

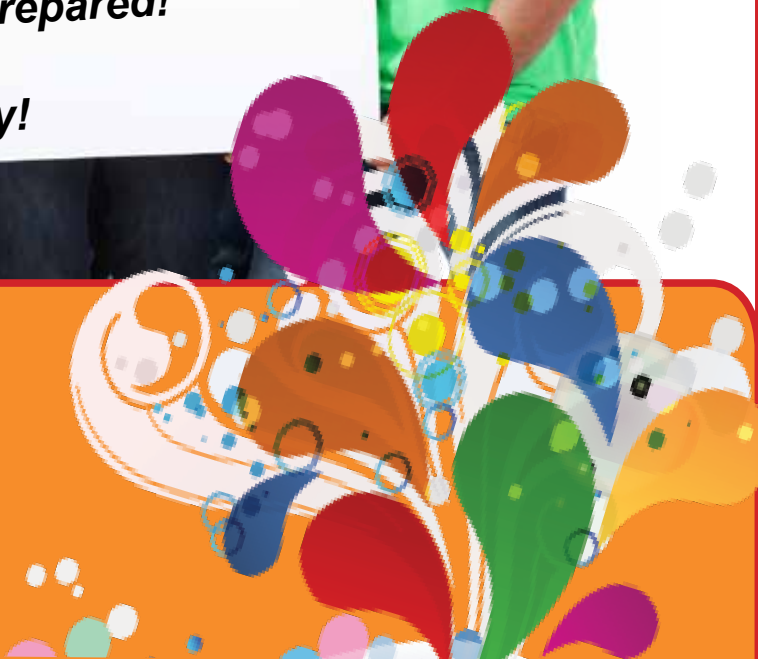
2013 - 3rd Edition

Get A JUMP START On Your Future!



- **Earn FREE College Credits While You're Still In High School!**
- **Learn More About College!**
- **Be Better Prepared!**
- **Save Time!**
- **Save Money!**

CENTER
FOR SCHOOL CHANGE



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Introduction

Welcome and thank you for your interest in Dual High School/College Credit programs. The purpose of this booklet is to better inform and explain these programs and their benefits to Minnesota students and their families. We have learned that students sharing their personal experiences can often be the most powerful tool to inform their peers. In this booklet, we have gathered the stories and advice from current and former MN high school students so that students new to these programs may make more informed and ambitious plans for their education and future life.

The information shared here focuses on the four main Dual High School/College Credit programs available to MN high school students: Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Concurrent Enrollment, and Post Secondary Enrollment Options. These 4 programs have distinct characteristics, but all of them allow high school students the potential to earn free college credits through rigorous coursework. They are often referred to with the following acronyms: AP, IB, CE or CIS (College in the Schools), and PSEO. Minnesota has some other programs used by a few students, such as CLEP (College Level Examination Program) and Project Lead the Way. This booklet will briefly explain them.

We hope these stories and the additional information provided throughout the booklet are helpful for Minnesota students and families.

Sincerely,
The Center for School Change Staff

The Center for School Change would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to:

- All of the wonderful and insightful students who shared their stories with us, and who were willing to share them with students across Minnesota.
- The Minnesota Department of Education for supporting the CSC's outreach efforts to increase the participation in dual credit programs among students from low-income families and students of color.
- The Directors and staff of the many schools who are represented in this booklet, both for their assistance in connecting us with the student authors, and for their tireless efforts to constantly improve the opportunities available to their students.



Center for School Change

**1381 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104**

www.centerforschoolchange.org



Dual High School/College Credit Courses

Take advantage of great dual credit courses!

