

RUNNING START

ACCELERATE YOUR
EDUCATION



Take college-level classes tuition-free while still in high school. Apply those credits towards an associate degree, certificate or transfer credits!





OLYMPIC COLLEGE

RUNNING START

Building 4, Room 103 1600 Chester Ave.
Bremerton, WA 98337
Website: www.olympic.edu/runningstart
Instagram & Facebook: OCRunningStart

MWF Only
Virtual Office



Phone: 360-475-7646
1-800-259-6718 ext. 7646
Fax: 360-475-7643
Email: RunningStart@olympic.edu

RUNNING START OVERVIEW

The Running Start program is an opportunity for qualified high school juniors and seniors to take college-level classes tuition free. Running Start is part of the Washington State Choice Legislation created in 1990 to expand educational options for public high school students. Through Running Start, students can earn both high school and college credits, which may be applied toward high school graduation and an associates degree, certificate or transfer credits.

Students may enroll in a combination of classes at Olympic College and the high school or take classes only at the college. Five college quarter credits equal one high school credit. Each quarter, students will complete a Running Start Enrollment Verification Form (RSEVF). Students meet with their high school counselor to select college classes to complete their remaining high school requirements. Then, they will meet with a Running Start staff member to review college requirements/planning and have the Running Start hold released so they can enroll in their classes. NOTE: A guardian signature is required on the RSEVF for students under the age of 18.

THE RUNNING START CHOICE

The decision to start college early or stay in high school is an important one. The most successful college students are highly motivated, mature individuals who work independently, take initiative, have good study skills, are self-disciplined and are able to complete a variety of assignments with little direction from instructors. Frequently a student may be academically prepared for college level classes but may find the emotional or social demands overwhelming. Students and their families should carefully consider whether participating in Running Start appropriately meets the student's needs.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students eligible for Running Start are:

- Under the age of 21 at the beginning of the school year
- Classified by public school district as a junior or senior in Washington State
- Not a high school graduate
- Qualify for college level English (ENGL& 101)



ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

HOME SCHOOL / PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Home school and private school students must enroll in a public high school/school district to be eligible for the Running Start program. Students enrolled in public school are not required to take classes at the public high school.

Each school district determines the process for home school/private school students to access Running Start. Families should contact the local school district where the family resides for guidance. When applying to Running Start, home school students must submit a letter of recommendation if there isn't a high school transcript available.

QUALIFYING FOR COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSES

Students who wish to participate in Running start must be able to place into college-level English. Ways to place into ENGL& 101 is determined by the English department at OC. Below are ways students can place into ENGL& 101:

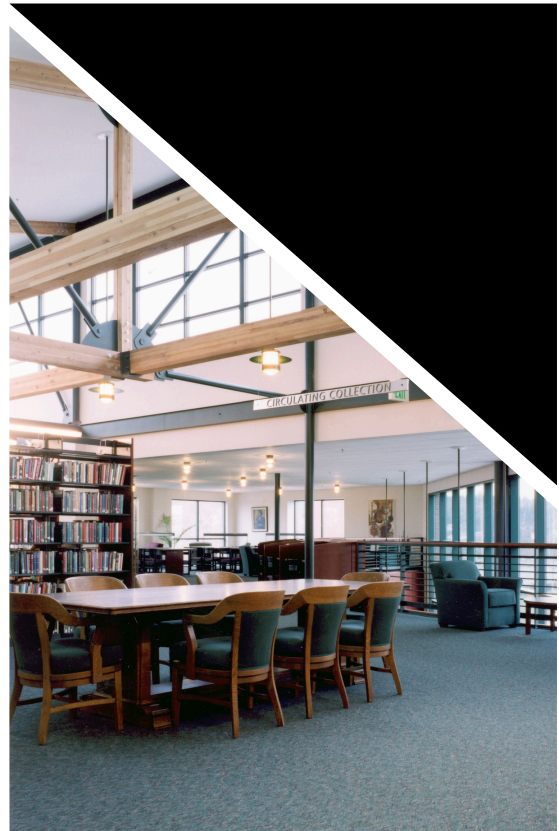
- Accuplacer Assessment Writing and Reading scores of 260+
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Score of Level 3 or 4
- ACT (within 2 years) English Score of 19+
- SAT (within 2 years) English Score of 460+
- PSAT: cumulative GPA x 200 + English Score = 1100+

If students cannot place into ENGL& 101, we will ask them to return to the high school to work on their English skills and then re-apply for the next term.

