-Secondary Application & Promise to Repay Agreement (or a Concurrent Enrollment Agreement form)?

- a. The Post-Secondary Application & Promise to Repay Agreement is a contract between the school, the parent, and the student that ensures all parties are aware of and agree with the classes the student is taking.
- b. The Post-Secondary Application & Promise to Repay Agreement must be completed once per year.

20) I am over 18, does my parent still have to sign the Post-Secondary Application & Promise to Repay Agreement?

- a. Yes. Unless a student is legally emancipated, married, or in the military, students are still considered a dependent of their parent.

21) How can I get information about my student's progress at ODYSSEY?

- a. Log on to  ParentConnection to view ODYSSEY high school level courses.
- b. Have your student log onto PPCC online campus (D2L) to check their progress in PPCC courses.
- c. E-mail or call your child's instructors. Their contact information can be found on our website, under staff directory.

22) Are there laptops available for students at ODYSSEY?

- a. Yes. Students may check out a laptop for a deposit of \$25 per semester. (Financial Assistance is available for students that qualify and this amount might change per school board policy.)
- b. Contact Tamara Kokes at Tamara.Kokes@D11.org or 719-328-2092 if you would like to check out a computer.

23) How can my child receive extra help?

- a. For additional help with Accuplacer testing, watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abFnFdnwLVs&list=PLsau3IP1poJuoPoCaroP7JwUOB1jmtq&index=1> or visit <https://accuplacerpractice.collegeboard.org> for practice tests and study guides.
- b. There are many tutoring opportunities available to students after school at Odyssey ECCO. Your child should talk to their teacher to determine when help is available at Odyssey ECCO.
- c. In addition, all PPCC students are able to seek help from PPCC's Learning Commons (this is PPCC's tutoring center). Click here for more information on PPCC tutoring <https://www.ppcc.edu/learning-commons>

24) Why do I need to supply my Driver's License Number?

- a. The College Opportunity Fund provides each student with a stipend for attending college courses. College rates on the CEA and other documents are reflective of the student's COF being applied.
- b. A Driver's License Number is required for parents to determine COF eligibility.

25) Can my child take classes at the PPCC campus?

- a. Yes, most students in 11th and 12th grade take their classes at one of the 3 PPCC campuses.
- b. Students must meet certain requirements before being allowed to participate.

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26) Is transportation available for students that are taking classes at PPCC?

- a. Due to the Pandemic, transportation to PPCC is currently unavailable. Traditionally, however, a D-11 bus picked students up from the Wasson Campus and took students to PPCC Centennial Campus, only.
- b. In addition, students may ride the city bus for free (at any time and to any location) with their updated PPCC Identification card.

27) Where can I find information about D11 transportation?

- a. Visit the D11 transportation page by clicking here:
<http://www.d11.org/Transportation/Pages/default.aspx>
- b. Visit the Mountain Metro bus website here: <https://coloradosprings.gov/mountain-metro>

28) Where can I get more information on Career Pathways?

- a. Contact Leilani Mullins, Career Pathways Counselor, at 719-328-2053 or Leilani.Mullins@D11.org
- b. Visit the Career Pathways website at
<http://earlycollege.d11.org/careerpathways/Pages/default.aspx>

29) What will school look like next year, given the current pandemic?

- a. It is hard to project what guidelines the CDC and the Colorado Department will recommend, but we will have protocols in place, until told otherwise. They might look similar to our current protocols:
 - i. Students will be required to wear masks whenever and wherever possible.
 - ii. Students will be responsible for cleaning their own spaces with provided soap and water.
 - iii. Students will be encouraged to not share materials (i.e. books, pens, pencils, etc.). If materials are shared, they will be cleaned between use.
 - iv. Students will avoid immediate contacts such as shaking or holding hands and hugging, etc.
 - v. Students will be given scheduled masks and hand hygiene breaks when appropriate.
 - vi. Students will implement physical distancing at all times and to the greatest degree, wherever and whenever possible.
 - vii. Student belongings need to be taken home each day.