

PSEO

PSEO (Postsecondary Enrollment Option) gives students the opportunity to take college level classes free of charge, while earning high school credits at the same time. Sophomores are only allowed to take one career or tech class. If they earn a C or better in that class they will be allowed to take more. Juniors and seniors can take PSEO classes full or part time. Students who are interested in PSEO for the following school year must meet with Ms. Edwards by the end of Quarter 3, to discuss eligibility and high school requirements still needed. Students must apply and get all paperwork completed by the end of May. The counseling office is closed for the majority of the summer so even though college PSEO application deadlines may be in July or August, you will not be able to get the necessary paperwork needed from the high school, completed over the summer. It is important to plan ahead! If you are applying for spring semester you should meet with Ms. Edwards by the end of Quarter 1 to discuss plans and scheduling. Not all schools will accept students spring semester and deadline dates will differ. Check with individual schools for dates and policies. If you decide to register for just spring semester of PSEO, your first semester at SAVHS will overlap with the beginning of spring semester for PSEO. You must finish out your first semester at SAVHS and not choose PSEO classes that will conflict with your high school classes.

PSEO is not for everyone. Some things to keep in mind before you make your decision to enroll in PSEO courses:

- Each PSEO institution will determine their own eligibility requirements.
 - Depending on the school, in general, students must have a GPA of 2.5 but some schools may expect as high as a 3.5.
 - Sometimes you must have a ranking in the upper 1/3 or your class as a junior or 1/2 as a senior.
 - There may be a placement exam, called the Accuplacer that you have to take and earn certain scores on. If you have taken the ACT or PSAT, you may be able to use those scores to replace your Accuplacer scores if your ACT or PSAT scores were high enough.
 - SAVHS students attend a variety of PSEO institutions. Some common ones are University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Anoka-Ramsey Technical College, University of Northwestern St. Paul
- There will be more independence with college level classes which can be a nice thing but it also comes with more responsibility.
 - There will most likely be more homework and reading so it is important to manage your time wisely, keep up on reading and assignments, and stay organized.
 - College professors will expect more independent thinking and you will be in charge of knowing deadlines.
 - Attendance is crucial for success and often times will be tied to grades.
 - You won't have class everyday but you will be in class longer. This can mean more free time for you so it's important to plan ahead and make a schedule for yourself so you know when you will have time to catch up with friends, work, do homework, and participate in extra-curricular activities.
 - Your high school counselor and parents will not have access to any of your college information so no one else will be able to monitor your progress and grades. You will be solely responsible for staying on top of your work, communicating with instructors, and being aware of grades.
 - There is minimal communication from the college to your high school. It is your responsibility to inform your high school of any situations that may arise that could impact your progress in high school or ability to graduate.

- High School and College calendars are usually different. You will begin college semesters at different times and will have school breaks on different days. It's important to keep up with both calendars so you know what is going on with both schools, especially if you are a part-time PSEO student.
- Sometimes for whatever reasons, students want to try something different so they take PSEO classes and end up missing high school and feel out of the loop. It's important to stay connected with your friends and your high school so you still feel like you are a part of your class.
 - Continue to participate in athletics, activities, clubs, student council, NHS, etc.
 - Go to school dances
 - Attend school functions like athletic competitions, plays, homecoming events, concerts, etc.
- If you are a part time student there are some important things to keep in mind:
 - High school classes come first. You must plan your PSEO classes around your high school classes. You will not get preferential treatment in regards to high school registration in order to make your PSEO classes work. There is much more flexibility with PSEO classes than your high school classes. PSEO classes can be taken during the day on campus, at night or online.
 - You are expected to be at all of your high school classes. Missing high school classes for PSEO is not considered excused. Teachers are not expected to allow you to make up work if you do miss their class for PSEO.
- **You are only allowed to be at the high school for your classes or a scheduled meeting. If you do not have a class, you are not allowed in the building during school hours.**
- It is the student's responsibility to make sure they are taking the correct classes to also meet their high school requirements. Talk with your high school and college counselor to make your plan and stay on top of your requirements.
- Credits are calculated on a 2:1 ratio. A four credit PSEO class is equal to two credits in high school.
- PSEO grades are not weighted. It is the student's choice to pursue these classes outside of their high school offerings. With the variety of schools offering PSEO courses, it is impossible to know the rigor of each school's curriculum and how they compare with each other.
- Give your high school counselor your college schedule and make sure you register for enough credits to fulfill your high school expectations and be a full-time student. Full time PSEO students should register for around 12 credits.

***The most important thing to keep in mind when taking PSEO classes is that you will be starting your college transcript. Every grade you receive in these classes will follow you in to college. For most students this is a very positive thing and PSEO is a wonderful experience. But if you are unprepared for the experience, it will present some difficult situations. Know yourself and consider all the responsibilities that come with PSEO. Talk with parents, teachers, and your counselor to help you decide if this is the right decision for you.

For more information visit:

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/fam/dual/pseo/index.htm>

http://www.mnscu.edu/admissions/pseo/pseo_faq.html

<http://cce.umn.edu/post-secondary-enrollment-options-pseo>