



The Early College Parent Guide to Supporting Student Success

A Successful Early College Journey Starts at Home

One of the most important ways you can support your student is by encouraging them to take ownership of their entire dual enrollment journey, beginning with the enrollment process. Because Dual Enrollment, Early Admission, and Accelerated Dual Enrollment are student-driven programs, students are expected to navigate many aspects of the experience independently. This helps them build confidence, responsibility, and the skills needed for success in college and beyond. The following recommended conversations will help your student get off on the right foot and make the most of their Early College experience.

Six Conversations to Have Before Your Student Enrolls

1. **Review program eligibility requirements:** Discuss the eligibility requirements for Dual Enrollment, Early Admission, and Accelerated Dual Enrollment. Understanding the requirements for each program will help them determine which program is the best fit.
2. **Talk about your student's goals:** What does your student hope to achieve through Early College? Some students want to take a few college courses, while others may want to work toward earning an Associate in Arts (AA) degree. Having clear goals can help determine the right program and the best time to start dual enrollment.
3. **Discuss the commitment involved:** College courses require significant time and effort. Your student should consider their high school coursework, extracurricular activities, employment, and family responsibilities. Make sure they have the time and motivation needed to be successful.
4. **Explore what it means to be a college student:** Students enrolled in Early College programs at SCF are college students and are expected to follow all SCF and Early College policies and procedures. They will interact with college faculty, staff, and adult classmates and are expected to navigate the college environment independently. Be sure to review campus safety resources together.
5. **Review important policies and procedures:** Take time to review the 'Important Information' documents with your student. These resources can be found on our webpage and outline expectations, policies, and procedures that students are responsible for understanding and following. As college students, Early College participants are expected to adhere to all SCF policies and deadlines.
6. **Discuss the importance of the college transcript:** Dual enrollment courses become part of a student's permanent college transcript. All grades earned are recorded and cannot be changed or removed. In addition, earning below a C may affect future dual enrollment eligibility and impact their future college prospects.

Six Conversations to Have While Your Student Is Taking Courses

1. **Encourage independence:** Encourage your student to communicate directly with professors, the Office of Early College, and other college offices whenever they have questions or need assistance.
2. **Help your student create time for success:** Students should expect to spend approximately two to three hours studying for every credit hour taken. For a three-credit course, this means setting aside six to nine hours each week for coursework and studying.
3. **Help them stay aware of important deadlines:** Course deadlines can be found in the syllabus, while college-wide dates are listed in the Academic Calendar. Encourage your student to review these resources regularly and plan ahead, as college deadlines are strictly enforced.
4. **Provide support and encouragement:** Balancing college and high school responsibilities can be challenging. Offer encouragement, especially during busy times such as midterms and finals. Remind your student that academic support services and free tutoring resources are available.
5. **Encourage engagement with Early College resources:** The Early College Canvas group provides important information, helpful tips, common mistakes to avoid, and resources designed specifically for dual enrollment students. Encourage your student to check Canvas regularly.
6. **Encourage your student to reach out for help:** The Office of Early College is here to support students throughout their journey. If questions or challenges arise, they should contact the office as soon as possible.

Working Together

Together, we can help your student make the most of their Early College experience while developing the confidence, independence, and skills needed for future success.