SUMMER PROVISION

Students who do not meet the ENGL& 101 requirement and are applying to start in the Fall term, may choose to take ENGL 99 in Summer Quarter. Students must have proper placement into ENGL 99 through the Accuplacer Assessment in order to take it. Students opting to go this route will be responsible for the full tuition and fees of the course. Successful completion of ENGL 99 in the summer will grant acceptance into the Running Start program. Students who are unable to pass ENGL 99 or take ENGL 99 will not be permitted acceptance into the program and may re-apply next term.

This provision is only offered in summer for a Fall start. It is not permitted for any other terms.





STEPS TO APPLY

- ❑ **Complete the Olympic College Application Online**
Indicate Running Start as your student type. You will receive a ctcLink ID number from the OC Admissions Office with your next steps.
- ❑ **Email the following documents to RSAdmissions@olympic.edu to complete the process for Running Start**
 - ❑ **High school transcript** (home school students must submit a letter of recommendation from their home school teacher if there isn't a home school transcript available).
 - ❑ **Running Start Student & Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment Form**
 - ❑ **Accuplacer Scores, if needed:**
 - Students who do not meet college-level English and Math eligibility with their high school transcript (see page 3) will need to take the ACCUPLACER assessment or use other forms of placement eligibility. The Accuplacer is offered both in person or online through Zoom. Check the OC Testing Center web-page for more information and to schedule your assessment, if needed -<https://www.olympic.edu/placement>.



Advice from former Running Start student Lili Bell, Class of 2020

I don't think there is just one way to be successful. We're all different and we need different things. However, I think first going in with a positive outlook goes a long way. Second, have an idea about what you want to explore. Obviously, we don't all know what we want to do with the rest of our lives but that's okay! Just begin by picking a field that interests you and go from there, visit the career center, and really find something you like in the first quarter. Push yourself, try hard and realize that 4.0's are hard to earn in college. You're not a failure if you get something less than what you usually would get. Create a network of friends and classmates to rely on and go to in times of struggle (and times of celebration). Most importantly though enjoy the journey, successes and fails.



AFTER YOU ARE ACCEPTED TO RUNNING START

1. Follow the steps in your Running Start Program acceptance email!

2. Think about what to take:

- Plan to take ENGL& 101 in your first quarter.
- Take a class that you think you might want to major in - Psychology, Biology, etc.
- If you are taking 3 classes, choose a class that meets a high school requirement. For instance, a world language, Math, Music, or an Art class.
- Look at the online schedule on the Olympic College website. Plan a schedule that will work for you. Write down the class (i.e. Math& 141), times and dates the class meets, plus the 5-digit item number for the class.

3. Meet with high school counselor (or district official, if home schooled):

- Share with your high school counselor the classes you would like to take.
- Complete the Running Start Enrollment Verification Form (RSEVF) together. Note: a new RSEVF will be required each term to enroll in classes.
- Write the course numbers for the classes on the RSEVF.
- Student, guardian, and school official signatures are required on the RSEVF. Ask for a high school transfer guide listing OC classes that meet high school requirements.
- Ask for a high school transfer guide for graduation and/or transfer requirements.

NOTE: Running Start students should not attend a regular new student orientation as we have one specialized for you!

4. Attend a Running Start Orientation and Advising Session:

- Schedule an Orientation and Advising Session using the Calendly links provided in your acceptance email. Do not use the links on the Running Start webpage as these are only for current students.
- Submit the RSEVF to RunningStart@olympic.edu at least 2 business days prior your appointment (complete with required signatures).
- Arrive 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to check in.
- A Running Start staff member will remove the hold on your account so you can enroll in your classes.

5. Enroll in classes:

- Enroll online using your ctcLink ID.
- View your schedule to verify your enrollment is correct.

6. Complete the Running Start Orientation Assignments in Canvas:

- Prior to the start of classes you will be sent access to the Running Start Orientation Course located in Canvas.

7. Pay fees, buy books, and attend class!

- Pay all fees to the Cashier's Office or online by the Friday before the quarter starts.
- Visit the OC Bookstore or their webpage to view your required textbooks - <https://www.olympic.edu/bookstore>.



FUNDING AND COSTS

The Running Start program helps families save thousands of dollars in tuition charges. There are, however, other college expenses to consider and limitations to Running Start funding.