Take advantage of great dual credit courses at your high school! Minnesota's high schools, colleges, and universities offer dual credit programs that allow qualifying students to earn college credit while still in high school for free. Dual credit programs are a great way for high school students to challenge themselves academically, earn college credit, and save time and money. Qualified high school students can choose to participate in the following dual credit programs:

- **Advanced Placement (AP)** gives high school students the opportunity to take a wide variety of challenging college-level courses taught by a teacher at the high school. After completing an AP course, students can choose to take the exam. If students receive a passing grade on the exam, they can earn college credit. The AP exams are open to all students, not just those who have taken an AP course, so home-schooled, online students and others may take an AP exam for credit. Many, but not all, Minnesota high schools offer AP courses, and the acceptance of AP credit varies at each college or university.
- **International Baccalaureate (IB)** includes both traditional subjects and interdisciplinary learning. Students may take individual IB courses and if they want, work toward an 'IB diploma.' The diploma involves taking a number of courses, submitting a 4,000-word essay, completing the Theory of Knowledge course, and participating in activities that promote creativity, action and service. Students must complete IB courses and pass the course end exam to receive the IB diploma and/or college credit. The IB program is not available at all Minnesota high schools. Acceptance of IB credit varies at each college or university.
- **Concurrent Enrollment (CE)** Is often referred to as "College in the Schools" or CIS. With a partnership between your high school and a college institution, CE classes are actual college courses available to qualified high school juniors and seniors. They take place in the high school and are taught either by a

trained high school teacher, or a college professor. An increasing number of Minnesota high schools are offering Concurrent Enrollment classes. Credits earned come directly from a college or university and are accepted at most Minnesota colleges and universities.

- **Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)** allows students to take free college courses on a college campus while they are still in high school. PSEO is open to qualified high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors. There are several ways students can participate in PSEO:
 - Take PSEO courses taught by a college professor at a college institution
 - Take PSEO courses online taught by a college instructorMany, but not all, Minnesota colleges and universities offer PSEO courses, and the acceptance of PSEO credit varies at each college or university.
- **College Level Examination Program (CLEP)** is an opportunity for students who are well-prepared in a certain field of study to take an exam in that area to earn college credit.
- **Project Lead the Way** is a program offered in a few schools that focuses on college level courses in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM courses).

If you are interested in participating in any of these dual credit programs, please meet with your counselor. You can also contact the Center for School Change (info@centerforschoolchange.org) or the Center for Post-Secondary Success at the Minnesota Department of Education (mde.postsecondary@state.mn.us). Information included in this section was provided with the help of the Center for Postsecondary Success at the Minnesota Department of Education.

You can also access more details about each dual enrollment program from the following links:



www.readyssetgomn.org
www.centerforschoolchange.org/dual-credit



A Hmong Student Gets Ahead

By Lilac Xiong
Harding High School
St. Paul, MN

As a Hmong person, life in America means a life of opportunity. The life I could've lived would have been in the humid jungles and land of Laos or Thailand if it were not for the break out of the Vietnam War, which was essentially the reason why the Hmong fled to America. One of the greatest assets about America is that education is a great value, and the key to success. Students are ensured many opportunities that prepare them for the skills they need in order to achieve their goals, and to make the world a better place. The most wonderful opportunity I've ever had was the ability to take full time PSEO courses at Metropolitan State University, starting my senior year of high school.

The reasons why I took PSEO were because it would save me a whole year worth of tuition, and it would prepare me for college through the experience. At first I was hesitant to take PSEO because I didn't want to miss

out on what I thought would be the most "fun" year of high school - senior year. But it turns out that I only took four courses: Psychology 100, Intro to College Writing 101, Gender Studies 270 and Literature 100, which meant classes weren't every day and I still could go visit my high school and do homework there when I didn't have class. Since classes weren't every day and I visited frequently, I felt like I was still socially part of my class of 2013.

PSEO is all about getting ahead; I wish I would've started it in my junior year! It has been rewarding, and not as rigorous as I assumed it to be. Being a pre-AP/IB student my freshman and sophomore year really prepared me for PSEO. For anyone hesitant about the rigor, I would say that if you do your homework and engage yourself in class, you'll do just fine. College will happen anyways, so to those who meet the requirements, start now!

Why Should I Participate In These Programs?

