

WCSD Featured Story



*News Stories from Across Williamsburg County School District
Provided by the Williamsburg County School District Office of Public Relations*

***An interview of Dr. Patty Lee, Dr.
Gayle Tremble, and Ms. Paige Brown
of Williamsburg Technical College
Early College Options***



Q: What is the actual name of the new program?

A: WTC offers dual enrollment opportunities to high school students through the Dual Enrollment Advanced Learning (DEAL) program and Career and Technical Education (CATE) programs. Our DEAL program offers two pathways for student success. The General College Studies Certificate provides a pathway for students to take college credit courses while enrolled in high school. The Early College program provides a pathway for students to complete the General College Studies Certificate, as well as an associate degree while attending high school. Our Career and Technical Education (CATE) program also offers dual enrollment opportunities in a variety of career-ready pathways. Additional information about our CATE program can be found at [https://www.CATE- Career and Technical Educationwiltech.edu/high-school-career-and-technical-education-cate](https://www.CATE-Career and Technical Educationwiltech.edu/high-school-career-and-technical-education-cate).

Q: How will this program benefit students?

A: DEAL courses transfer to any accredited college/university in South Carolina and most out-of-state colleges/universities. Our General College Studies Certificate provides a guided curriculum as a pathway for course completion that is equivalent to the first year of college. The General College Studies Certificate curriculum includes coursework that satisfies the requirements for HS credit and college credit. Our General College Studies Certificate also serves as the foundation of our Early College Curriculum. Early College provides students with the opportunity to complete an associate degree while enrolled in high school. An associate degree is equivalent to two years of college completion. Dual Enrollment coursework is funded by lottery funds and WCSD. Students benefit by earning college credits in high school which in turn saves them and their families thousands of dollars.

Q: What makes this program so attractive for students?

A: DEAL coursework is funded by lottery funds and WCSD. Students benefit by earning college credits in high school which in turn saves them and their families thousands of dollars regarding student loans, etc. Students enter their college experience “ahead of the game” and are ready to focus on selected major coursework. These students can complete a 4-year program at an accelerated pace, entering postgraduate studies and/or the workforce earlier than anticipated.

Q: Who do students need to contact in order to enroll?

A: Students need to contact their High School Early College Counselor to complete the application and enrollment process. Interested students must meet all college entry requirements as well as have a detailed high school course completion framework for high school graduation requirements. It is our goal to begin an Early College cohort of 10th-grade students in the spring of 2023 (Class of 2025 EC Cohort). Once a student is accepted into the Early College program, the EC high school counselor will work in partnership with WTC Dual Enrollment representatives to help ensure all high school and program requirements are met.

Q: Are students still enrolled in their regular high school and this program simultaneously?

A: DEAL students are dual enrollment students which mean students have enrolled as high school student and WTC student. The initial priority for dual enrollment students is to complete the requirements for high school graduation. As outlined by our Early College/General College Certificate curriculum, it is very important that students take advantage of dual credit college courses that also meet the graduation requirements for high school. Students accepted into the Early College program will begin in 10th grade. Students following the General College Studies Certificate pathway will begin in the 11th grade. Students are required to take a minimum of 6 credit hours each semester.

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Q: How many students are ideal for enrollment?

A: There is no ideal number for student enrollment. Cohort numbers for each class (Ex. Class of 2025 Early College Cohort) will be based on the number of students who meet the Early College requirements and their level of commitment.

Q: Are students still enrolled in their regular high school and this program simultaneously?

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Q: Is there an Orientation or Virtual Open House that is scheduled, so parents can see what the program is like?

A: Parent/Student Orientation is a very important component of the student enrollment process for Early College. More information regarding Orientation will be provided in mid-October.

Q: What is something else that you would like to share about the program?

A: Early College is a curriculum, not a place. WTC will work in partnership with WCSD to offer college-level courses on both campuses as well as online-hybrid course offerings. As the course load increases in the junior and senior years, more courses may/will be required on the college campus.

DEAL, General College Studies, and Early College, courses come with college-level commitment, maturity, and work ethic. Communication with college instructors will be handled directly by the student just as a typical college student. Students (and parents) must be committed to the amount of time it will take to be successful. This will include after-school and summer coursework. The student's level of interest in extracurricular and after-school activities should be considered in the decision-making process for selecting the Early College curriculum pathway. Our General College Studies Certificate pathway provides more flexibility for students who enjoy extra-curricular activities but still want to earn college credits. Grades and credits earned in college courses, even as a high school student, will be included on the college transcript which will determine future scholarship eligibility and financial aid opportunities. WCSD will determine which courses will be included as a part of the high school transcript.

