



RIVERLAND
Community College

PSEO Informational Session

Albert Lea High School

For 2021-2022 Academic Year

What is Post-Secondary Enrollment Options?

- The **Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)** program is a state program for high school and home school juniors and seniors (and eligible sophomores), which offers the opportunity to enroll in and attend college-level courses and apply earned credits towards high school graduation requirements and a college degree.
- State funding covers the cost of tuition and required books for eligible courses. Technical or career programs may require you to pay for tools, clothing, consumable or personal supplies.

College Credit in High School Options

Differences

Concurrent/College in the Schools/Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment

- Classes held at the high school, taught by high school faculty
- Available to 9th-12th grades
- Students will work mainly with High School Counselor/Dean of Students/instructors for entire process – applying through completion of course(s)

Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO)

- Classes held at Riverland (including Zoom & Online), taught by college faculty
- Available to 10th-12th grades
- Students will work together with High School Counselor/Dean of Students and College Advisor throughout the process – applying through completion of course(s)/graduation
- Need to fill out PSEO specific paperwork and complete an orientation

Eligibility Requirements

Concurrent

- Need to meet the minimum assessment scores required for the courses you would be taking (via Accuplacer, MCA, or ACT/SAT)
- All must be approved by the high school and accepted to Riverland in addition to the assessment scores

PSEO

- **Sophomores (current freshmen):** must have attained a passing score (“meets and exceeds” or a score of 850) on the 8th grade MCA reading test or an appropriate Accuplacer score and meet any other pre-requisite required for the course(s) they are interested in
- **Juniors (current sophomores):** must be in the upper 1/3 of their class or test at/above the 70% on any nationally standardized test
- **Seniors (current juniors):** must be in the upper 1/2 of their class or test at/above the 50% on any nationally standardized test
- **All** must be approved by high school and accepted to Riverland in addition to the above requirements

Minimum Assessment Score Requirements

- **Accuplacer**

- Reading: 250 (for English Composition I)
- Reading: 242 (for most Liberal Arts classes)
- Math/QAS: 252 (for Fundamentals of Stats)
- Math/AAF: 250 (for College Algebra)
- Math/AAF: 265 (for Pre-Calculus)

- **ACT**

- Reading: 21 (for English Composition I)
- Reading: 16 (for most Liberal Arts classes)
- Math: 16 (for Fundamentals of Stats)
- Math: 22 (for College Algebra)
- Math: 24 (for Pre-Calculus)

- **MCA**

- Reading: 1047 (for English Composition I)
- Reading: 1042 (for most Liberal Arts classes)
- Math: 1148 (for Fundamentals of Stats)
- Math: 1158 (for College Algebra)

Academic Expectations Once Enrolled in Classes

- Students **must** meet satisfactory progress minimums and be a student in “good standing”
 - 2.0 Grade Point Average on a 4.0 scale (grades of C or above)
 - 67% Completion Rate for credits attempted
 - **Must** be met each semester and on a cumulative basis
 - If not met, students could end up on academic warning/suspension/probation – this does follow the student after high school into their undergraduate years if they decide stay at Riverland or transfer to a different college/university

Advantages of PSEO

- Academic rigor and challenge
- Variety of courses and many career options
- Credits count at both college and high school
- Students can still participate in all high school activities and athletics - MSHSL rules apply
- Students who earn 30+ credits of PSEO/concurrent can save between \$5000 and \$40,000
- The State of Minnesota pays for the tuition and required books for PSEO students
- Experience post secondary (college) education without leaving home
- Chance to be more independent
- Students are eligible to participate in college student activities
- Get a head start on a degree – especially helpful for those going into professions requiring advanced degrees
- Possibly earn a degree before/when graduating from High School

Things to Consider

- Is this option in your **best interest**?
- Are you **independent and self-motivated**?
- Are you doing this **for yourself or your parents**?
- What are you **“giving up”** to do this?
- Are you able to **manage your time well**?
- Can you **reach out for help** if you have any struggles, concerns or problems?

Additional Considerations

- **Attendance is important! You need to attend every class!**

Regular attendance is the number one strategy for student success!