- ~ GET A JUMP START ON YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION - EARN COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT *AT THE SAME TIME!*
- ~ THE CREDITS ARE FREE!
- ~ TRY OUT COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSES TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE PREPARED FOR COLLEGE!
- ~ SAVE MONEY!
- ~ SAVE TIME!
- ~ VARIETY OF PROGRAMS - THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!
- ~ GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE EARLY!
- ~ VIDEOS: <http://centerforschoolchange.org/dual-credit/>





By Oscar Enrique Perez
Community of Peace Academy
St. Paul, MN

CIS And PSEO Produce Better College Preparation

I was raised in a low income family in the public housing townhouses of Saint Paul. As a child growing up, I was never interested academically in school. I knew what was to be done but neglected my obligations because I was not motivated by school work. That all changed when I entered the 9th grade. I began to realize that in high school, grades have a greater impact on your future than the grades of elementary or middle school. As a result, I began to discipline myself.

I first became aware of the PSEO program in the fall 9th grade conferences and was convinced that it was a smart choice in preparing for my future. The only bad news was that I had to wait until I became a sophomore to apply and a junior to attend classes. Waiting was but a minor setback on my road to success. During the time allotted, I exhausted any and all possible challenges the school had to offer until it came time to apply to the PSEO program.

I am now currently taking Interpersonal Communication at Saint Paul College and believe that the class is not difficult to understand, granted that it is time consuming due to the reading requirements of the class. You have to learn how to transition from high school reading requirements of a few pages a night to

college reading requirements of 80 pages per night. I am now able to boast that I have read and comprehended an entire college text book by myself. I am also currently taking a Writer's Studio College in the Schools class or CIS for short. A CIS class is a class where you are taking a college level class for both high school and college credits but with your high school teacher as the educator. I first became interested in CIS when I was told that it was a college level class. In my Writer's Studio class, I have set a standard for myself to get an A- or above on all the papers and anything below an A- would be devastating to my grade. This class is a little bit more challenging than my PSEO Interpersonal Communications class because the majority of the overall grade solely consists of successfully completing five papers. The class is not very difficult, but the thought of getting an upsetting grade on a paper does mess with your mind.

The main reasons I took PSEO and CIS classes are that they give you college credits and saves money. I'm not a very wealthy person, so the fact that PSEO and CIS offer free college classes and free college credits is great. I have taken full advantage of it. Overall, taking CIS and PSEO classes has been an enriching experience that has better prepared me for college.



By Anna Jessurun
Moundsview High School,
Arden Hills, MN

Get The Confidence And Experience You Need

Throughout my high school career, I took a variety of Advanced Placement courses as well as a few College In Schools classes through the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. I can attest with absolute certainty that I can fully attribute my current college readiness to these courses. Without a doubt, AP classes offer a particular challenge that most high school honors classes do not achieve. The work is more abundant and difficult; the reading is more

complex and tasking. However, the high demand of individual input is equally balanced with the educational enrichment offered in return. Both AP and CIS courses have required me to reevaluate many of my beliefs and values not only as a student but also as a proactive citizen of this world. The rigor and intrigue that these courses provided gave me the confidence that one requires to enter the frightening yet exciting world of post-secondary education.



Why Take PSEO Classes?

By **Jiyoona Shin**
Austin High School
Austin, MN

Although I hadn't taken PSEO classes in a college setting, I still was able to get a glimpse of what a college course would be like. During my junior year, I took Riverland Community College/Advanced Placement Human Geography. My teacher didn't take it easy on us just because we were high schoolers; she gave presentations and lectures and handed out lengthy assignments. Every night I struggled under the workload; I found myself dedicating a good two hours each night for the course's assignments and projects. Discouraged, I wondered why I would sign up for such a challenge. So I researched how exactly PSEO

would benefit me. PSEO in Minnesota is state-funded and tuition and book costs are all paid for. Earning college credit for a specific class is also a possibility. In my case, Riverland can send my credit transcript to whatever university I'll be attending. I realized it had been a favorable decision to sign up for PSEO. I had become accustomed to careful assignment completions and meticulous studying. I learned how to prioritize my homework every night and manage time well. Not only did I get the college credit, but I also got the experience of learning from a college professor and working like a college student.

