

POST SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS GUIDELINES

WHAT IS IT?

The Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a program that allows 10th-, 11th-, and 12th grade students to earn college credit while still in high school, through enrollment in and successful completion of college-level courses. With traditional PSEO, these courses are generally offered on the campus of the postsecondary institution; some courses are offered online.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

1. Sophomores may enroll in a career or technical education course at a MnSCU college or university if they have attained a passing score or met the 8th grade standard on the 8th grade Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment in reading and meet other course prerequisites or course enrollment standards established by the college. These standards include but are not limited to assessment test scores, program admission or other requirements.
2. If a sophomore receives a grade of C or better in the course, the student shall be allowed to take additional career or technical education courses in subsequent terms.
3. Campus may require eligible 10th grade PSEO students who wish to enroll in a career and technical course to meet with a college counselor or advisor.
4. Colleges and universities may admit students based on other documentation of ability to perform college-level work.
5. SCSU requires 11th grade students to have a minimum GPA of 3.5; seniors need a minimum of 3.0 GPA. SCTCC does not require a GPA threshold, however, may require students to take the Accuplacer to determine Math and Language Art levels.

HOW DOES A STUDENT BEGIN THIS PROCESS?

1. Visit your high school counselor now if you plan to become a first time PSEO student.
2. Your counselor can provide you with applications and helpful advice.
3. Review PSEO info on the Apollo Guidance page.

COURSES AND CREDITS

1. Courses you take at college will become part of your high school and College transcript. Apollo counts them as high school credits and includes PSEO grades in the GPA (PSEO courses are weighted at 4.5). Your PSEO grades must go on your Apollo transcript.
2. PSEO students may not be more than full time students. Thus, a combination of courses at a post-secondary institution and Apollo may not exceed a normal full load of 6 classes.
3. Most classes at SCSU and SCTCC are 3 or 4 credits. Apollo grants .75 credits for each semester credit taken at a post-secondary institution. Therefore, a 3-credit course at either SCSU or SCTCC would translate into 2.25 Apollo credits. A 4-credit course at either school would translate into 3 Apollo credits.
4. Many two- and four-year colleges and universities in Minnesota offer online courses and some of them offer online degrees and certificates. Through a wide array of online courses offered in Minnesota higher education it is possible for PSEO students in our state to complete the

Minnesota Transfer Curriculum requirements and/or other courses that could result in an award in addition to their high school diploma.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

It is the student's responsibility to maintain communication with his/her counselor to be certain that the classes he/she has elected at a post-secondary school meet Apollo's graduation requirement. It is possible to meet or exceed the 63 credits Apollo requires but miss a required course. In that instance, that student would not earn a diploma. You can find worksheets to help you online at the Apollo Guidance website.

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

PSEO students, even those who may be full time at the post-secondary school, are considered high school students. Thus, they are eligible to participate in all high school extra-curricular activities. PSEO students are welcome to participate in high school graduation ceremonies even if they have not been on the high school campus for some period of time.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from the post-secondary institution is the responsibility of the student and her/his parents or guardians.

Students from low-income families participating in the Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Program may qualify for some mileage reimbursement. The income levels used to determine eligibility for these programs have changed. Funds are available to help pay transportation expenses for PSEO students whose families are at or below the poverty level, as determined by the federal government to participate in PSEO courses on college campuses. If you have any questions regarding the mileage reimbursement for low-income students' participation in the Postsecondary Program, contact MDE at 651-582-8855.

BOOKS

When students pick up their books at the post-secondary school, they should inform the checkout that they are post-secondary students. They should not pay for their books. Books must be returned to the post-secondary institution that they are attending.

OTHER CONCERNS

If you and your parents have other questions, please feel free to call or make an appointment with your Apollo counselor. (320)-370-8650

For more information about PSEO, visit the following websites:

1. www.mnscu.edu/pseo
2. <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/StuSuc/CollReadi/PSEO/>
3. Apollo Guidance Website