

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS PROGRAM

The Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Program allows high school juniors and seniors to take courses, full or part-time, at universities, colleges, community colleges or technical colleges for high school credit. The purpose of PSEO is "**To promote rigorous educational pursuits**" and "**To provide a wider variety of course options for students.**" The tuition and fees are at no cost to students and is borne by District 241. Should a family choose and be accepted by one of the 4-year universities or colleges, the family is responsible for the cost of room and board.

Eligible students

Next year's juniors and seniors who are **accepted by a postsecondary institution**, may enroll either full-or-part-time in nonsectarian courses at that institution. Each college and university has its own admissions standards.

All MNSCU colleges require that....

Class of 2018 "Juniors" must be in the top 1/3 of their class

Class of 2017 "Seniors" must be in the top 1/2 of their class

or by scoring in the 70th percentile on the PSAT or ACT test. You will need to score high enough on a placement test prior to being accepted. Generally speaking, admission standards at other colleges or universities will be higher.

Eligible institutions

Eligible institutions include the U of M and its branches, all state universities, all liberal arts colleges, community colleges and technical colleges in the state of Minnesota. A complete list of participating institutions can be found on the Minnesota Department of Education website.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Getting information

Current sophomores and juniors who are eligible by class rank would have received a letter.

Inform your counselor

Those sophomores and juniors that are interested in further information regarding this program should make an appointment with their ALHS Counselor.

Meet with your Counselor

The purpose of this meeting will be to review past grades, coursework and attendance patterns and discuss the following: Eligibility requirements, appeals process, review of the institutions being considered, full-or part-time options, potential difficulties with blended days, school calendar differences, high school and college courses expectations: same and different (i.e. attendance, homework, papers, tests, etc.), and finally to assist families in determining whether this is in the student's best overall interests.

Admission / Application process

After this meeting, students wishing to pursue PSEO next year will make another appointment with their ALHS Counselor, to initiate /complete the admissions/application process.

Acceptance and class scheduling

Upon being accepted, the student will make an appointment with their PSEO college counselor to schedule college classes for next year. **THIS MUST BE DONE PRIOR TO FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016**

COURSES AND CREDITS

Choosing courses

When selecting courses, the first consideration must be that the student meets the High School graduation requirements. If a student is attending college full-time, they will take an English and Social Studies class each semester. If students have not finished their 3 years of math and science requirements, that must be done, too. Classes after that should be based on career goals or student interest/exploration. Juniors must have completed Algebra II A & B to enroll in college Chemistry.

Determining high school credit

Courses taken at a college will earn students high school credit. The state has established a formula that will be explained to the student during class scheduling. The credit value of each class will be listed on the Class Schedule Request Form. Transferring credits to another college will depend on that college. The student should check with the college they plan on transferring to to determine what, if any, credits will transfer.

Honor Roll and extracurricular participation

The grades that are earned at the college will be recorded for the Honor Roll and other special awards. Students involved in PSEO are still eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity at ALHS. However, your class schedule at the college may prevent participation.

Withdrawal or failure

If the student withdraws from or fails a course, they **must** let both their high school counselor and their PSEO college counselor know. Students enrolled in PSEO are subject to the same procedures as any other high school student when withdrawing from or failing a course. **If the student does not maintain proper academic progress, they may not be allowed to continue with the program.** Policies at the post-secondary institution will be followed. **If a student fails a course, has a GPA of 2.0 or below, or completes less than 67% of enrolled courses, a meeting with both the PSEO college counselor and the ALHS counselor will need to be held prior to second semester beginning to determine if continuing in the PSEO program is advised. Withdrawals from a course at college will result in a 'W' on the college transcript and an 'F' on the high school transcript. Course failures or withdrawals could affect the student's graduation status. Credit recovery options will be discussed at that time.**

GRADUATION

Commencement

In order to participate in the commencement ceremony, students must satisfactorily complete their post-secondary work, have earned their 46 required credits, and must meet the State Testing Requirements. Verification of grades earned must be completed for final approval to participate. In the case that they have not arrived in time, we will attempt to verify that the courses were passed so you may participate in Commencement. **If official grades have not arrived, you will not be able to receive your diploma until they are received by Albert Lea High School.** Students must also return all college textbooks to the college bookstore. The colleges *will hold* a student's grades until all rental materials have been returned.

CHOOSING TO PARTICIPATE

Start by discussing this as a family and plan early. The decision to participate is an important one! Students will be expected to be a responsible, self-starting, independent learner - college is very different from high school. Be sure to get all your questions and concerns answered by both the college and ALHS. Both institutions are ready to assist your family to ensure that you are making the best choice for you, and your educational future.

Important phone numbers and contacts:

❖ Riverland Community College:

- Paul Anderson 433-0698 or paul.anderson@riverland.edu
- Jeanne Poppe 507-433-0518 or jeanne.poppe@riverland.edu

❖ Albert Lea High School:

- Sarah Fischer (Last names A-I) 379-5360 or sarah.fischer@alschools.org
- Amy Kubat (Last names J-R) 379-5357 or amy.kubat@alschools.org
- Chelsie Hinrichs (Last names S-Z) 379-5355 or chelsie.hinrichs@alschools.org
- Appointments can be made through Melissa Schumann 379-5354

PSEO availability at specific Minnesota colleges/universities can be found by visiting the individual college/university webpages.