Experienced Dual Credit Students Speak Out

"My AP Literature and Composition class was probably one of the best classes I have ever taken. It taught me so many things that will be very helpful for me in college."

— Maria Gutierrez,
Bloomington Kennedy High School

"Due to my PSEO and AP credits, I graduated college 1 ½ years early!"

—Adam Herron, former PSEO and AP student at North High School

PSEO is all about getting ahead; I wish I would've started it in my junior year!"

— Lilac Xiong, former PSEO student at Harding High School

"I'm 18, I started doing PSEO at the age of 17. It is a really good program. It helps you experience college life while in high school and you have a bunch of people to support you in the process. Not only will you be able to finish school early, but you have a lot of free time during your senior year to do as you want, because you're the one who makes your own schedule!!"

---Lenka Audulus, former PSEO and CE student at Roosevelt High School

"I think PSEO allows me to have a sense of independence and freedom. It helps me have an overview about college and foresee possible issues that I might have in my future education. I believe that PSEO is a great opportunity for all students. "

--- Fatima Ba, Former PSEO student at Lincoln High School





Earning Scholarships To Become A Nurse

By Maria Gutierrez

Bloomington Kennedy High School

Bloomington, MN

As a freshman going into a different school I was always super excited but nervous at the same time. I wanted to do so many things in this new school but I had no idea where to start. I was so excited because I was going to be able to pick my classes out of the many classes that Kennedy offered. I knew I had to take some required classes but the rest was up to me. As a freshman I did what probably most freshman did, I chose the easiest classes possible. I chose classes that were fun but I knew that they were not challenging at all for me. I stuck with my easy classes all through 9th grade but when it came time to register for my sophomore year, I knew things had to change.

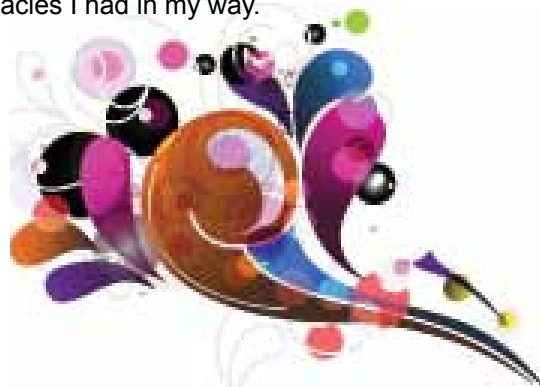
As a sophomore, I decided to take Honors American Literature to challenge myself a little. This class was interdisciplinary which meant it was joined with the class of American History. I was a bit afraid the first day of class because it was my first day of an honors course and to add to that, I was the only student of color in that classroom of 60 students. It was somewhat of a challenge for me at the beginning to get integrated with my classmates. As the days went on, every assignment in that class was less difficult for me. They got less difficult not because the material was easier but because my teacher prepared me everyday to accomplish my assignments. My teacher would always make us take long notes about each book we were going to read and then assign to us to read it outside of class. The next day we would have a whole discussion with the class and in every single one of those discussions, it was always a pleasure to participate. This class not only challenged my academic abilities but it also made me think outside of the box for many other real life challenges. At the end of the year, I left that classroom ready for the following year where I would be advancing to an AP course.

Making the decision of choosing an AP class was not easy but I knew it would be the best for me. I decided to take AP World Literature and AP World History. I had excellent teachers that helped me through every difficult assignment and I had very smart classmates that made learning much easier. I sometimes felt out of place in that classroom because I was amongst the smartest

people in my class, but later on I realized that I was like them. I felt insecure about my projects because I saw how wonderful they were, but when it came time for grades, I always managed to keep up with them. At the end of the year, it was time to take the AP test but my insecurity didn't allow me to take it. I knew the importance of this test but I didn't think I was well prepared to take such an important test.

When it came to my senior year, I continued on with the challenges. Usually people decide to take it easy in their last year, but I was different. I challenged myself with AP Psychology and AP Literature and Composition. Those two courses were extremely challenging for me but they both helped me gain knowledge that will be useful for me throughout my life. My AP Literature and Composition class was probably one of the best classes I have ever taken. It taught me so many things that will be very helpful for me in college. I admit that this probably was the hardest class as well but that was what made it so interesting for me. My teacher always pushed me to the limit with every book, with every worksheet and especially with every essay I had to write.

