

Running Start

A GREAT START TO YOUR COLLEGE CAREER

2014-2015



College credit!

ENROLL FULL-TIME
OR PART-TIME



Whatcom
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

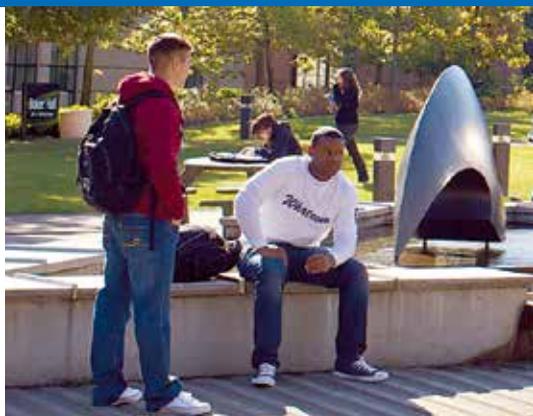
Jessica Vu
Squalicum High
Class of 2015

What Is Running Start?

Running Start is a statewide partnership between high schools and community colleges. The program serves high school juniors and seniors.

Students may enroll simultaneously in high school and college classes, or solely at the College. Students receive both high school and college credit for classes completed at the College.

Running Start students take college-level courses without paying tuition. Course fees may apply, and some students will have limits on their tuition-free credits. However, students who receive free or reduced-price lunch or meet other low-income criteria will have most costs waived. Students are expected to obtain their college textbooks. Some students may be eligible to borrow textbooks from the program.



Who Can Enroll?

To participate in Running Start, students must be of eleventh or twelfth grade standing, as determined by a public high school. Homeschooled students register through their public high school or school district. Students must qualify for college-level English through placement testing.

Your Questions Answered

How much college credit can I earn?

A Running Start student can accumulate 90 or more college transfer credits. Full-time Running Start students usually take three classes each quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring) earning up to 45 quarter credits of college-level work per year. Most Running Start credits transfer to colleges and universities throughout the country. College credit is awarded for satisfactory course completion rather than a score on a culminating test as in AP courses.

Will my credits transfer?

Running Start credits are very transferable. Credits from the college are transferable to all other Washington state public colleges and universities, according to the guidelines of the receiving institution. Transfer to private and out-of-state colleges is subject to the policy of those institutions. The WCC Running Start advisors can provide further assistance and transfer information.



What Can Running Start at WCC Do for You?

- **Earn college credits** while still in high school. This can shorten your time spent at the university and **reduce your overall costs**.
- At some universities, Running Start credits can give you **advanced standing** during registration. Even a few college classes can make a difference.
- Whatcom is ranked among the top community colleges in the nation.* In Running Start you will transition into **faster-paced, challenging college courses** in a **supportive setting** with **lots of academic resources**. You gain independence while improving thinking and writing skills. High-achieving students may join the Honors Program.
- Many Running Start students attend WCC part time, **blending high school and college classes**. Full-time Running Start students can complete an associate degree and earn their high school diploma at the same time.
- Not all Running Start students are university bound. You can **complete a professional technical degree**. While your peers are going on to “do” more school, you can **start your career** and begin earning money.
- Running Start students have the advantage of taking classes with students from different backgrounds and life experiences. Some high school students may find a more **comfortable social fit** at the College.

Running Start advisors are available all year, including summer.

(360) 383-3123

“**Running Start** has been a great way for me to earn my high school diploma and my Associate degree. I’ve done very well in my classes, potentially saving my family thousands of dollars in future tuition as I pursue an engineering major. I especially enjoy the robotics club at Sehome, mountain biking and snowboarding, and leadership activities at the college.”

Cannon Mallory
Homeschool junior,
Class of 2015

*Aspen Institute, 2013

STEPS TO ENROLL



1 ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION

see back cover



2 TAKE THE PLACEMENT TESTS

Page 4



3 MEET WITH HIGH SCHOOL CONTACT

Page 5



4 REGISTER FOR CLASSES



5 ATTEND COLLEGE ORIENTATION



Sign Up for Testing

Please Be Sure to:

Call (360) 383-3123

Call prior to the test. Tell us your name, phone number, address and birthdate.