- **Can you handle the increased free time?**

15 – 16 hours of class per week, rather than full days at high school.

Rule of thumb – for every hour of class, spend two hours on homework

- **How well do you manage your time? This is not a time to increase employment hours.**

Differences between High School and College

- Scheduling and School Calendars are not the same:
 - Part-time PSEO can be challenging
- Faculty expectations:
 - Adult behavior
 - Grading may mean 2 or 3 exams and a research paper/project –
 - No late work accepted. No reminders. No extra credit.
 - No excuses for “not knowing.”
- Additional class supplies are not covered – such as art supplies, cosmetology kits, tools
- No free bus ride – You need to determine your own transportation to Riverland
 - PSEO students may be eligible for assistance with transportation costs if your family makes under the federal poverty income guidelines, see Britani for more information

Still Interested?!

- Here are your next steps:
 - Read additional PSEO (and Concurrent) information at the Riverland website: www.riverland.edu
 - Student Services>College Credit in the High School>PSEO or Concurrent>New PSEO Students – Getting Started!
- Make an appointment with your high school counselor, complete all the paperwork and get all signatures – student, parent and high school counselor or principal
 - Best to apply and register **EARLY!** Registration will begin end of March/beginning of April
 - HS Counselors not available in the summer, Britani is available

After you receive the Acceptance Letter/Email

- If you still need to take the Accuplacer, talk with your high school counselor to see if you should sign up for it at the high school or at Riverland
- You will be emailed instructions to enroll in the Online Orientation in Brightspace (**must be completed prior to registration**)
- Once you have passed the Online Orientation quiz, you will make an individual appointment with Britani to register or attend an in-person or virtual New PSEO Registration Session (more info to come!)
- Whether you decide to be a part-time or full-time PSEO student, we will work on creating an Academic Plan specific to you

What if you do not meet the Accuplacer test requirements?

- Make an appointment with your high school counselor or with Britani to discuss other measures that have been put in place due to COVID-19 thru the end of 2021
- Make arrangements to “retest”. You may only retest once in an academic year.
- Practice tests and preparation materials are available on the Riverland website under Admissions/Accuplacer/Preparing for Accuplacer
- An ACT score may replace the Accuplacer IF you meet the qualifying scores.



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- Work on all Riverland campuses and remote

Questions from PSEO Informational Session:

- Should current 9th graders be taking the Accuplacer this spring?
 - Yes, if they are interested in college credit while in high school, they should take the Accuplacer this spring.
- Is the end of April too late for a student to take the Accuplacer if they are interested in PSEO?
 - No, it is not too late! Our goal is to get registration done before the start of summer, so that still gives us time to complete the process.
- Can PSEO students take summer classes?
 - The PSEO program does not cover the costs for summer courses. Students can still take courses in the summer, but the tuition, fees, and books are all out of pocket costs to the student/family. In addition, PSEO does not cover developmental courses (any course number starting with a 0).
- For CIS, how can students sign-up?
 - Students should work with their high school counselor for the CIS process.
- Here is the Accuplacer link for prep materials:
 - <https://www.riverland.edu/admissions/accuplacer-placement-testing/prepare-for-the-accuplacer-test/>

Questions from PSEO Informational Session

- When will the 2021-2022 course schedule be available to view?
 - On Monday, March 8 (hopefully)!
- Do the course specifically state if they are online or in-person?
 - Yes, in a few different areas. There is a column in the course schedule listed as, Delivery Method, and it will state if it is online-asynchronous (completely online), online-synchronous (specific meeting times via Zoom and course work is online), blended/hybrid (specific meeting times in-person with online course work), or it will be blank (completely in-person). You can also click on the course title for more specific information on how the class is being offered.
- What is the high school credit to Riverland credit ratio?
 - 1 ALHS credit = 2 Riverland credits
- Are most PSEO courses accepted for transfer to 4 year colleges?
 - Yes, as PSEO courses (and CIS) are for college credits, they are transferrable to other colleges. How those credits are accepted and counted towards a 4 year degree is up to the college you are transferring to.