Community Colleges of Spokane

A GUIDE TO RUNNING START 2016-2017

What is Running Start?

Running Start is a program where high school students earn academic credit for high school and college at the same time.

Spokane Community College, Spokane Falls Community College, and high schools in Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman counties offer this program to expand educational opportunities for high school juniors and seniors. Contact your public high school counselor to find out how to sign up for Running Start college classes. Your high school can tell you which college classes meet high school graduation requirements.

What is the purpose of Running Start?

Running Start allows eligible high school students to enroll in college classes – or high school **and** college classes – to earn credits awarded by both the high school and college. Running Start classes are limited to "college-level classes" (100 level or above).

What it is like to take a class at a community college?

Once you start attending school as a Running Start student, you are considered a regular college student. Our instructors expect the same level of classroom participation, study habits and homework completion from you as they do from traditional college students.

1. **Homework:** College classes expect about two hours of homework for each hour of class. Usually, there is no time in class set aside for homework.
2. **Attendance:** Although instructors may or may not take attendance, Running Start students are responsible for being prepared each day and meeting all deadlines.
3. **Class participation:** Class participation is an important part of college. Most instructors require students to take part in classroom discussions.
4. **Class pace:** College classes are taught at a faster pace than high school.
5. **Cost:** Complete a Running Start Enrollment Verification Form (each quarter) with your high school counselor. This will determine how many tuition-free credits you are allowed. You must pay tuition for credits above the allowable amount and for classes below the 100 level. This tuition is in addition to lab and course fees that Running Start students pay.
   Running Start students purchase their own books and supplies and pay mandatory fees and non-course-related fees. Mandatory fees are waived for students who can document they are or have been eligible for free or reduced lunch anytime in the last five years.
   Check with your college store for the exact cost of books and supplies; current tuition and fees are at www.ccs.spokane.edu/tuitionfees.
6. **Transportation:** Running Start students are responsible for their own transportation to and from their college. Free quarterly STA bus passes are available at the SCC/SFCC cashiering offices (one per quarter, non-transferable).
7. **Parking:** Students who park on campus must purchase a $25 quarterly parking pass, $3 day pass, or pay at parking meters.
8. **Parent's access to student records:** The colleges follow federal guidelines (FERPA: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) related to accessing student records. Check your college Admissions Office for more information about the FERPA Release form.
9. **Grade reports:** Grades are available to students about seven days after the end of the quarter. They also are sent to your high school at the end of every quarter.

Numeric grade	Letter grade
3.8-4.0	A (Superior achievement)
3.5-3.7	A-
3.2-3.4	B+
2.9-3.1	B (Above average achievement)
2.6-2.8	B-
2.3-2.5	C+
2.0-2.2	C (Average achievement)
1.6-1.9	C-
1.3-1.5	D+
1.0-1.2	D (Minimum achievement)
0.0	F (Failure)

10. **Satisfactory academic progress:** A student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better at the end of each quarter.
11. **Student responsibility:** Students must attend NSO at SCC or a Running Start Seminar at SFCC before registering. They help you identify courses that will fulfill requirements for an associate in arts degree and/or high school graduation.
12. **Academic records:** Running Start students who successfully complete college classes may earn both high school and college credit. These grades become part of your college transcript. If you want to apply to a different college, list SCC or SFCC as a college attended, then submit a request to SCC or SFCC to send an official transcript to your new school a fee of $5 per copy is charged.
    - SCC – www.scc.spokane.edu/?transcripts
    - SFCC – www.spokanefalls.edu/transcripts
13. **Withdrawal:** As a Running Start student, it is **your responsibility** to begin the process for drop/withdrawal of classes by contacting your college Admissions Office before the quarter's drop/withdrawal date published in the current class schedule. www.ccs.spokane.edu/GenCreditInfo.
    Classes dropped before the 10th day of the quarter do not show on your transcript. Classes dropped between the 10th and last day of the quarter show a "W." **A failing grade may appear on your transcript, if you do not officially withdraw from a class**. Find these dates at www.ccs.spokane.edu/GenCreditInfo.
14. **Campus safety:** Community Colleges of Spokane is committed to the health and safety of its faculty, staff and students.
    - SCC – www.scc.spokane.edu/security
    - SFCC – www.spokanefalls.edu/security

What is the community college academic calendar?
SCC, SFCC and the off-campus locations operate on a quarter system, which is different from your high school academic calendar. During the 2016-17 school year, the quarterly start and end dates are:

Term	Start date	End date
Fall 2016	September 19	December 9
Winter 2017	January 3	March 22
Spring 2017	April 3	June 16

Community college holidays and vacations may be different than your high school's calendar. You may be expected to attend classes at your college even though your high school is not in session.

Websites:

- Spokane Community College - www.scc.spokane.edu
- Spokane Falls Community College - www.spokanefalls.edu
- Community Colleges of Spokane - www.ccs.spokane.edu

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