

The High School to College Transition

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Who is in the room?

Take the next few moments to use the chat feature to tell us who is in the room.

- What is your name?
- What is your role?
- What would you like to gain from this session.

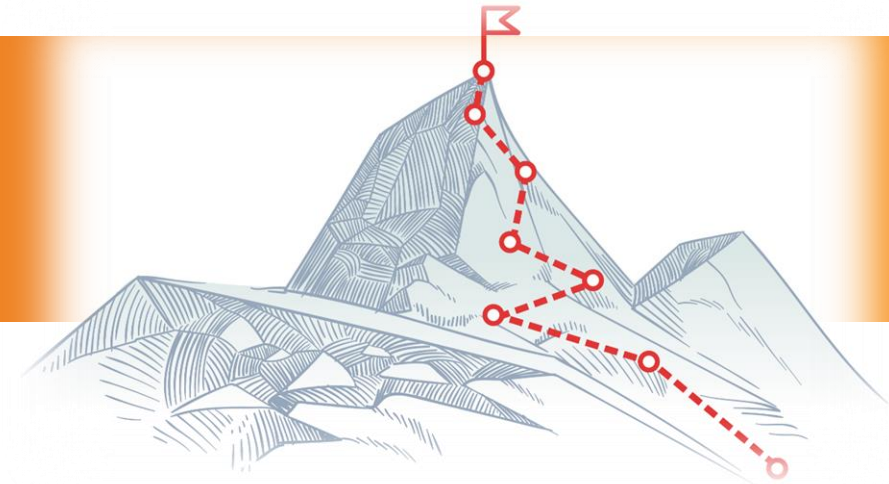
Today's Driving Questions

- How do university personnel view and support dual-enrolled high school students?
 - What are their intended outcomes for early college/middle college programs?
- How do school administrators help high school students transition to college (dual-enrolled) courses?
 - What are the best practices for a successful transition?



Today's Agenda

- Define college culture for students
- Evaluate your designation criteria
- Understand the university perspective for transitional support and processes
- Reflect on your current practices for dual-enrolled students
- Consider transition ideas and support practices
- Closing conversation



Early College – A Vision for Massachusetts

The Early College Designation

The Promise of Early College

At first glance, the concept of early college is a simple one—a model that includes free standing schools as well as programs within a school, both of which accelerate pathway oriented, well supported college level course taking in high school. Through deep and strategic partnerships between high schools and institutions of higher education, early college programs enable high school students to earn a significant number of college credits on an intentional pathway in a rigorous, highly supportive environment. Early college allows high school students to take college credit bearing courses, as part of a holistic supportive model to ensure student success and seamless progression to higher education. This model offers sea change in the integration and alignment of high school with college.

Early college programs are designed to blend elements of high school and college to provide students with the opportunity to experience and complete college level academic coursework on a clearly articulated pathway and simultaneously gain exposure to a variety of career opportunities. Early college programs also reduce the time and expense of earning a college credential while increasing the likelihood of completion.

Early college has demonstrated that when students are given the opportunity to work towards taking and completing college level coursework without regard to assumptions made based on their prior academic performance or their personal background, those students are often able to thrive and achieve academic success in an environment that supports them to surpass their previous achievement and attainment trajectories.

What does early college mean for a high school student? (What we say...)



What does early college mean for a high school student? (How they feel...)



Early College Student

The University Perspective

Are students truly prepared?

- Prepared for the academic rigors of college
- Provided with more realistic information
- Provided with exciting electives and curricular options
- Presented with lower postsecondary education costs

A Village Approach

- Counseling
- Pedagogies of Teaching and Learning
- Course Design Integration

Common Pitfalls

Undecided Majors
(Extra time = Money)

Too Many Electives
(Results in open-ended trials)

**Lack of Understanding on
the Options**
(Middle vs. Early College)

How do you prepare your students for the transition?

- Let's spend some time discussing the following questions:
 - What are your best practices for supporting students with the high school to college transition?
 - How do you know?
 - What are some areas of opportunity for your transition planning?
 - How do you know?
 - What do you wish to do differently in the future?
 - What are your intended outcomes?

Research-Based Practices

- Counseling Services/ Advising Programs
 - Consider interest inventories to add perspective to pathway selections
 - Learn how to self-advocate with professors and traditional college students
 - Gain understanding of the impact dual-enrollment has on traditional college admission and your high school/college transcript
 - Navigate time management and study skills options to create optimal learning outcomes
 - Seek advising on next steps for future semesters as planning towards traditional college interests
 - Evaluate course choices that support individual strengths
 - Get wraparound academic support services

Best Practices

- University Liaison/University Resources
 - Develop strong relationships with the university liaison as a spokesperson/advocate for the early college program
 - Create two-way communication with key stakeholders at the university to ensure smooth academic and managerial processes for students and high school staff (ie. university registrar, university tutoring program, Deans/department chairs, disability services, maintenance/facilities, security)
 - Take students on campus tours to highlight study locations, libraries, computer labs, and key office buildings
 - Introduce students to their access (ie. Do they get free printing? Are they able to have free access to wet labs?)
 - Showcase the relationship to families by hosting orientations or creating mentorship/internship opportunities

More Best Practices

- Differentiate Pathway Options for Equitable Outcomes
 - Advise students on pathway options and evaluate their strengths to find the right pathway
 - Check-in and check grades often
 - Research labor market trends in your area and innovate your pathways to support the long-term community economic development
 - Allow and encourage flexibility with courses
 - Evaluate university programs annually to determine where credentialing is possible within the high school pathway
 - Take advantage of university relationships to create better outcomes for students

And More...

- Create opportunities for connection (ie. Schoolwide functions that include all students)
- Listen to their voices- it is their school!
- Offer various club and organization opportunities to encourage student engagement
- Consider tutoring and mentoring programs to build multi grade-level school culture
- Find the ones who drift away...

Closing Conversation

- Based on what you have heard today, consider the following and share out:
 - What university process/experience was surprising?
 - Why? How will you use this understanding to create positive change?
 - Which best practice is practical but not applicable in your school?
 - How will you plan application for the future?
 - Which best practice do you think affects positive outcomes?
 - Why?
 - How are you working with your post-secondary partner for school-wide success?
 - What will you do next?

Thank You!

Do you have any questions? Please feel free contact:

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-OR-

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