

## Early College Frequently Asked Questions

### **How do students find out about North Ed Early College?**

School counselors are an excellent source of information, and current students are the best ambassadors of the program! Students also have the opportunity to learn about early college at their 10<sup>th</sup> grade visit. Program information and brochures are sent to each participating high school in January, and informational meetings for families are held in March.

### **Who decides which students can participate in early college?**

Students complete an application process in the spring of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year. The application and supporting materials are submitted to the North Ed Early College office. Applications are reviewed and scored using a rubric, and materials are returned to the high school. The local district decides which students, and how many, will be approved to participate in the program.

### **When do students enter the program and how long does it last?**

Students enter the early college program in the fall of their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year. The program spans three years – 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, plus a 13<sup>th</sup> year.

### **What happens if a student starts the program their junior year and decides they don't want to complete the program?**

Students are encouraged to make a very well-informed and serious decision regarding participation in the early college. Ideally, every student who begins the program will complete it, but occasionally there are circumstances preventing program completion. In that case, the student, early college staff, and local guidance counselor must work together closely to create a plan which will enable the student to graduate from high school on time.

### **Which college awards students the credits they are earning in 11-13th year?**

North Ed Early College partners with Northwestern Michigan College and Ferris State University. All college credits earned in the program will come from one of those two institutions.

**How many of the students' college credits transfer to four year universities?**

College advisors working with early college students take great care to assist students in choosing classes which will transfer to their next post-secondary institution. Colleges and universities post transfer guides on their websites, and families are encouraged to refer to these guides often.

**Which classes do students take?**

Each student's schedule is unique, and is based on that student's career and educational goals. Typically, 11<sup>th</sup> grade students have 1-2 college classes per semester; 12<sup>th</sup> grade students have 2-4 college classes per semester; and, in the 13<sup>th</sup> year, students will be enrolled as full-time college students.

**When do students receive their high school diploma?**

Students receive their high school diploma at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> year, which is when they complete their final graduation requirements as determined by the state of Michigan.

**When do students participate in their high school's graduation ceremony and Senior activities?**

This is a local district decision. The majority of the districts in our region allow students to participate in graduation and "walk" with their original class, i.e. at the end of 12th grade.

**Who pays for early college?**

Each district has their own policies regarding funding for early college. At a minimum, the local district pays all or a portion of the tuition based on its dual enrollment policy. Specific questions about funding should be directed to the early college coordinator or your guidance counselor.

**Who pays for textbooks and transportation?**

Students/families are responsible for textbooks and transportation.