

South Washington County Schools PSEO Information Packet

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) allows South Washington County Schools (SoWashCo) students in grades 10, 11 or 12 to take courses, full time or part-time, at a post-secondary institution. Students receive both high school and college credit for the courses. The program also provides students with a greater variety of class offerings and the opportunity to pursue more challenging coursework.

Who is eligible?

You may apply if you are in grade 10 (very limited courses), 11 or 12, enrolled in high school and meet the admissions requirements of the postsecondary institution you wish to attend. The college/university will determine eligibility.

Which colleges offer PSEO?

Eligible institutions include the University of Minnesota and its branches; all state universities, community colleges and technical colleges; and some private colleges. The Minnesota Department of Education website has a [full list](#) of institutions that offer PSEO.

How much does it cost?

The cost of tuition, books and lab fees will be covered by the school district as part of your high school education. The books are to be returned to the college directly, as the books belong to the college. Failure to return books may result in a fine/fee or withholding of your transcript by the college.

How does grading work?

You are ultimately responsible for making sure the high school receives your PSEO grades however, grades are usually sent directly to your high school from the college after the completion of the course. All grades must be reported. The grades reported by the college (including an F for class failure or a W for a class withdrawal) are the grades placed on your high school transcript. Grades are **not** weighted and no adjustments will be made to the grade (e.g., A = A).

Do parents have access to their student's grades?

Under federal and state privacy laws, students at colleges or universities have the legal right to control access to information about them. Grades and class schedules are private data. Parents need their child's written permission to access private data about them from the college. The high school will only receive a final semester grade to be entered onto the high school transcript. Contact the college's registrar to obtain more information on the college's data privacy policies.

Participating in PSEO is an important decision. Please consider the following....

- ***This is not an opportunity to try college; this IS college.***
- Successful PSEO students are responsible students, self-starters and independent learners.
- Students should seek out additional information at the post-secondary institution to ensure that they are making the best choice for themselves and their educational future.
- Students should start by planning early. Meet with your counselor in **February** to discuss this option for the following fall.
- Once you register for college courses, you have started a college transcript.
- Colleges do have the right to restrict the number and kinds of courses PSEO students may take.
- You must manage your time, study more outside of class, and meet deadlines without reminders.
- If students are having difficulty in a PSEO course, it is important for them to seek out their high school counselor to discuss their concerns.
- All courses dropped **must be first approved** by your high school counselor. It is essential that you follow this procedure when dropping/canceling a college class. As colleges have designated drop/withdrawal periods; **failure to comply will** result in a grade of "F" on your high school **and** college transcripts.
- The Minnesota High School League rules allow you to participate in high school extra-curricular activities or athletics at either the high school or post-secondary institution, but not both.
- Work with your high school counselor: **you will be responsible for meeting the graduation requirements.** It is critical that you and your counselor discuss the credits needed. Appointments are necessary; please plan ahead.
- Grades earned at the college are **not** weighted. The grade on the college transcript is the grade that is entered on the high school transcript.
- Each college credit is equal to .75 high school credit. Example: a 4 credit college course equals 3 high school credits ($4 \times .75 = 3$)

PSEO Application Process

Please note, the college alone determines student acceptance

- Talk to your parent/guardian about PSEO — *you must provide your own transportation.*
- Meet with your high school counselor to discuss PSEO and how the application process works at your High School.
- Gather information about the schools you are considering.
- Call the college admissions office or go to the PSEO portion of the college's website to check their admissions requirements:
 - Find out if the college you are applying to requires an assessment test. Follow the college's instructions regarding testing.
 - **Pay attention to college application deadlines:** each college is different (for instance, UMN has an April deadline)
- Fill out college application(s)
- Return your signed PSEO agreement to your high school counselor.
- Request a transcript from the Counseling Office.
- The [PSEO Notice of Student Registration form](#) is required. The student/parent fills out part 1 and your counselor completes part 2. Please see your Counseling Office to determine how your high school counselor will fill out part 2 for you. This signed form must be included in the student's application materials and **completed each semester.**
- Mail or submit materials to the college by the college's deadline (this is the student's responsibility).
- The deadline to have all of your PSEO paperwork done in the Counseling Office is **no later than May 30th.**
- After you receive a letter of acceptance in the mail, make an appointment with your high school counselor to discuss course registration.
- After you register for your classes at the college, you will need to submit a copy of your PSEO schedule to your high school counselor. You must provide your counselor with a copy of your college schedule every semester.
- Check your High School and Counseling Office websites, and Schoology often! You are responsible for keeping yourself informed about activities at the high school.

PSEO Requirements for South Washington County Schools (SoWashCo) Students

SoWashCo Requirements	College Courses needed to fulfill SoWashCo Requirements
<i>English requirements (only required if not completed at the high school)</i>	
English 11 A/B/C (3 credits)	Four semester credits of any English class
English 12 A/B/C (3 credits)	Four semester credits of College Composition or an English class that is a writing-intensive course (may not be remedial)
<i>Social Studies Requirements (only required if not completed at the high school)</i>	
American History A/B/C (3 credits)	Four semester credits of an American History class
Political Science (1 credit)	Two semester credits of an American Government class
Economics (1 credit)	Two semester credits of an Economics class
<i>Math Requirements (only required if not completed at the high school)</i>	
Math - please review district math requirements and see your counselor with questions (must include Intermediate Algebra, Geometry and Algebra 2)	May not be remedial math and will be dependent on college placement.
<i>Science Requirements (only required if not completed at the high school)</i>	
Science - please review district science requirements and see your counselor with questions (must include Biology and Chemistry or Physics)	Please review district science requirements and see your counselor
<i>Arts Requirements (only required if not completed at the high school)</i>	
Fine Arts (2 credits)	Three semester credits of any Art course
<i>Phy. Ed./Health Requirements (only required if not completed at the high school)</i>	
Physical Education (1 credit)	Two semester credits (total) of any Phy. Ed. class
Embedded Health Junior year (.25 credit)	One semester credit of any Health class (will cover both Junior and Senior year)
Embedded Health Senior year (.25 credit)	One semester credit of any Health class (will cover both Junior and Senior year)