

# Completing an Associate Degree While in High School

## Great Opportunity... Is It Right for You?

High School Concurrent Enrollment courses are a great opportunity for many students. However, they are not a good fit for everyone. All courses completed are placed on a permanent college transcript and cannot be taken lightly. Although a sibling or neighbor was able to get an associate degree while in high school, this may not mean that it is also right for you. Understand your own abilities and limitations. **Some things to consider...**

### 1. Understand Other Factors Involved in Pursuing an Associate Degree:

- Due to the rigorous course work and additional workload required to receive both a high school diploma and an Associate Degree, you may miss out on normal high school activities and other social functions. It may be hard to juggle high school activities, sports, a job, etc. For some, it can be a major adjustment. **Free time and social time will often need to be exchanged for study time.**
- Some classes required for an Associate Degree may deal with mature and sensitive issues. They may include class discussions that are uncomfortable for you. These classes cannot be waived.
- By graduating with an Associate Degree as a high school senior, you will enter college with the credits of a junior, possibly making not only your class schedule but also social opportunities different from your freshman friends.
- It is important to have a clear idea of what Bachelor Degree you will pursue. The New Century Scholarship will only be of financial assistance for the equivalent of 4 semesters and unless you have taken classes applicable to your bachelor program as part of your electives, you will need more than sixty credits to finish your Bachelor Degree.
- In order to complete the associate degree, some classes may need to be taken through other means during the school year or summer. You are responsible to pay tuition for any on-campus, Internet, or TV courses taken through UVU or any other college.

Other ways for receiving college credit other than through Concurrent Enrollment:

- Advanced Placement Testing (<http://www.uvu.edu/transfer/students/apcredit.html>)
- Distance Education TV or Internet courses ([www.uvu.edu/disted](http://www.uvu.edu/disted))
- On-campus classes (Orem campus or other satellite campuses)
- CLEP testing (<http://www.uvu.edu/transfer/students/clepcredit.html>)
- On-line or independent study courses from other colleges or universities i.e. BYU Independent Study

2. **Create an Academic Plan.** You will need to meet with both your high school counselor and the High School Concurrent Enrollment Academic Advisor. Careful planning will be required to meet both high school and college graduation requirements.

3. **Understand the Importance of your High School Grade Point Average.** If your GPA starts to decline due to taking college courses, then pursuing a college degree while in high school may not be right for you. High school GPA is important for consideration in scholarships and admission purpose for most colleges.

4. **Notice Prerequisites.** Some classes must be taken in sequence or require test scores. This is outlined on our website under the Student tab.

5. **Keep Up-to-Date with Changes/Deadlines for the New Century Scholarship:**

<http://higheredutah.org/newcenturyscholarship/>

*We wish you much success in all your academic pursuits!*