Arrive on Time and Check In

As a group, you will pay fees and complete forms. Students who are unable to arrive at 3:00pm because of high school release times will be accommodated, if arranged in advance.

Bring Your Photo ID to the Session

Be Prepared for a Two-Hour Session

Most students will finish early.

A Few More Things to Note:

- Placement tests are given on the WCC campus. Campus map on page 6.
- Testing Fee (\$20 paid at testing session). Covers initial and future placement tests. The Testing Fee is WAIVED for students receiving free or reduced-price meals or meeting other low-income criteria.
- Tests include sentence skills and reading.
- Students who have taken ELL classes in high school will take a different placement test. Call 360.383.3126 to arrange for ESL testing.
- Students with a disability preventing testing under standard conditions should contact a Running Start advisor at 360.383.3122 or 360.383.3126.
- Degree-seeking, full-time Running Start students are required to have a math placement by the end of their first Running Start quarter. To arrange for the math placement test, contact the Running Start Office (Laidlaw Center, room 134). No extra charge.



“I knew I was ready for **Running Start**. What I didn’t expect was the large impact it would have on my future aspirations. I’ve scheduled my college classes around my job at a law firm, which has launched me on my career path. I plan to get my bachelor’s degree from a California university, and then attend law school in New York City. I’m growing both academically and as an individual. Running Start was a good choice for me.”

McKenna Fishbook

Lynden High and WCC Grad, 2014



High School Contacts

BELLINGHAM: Connie Kelly, 676.6470, x7137

BLAINE: Karen Mulholland, 332.6045, x1399
Rick VanderYacht, 332.6045, x1354

FERNDALE:

John Cashmere (A-FI and ELL), 383.9258
Aimee Bachmeier (Fo-J), 383.9257
Susan Wood (K-Ra), 383.9255
Aurora Davis (Re-Z), 383.9256

HOMESCHOOL: whatcom.ctc.edu/runningstart

LYNDEN: Chris Elsner (A-H), 354.4401, x5204
Erin Shaffer (I-O), 354.4401, x5229
Christina Lynch (P-Z), 354.4401, x5228

LYNDEN ACADEMY: Linda Block, 354.0293

MERIDIAN: Julie Kratzig, 318.2276
Don McMains, 318.2261

MT. BAKER:

Megan McBroom (A-K), 383.2015, x4566
Toby Marston (L-Z), 383.2015, x4510

NOOKSACK: Mickey Schuster, 988.2641, x136

OPTIONS: Chris Cochran, 647.6871

SEHOME: Martha Zender, 676.6470, x5259

SQUALICUM: Cindy O'Brien, 676.6471, x7708

WINDWARD: Dave Berger, 383.9434

“Running Start is giving me a big boost as I enter the University of Washington. Although I attend Whatcom part-time while taking most of my classes at high school, I’ll transfer a year of college credits. I also feel more confident having already succeeded in college classes, and the flexible schedule allowed me to play golf and soccer. Thanks Running Start!”

Gladys Galiano

Meridian High School Grad, 2013

Your Questions Answered

How do I schedule my high school classes and activities?

College courses can be scheduled to accommodate a variety of needs. For instance, you can choose courses that meet just two or three times a week or in the evenings. For every 5-credit college course you complete, you earn 1.0 annual high school credit. High school counselors and college advisors will help you select classes and coordinate your schedule.

Won't I “miss out” on the high school experience?

All high school activities and sports are still open to you. Part-time Running Start students may arrange their classes in the morning or afternoon, after school, in the evening or online.

Full-time Running Start students get connected to the college scene instead. All WCC activities are open to Running Start students (except for intercollegiate athletics). Students have gained remarkable leadership skills at WCC by participating in student government, newspaper writing, honors programs, music and drama groups, clubs – all at the college level. And... they make a lot of friends!



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Running Start
Testing Sessions
Laidlaw Center 211

Running Start Office
Advise / Register
Laidlaw Center 134

Running Start
Information Sessions
Heiner Center 209

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