Running Start Pays For:

- Up to a maximum of 21* tuition free credits based on a student's combined high school and college enrollment
- Courses numbered 100 level or above

Students Pay For:

- Tuition for credits over approved Running Start eligibility, which are credits that exceed combined 1.4 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) between the high school and OC enrollment
- Mandatory college fees (approximately \$180-\$225 per quarter) including:
 - Student Services fee - \$5 per credit (up to 10 credits, maximum \$20)
 - Elearning fee (online courses) - \$6/credit, no maximum
 - Technology fee - \$5 per credit, up to 10 credits
 - Security Enhancement fee - \$20
- Consumable and class fees (e.g. culinary arts, welding, art, labs)
- Any additional class fees (e.g. online, labs, etc.)
- Books
- Transportation
- Courses numbered below 100 level



Financial Assistance

Running Start students are not eligible for traditional Federal Financial Aid. However, Olympic College offers a Running Start Fee Waiver for low-income students. Students are considered low income if they meet the federal income guidelines for free or reduced priced (FRPL) meals through the National School Lunch Program (or have been eligible within the last five years) or are currently in a Foster Youth Program.

The waiver covers all mandatory college fees (except consumable fees) and credits over your Running Start quarterly eligibility.

FRPL is verified by the high school counselor on the Running Start Enrollment Verification Form (RSEVF). Guardians must sign this section of the RSEVF in order for the information to be shared with the college and to complete the eligibility process for the Running Start Tuition and Fee waiver.

Students may also become eligible by applying with the Running Start Fee Waiver application available through the Running Start office. Students that are eligible for the Running Start Fee Waiver are also eligible to apply to loan textbooks through our Running Start Textbook Loan Library. Textbook resources are limited and assistance with all books is not guaranteed.

*Summer quarter may be covered by Running Start depending upon the student's enrollment between the high school and college for fall, winter, and spring quarters. Maximum Running Start Eligibility is 1.4 FTE between the high school and college. Example: if a student was not enrolled in any classes at the high school and only enrolled in 15 credits for fall, winter, and spring; this student would be eligible to summer funding. Or if a student was enrolled in two classes at the high school and only enrolled in 10 credits fall, winter and spring; they would be eligible for summer funding. Number of credits for summer eligibility would be determined on the new Summer RSEVF which will be release prior to summer enrollment.



BENEFITS

- Students can earn up to two years of college credit saving up to \$8,920 in tuition costs.
- Students have the opportunity to take a wide variety of classes that may not be offered at their high school. Academically qualified students may enroll in more challenging or advanced courses.
- Students can plan a program of study that may transfer to baccalaureate institutions or apply to professional technical education.
- A diverse college student population provides for a rich classroom learning environment.
- Students may participate in college clubs, music and drama activities, intramural sports and programs. Students may also continue to participate in high school sports and activities (participation on college sports teams is prohibited).
- Students have access to instruction using state-of-the-art technology.
- Running Start students who successfully complete 15 college-level credits for six quarters at Olympic College may earn an Associate Degree.
- Running Start students can accelerate their pathway towards their chosen major with proper planning.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Some students may be academically ready, but find the required independence and speed of college classes overwhelming.
- Full-time Running Start students may feel a loss of social connection with peers.
- Transportation arrangements and costs, book purchases, and class fees are the responsibility of the student.
- Students are not guaranteed enrollment in classes they want. The scheduling of college classes may conflict with high school classes or extracurricular activities. Holiday and vacation periods may also be different.
- Students, guardians, and counselors should carefully consider the student's maturity level as students may be exposed to alternative view points and adult themes and content in college classes.
- Grades in college courses are recorded on the high school transcript and become a part of the student's permanent college record. Low grades or failure to complete courses may jeopardize high school graduation, admission to another college, or other future educational plans.
- Once enrolled, Running Start students are considered college students whose educational records are subject to protection under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Despite students age or status as a minor, under FERPA, release of information (e.g. grades, schedules, etc.) to a third party (including parents/guardians) is prohibited without the student's explicit written consent.




OLYMPIC COLLEGE

RUNNING START

ACCELERATE YOUR EDUCATION

**BUILDING 4, ROOM 103
1600 CHESTER AVE.
BREMERTON, WA 98337**

WWW.OLYMPIC.EDU/RUNNINGSTART

INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK: OCRUNNINGSTART

**PHONE: 360-475-7646
1-800-259-6718 EXT. 7646
FAX: 360-475-7643**

MFW Only Virtual Office



EMAIL: RUNNINGSTART@OLYMPIC.EDU

Olympic College provides equal opportunity in education, employment and college activities regardless of race, color, national origin, age, perceived or actual physical or mental disability, pregnancy, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, creed, religion, honorably discharged veteran or military status, use of a trained guide dog or service animal, or any other unlawful basis. For inquiries regarding sexual misconduct policies, contact Title IX Coordinator, Igor Lukashin, ilukashin@olympic.edu. For other nondiscrimination policy-related inquiries, reach out to the Equal Employment and Educational Opportunity (EEO) coordinator, Vice President of Human Resources Josh Masters, jmasters2@olympic.edu, 360-475-7305. 1600 Chester Ave., Bremerton, WA 98337-1699.