

MECHANICSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS PROGRAM



INTRODUCTION

The Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program provides students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to take classes at eligible post-secondary institutions. These institutions include community colleges, post-secondary vocational institutions, state universities, and many private colleges and universities.

The purpose of the program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wider variety of options to high school students.

This guide should aid you in deciding if this program is appropriate for you. If you have more questions, check with your guidance counselor.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- ❖ A student may enroll in post-secondary, nonreligious courses. Student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 to be eligible for participation in the program. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain enrolled in the program. Review will take place at the end of each of the student's quarter/semester periods.
- ❖ There are two options related to the type of credit a student can earn. Option A - the student/parent pays the tuition, textbook, materials and normal fees. The student may also elect whether to receive only college credit or high school and college credit for the course. Option B – the tuition, textbooks, materials and fees is paid for and the student receives both high school and college credit for the course.
- ❖ By March 30th the student must indicate interest in the program by completing the proper paperwork and returning it to the school counselor. If after indicating interest in PSEOP and deciding against enrolling, the student must notify the school counselor. After March 30th the student will require special permission from the principal to participate in the program.
- ❖ The PSEOP Contract and Agreement forms must be completed with the appropriate signatures. By signing these forms it indicates that you have received information about the program and are aware of your responsibilities regarding the program.
- ❖ Each college has specific entrance requirements. It is not the responsibility of Mechanicsburg Schools to determine your acceptance in the college of your choice but the college itself.
- ❖ All courses must be reviewed for approval for both options. For those courses in core areas, guidance and administration must review and determine their equivalency to those taught in Mechanicsburg High School. It is possible and more likely probable that a sequence of courses would be necessary to meet the requirements of a high school course.
- ❖ College credit will be converted to high school credit in the following manner:
 - 5 semester hours = one unit of credit
 - 3 semester hours = .50 credit
 - 7.5 quarter hours = one unit of credit
 - 4 quarter hours = .50 credit
- ❖ Students involved in athletics are responsible for getting signatures and grade updates when athletic eligibility is calculated for Mechanicsburg High School (as determined per quarter).
- ❖ **Core course grades** will count toward a student's grade point average and class rank. Elective course grades will not. Credits will be earned for both core and non-core courses.
- ❖ The number of courses a student can take is determined by the number of classes they are taking at the high school. The combination of high school and college classes may not equal a total of more than eight. For example, if a student is taking 3 classes at the high school then they are eligible to take 5 classes on the college level. **For OHSAA minimum guidelines, all student athletes must be enrolled in at least 5 year long courses or the equivalent.**
- ❖ A student can attend a post-secondary institute either full-time or part-time. Evening and on-line classes are acceptable.
- ❖ Courses taken during the summer term do not qualify under the post-secondary program.
- ❖ Transportation to and from the college is the responsibility of the student/parent.

DECIDING TO PARTICIPATE

Before a student decides to participate in the program serious consideration should be made from the following points:

High School Graduation:

- ❖ No high school graduation requirements will be waived for any student as a result of participating in PSEOP. **Participation in graduation ceremonies will be denied if graduation requirements have not been met by graduation.**
- ❖ Requirements of the Ohio High School Athletic Association must be met in order for the student to participate in high school athletics.

Scheduling:

- ❖ Participating in this program on a part-time basis, a student must schedule classes at both the college and the high school.
- ❖ Yearly schedules and vacation time often are different between the high school and college.
- ❖ **Scheduling conflicts are not the responsibility of the high school.** College classes must be scheduled at a time which does not conflict with courses at the high school.
- ❖ Time conflicts may make it difficult for the student to participate in high school athletics and/or extra-curricular activities. It is the student's responsibility to work out their schedule to meet athletic requirements.
- ❖ Appropriate college grade reports must be submitted by the student to verify athletic eligibility (as determined per quarter).

PROGRAM ADVANTAGES

- ❖ Great opportunity to take courses that are not offered at the high school
- ❖ Experience college level work and college life prior to making a final decision about post-secondary education.
- ❖ Take classes that are of your interest.
- ❖ Receiving high school/college credits without paying tuition.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND CONSEQUENCES

- ❖ Increased responsibility for learning.
- ❖ Possibility of increased financial obligations especially if Option A is chosen. Other extra would be driving costs, special tools, or equipment for a course.
- ❖ Participation may decrease the time available for part-time employment and/or high school activities (athletics, music, clubs, band, etc.)
- ❖ Planning for increased time needed to travel to and from the college and increased time for study.

- ❖ Due to different school year schedule, the student may not be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies (only if the class is required for graduation.)
- ❖ Scope and content of the college course may differ from high school courses as well as the content of the high school proficiency test.
- ❖ There is no guarantee that the student will get the courses they want.
- ❖ Failing a course could make the student ineligible to participate in school athletics and activities.
- ❖ Should a student fail a course the student/parent will reimburse Mechanicsburg Schools for the amount paid to the college.

ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENT/PARENT

- ❖ Initiate and carry out all application and enrollment procedures at the college. Application for PSEOP students are different than regular college applications.
- ❖ Notify the guidance counselor of intent to enroll and complete paperwork by the deadline of March 30th.
- ❖ Maintain communication with the high school in regard to activities the student desires to participate. (graduation, athletics, extra-curricular activities)
- ❖ Meet attendance requirements at the high school and college.
- ❖ Conform to all school rules and regulations as set forth by policies adopted by the Mechanicsburg EVSD and college.
- ❖ Arrangements for makeup work for any school work missed is the responsibility of the student. Time restraints as a result of participation in the PSEOP are not valid reasons for not making up missed course work.
- ❖ Counseling will be provided for the student in regard to high school requirements.
- ❖ College counseling services are available for the student/parent for circumstances related to the college.
- ❖ All courses must be approved in advance by the counselor and principal (especially core equivalent courses).
- ❖ Before enrolling in a course, the student/parent agreement and enrollment contract must be completed indicating you have received information about the program and are aware of your responsibilities regarding the program.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

- ❖ The student should discuss their plans with parents, counselor, and other post-secondary students.
- ❖ Complete the Enrollment Contract and Student/Parent Agreement and return to the guidance office by March 30th.
- ❖ Meet with the Post Secondary admissions office staff.
- ❖ Complete the necessary college admission and registration forms. Be sure to ask your counselor to send the college an “official” transcript to the college.

WITHDRAWAL

Should a student decide not to participate in the PSEOP program before the end of the term, withdrawal forms from the college must be completed. The student must meet with the high

school counselor to develop a new course schedule. Failure to file the necessary forms may result in a failing grade and student/parent responsibility for the coursework cost.

CONCLUSION

The student needs to think carefully about the advantages and disadvantages of the program before deciding to participate in this exciting, yet demanding program.