Taking Dual Credit classes was one of the best decisions I made throughout my high school career but I can honestly say it was well worth it. Every night I spent studying for a test was well worth it because it got me a scholarship to St. Catherine University and a scholarship to Normandale Community College as well. I will be attending Normandale for the first two years at no cost and later on I will transfer to St. Kates' for my nursing degree. I am very proud of my accomplishments and I wouldn't of been able to do it without all the obstacles I had in my way.



"I can attest with absolute certainty that I can fully attribute my current college readiness to these (Dual Credit) courses."

- Anna Jessurun, Mounds View High School

Hear From Real Dual Credit Students

"The reasons why I took PSEO were because it would save me a whole year worth of tuition, and it would prepare me for college through the experience."

- Lilac Xiong, Harding High School

"Both AP and CIS (Concurrent Enrollment) courses have required me to reevaluate many of my beliefs and values not only as a student but also as a proactive citizen of this world. The rigor and intrigue that these courses provided gave me the confidence that one requires to enter the frightening yet exciting world of post-secondary education."

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"Taking (Dual Credit) classes was one of the best decisions I made throughout my high school career but I can honestly say it was well worth it. Every night I spent studying for a test was well worth it because it got me a scholarship to St. Catherine University and a scholarship to Normandale Community College as well. I will be attending Normandale for the first two years at no cost and later on I will transfer to St. Kate's for my nursing degree. I am very proud of my accomplishments and I wouldn't have been able to do it without all the obstacles I had in my way."

- Maria Gutierrez, Bloomington Kennedy High School

"I think PSEO is a great program for high school students to get a little bit of experience as a college student. It saves you thousands of dollars."

- Abukar Sharif-Jeylani,
Junior at Roosevelt High School, PSEO

"The most wonderful opportunity I've ever had was the ability to take full time PSEO courses at Metropolitan State University, starting my senior year of high school."

- Lilac Xiong, Harding High School

"Not only did I get the college credit, but I also got the experience of learning from a college professor and working like a college student."

- Jiyeon Shin, Austin High School

A BIT OF STUDENT ADVICE...

"For anyone hesitant about the rigor, I would say that if you do your homework and engage yourself in class, you'll do just fine." - Lilac Xiong, Harding High School



Saving \$40,000 Through PSEO

By Tong Vang
Harding High School
St. Paul, MN

During my sophomore year, I was very ambitious about college. It is a nerve-wrecking process being a first generation college student to think about college. As I was growing up, all that my parents ever dreamed for their kids was that we would be able to support ourselves and obtain higher education because both my parents never got the opportunity to attend college. With help from my high school counselor and my two college access program advisors from MEP (Multicultural Program of Excellence) and GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness for Undergraduate Programs), I was able to learn and participate in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEO) and have taken a significant amount of college credits.

Though my school would have provided me with the academic curriculum I needed, I still wanted to challenge myself to see what college was like. I wanted to take a step out of my usual school environment and try something new. Having an earlier start in college would be better because it wouldn't be such a big transition when I eventually attend college in the fall. Though I have taken many risks to take college classes, it's worth it! Having successfully completed 60 college credits, after careful calculations, I have saved up to \$40,000 in tuition and books, and will graduate from college in the next two years after high school. Sixty credits is a lot of credits, one can easily fulfill a two year degree

program or finish their general education classes for a four year degree program.

I believe anyone can be successful in college. If you set your mind to it, you can surely achieve it. Taking the initiative by asking questions and doing research, I was able to learn about this wonderful program that in all 50 states, only Minnesota and Ohio offers. As well as being a college student I was able to utilize the support and services offered by the college. Doing so, I was able to plan ahead of time using the college's degree planner ensuring that I will graduate on time. Having obtained so much college credits I have lessened the financial worries that I could have had in the future with the addition that I will graduate before my high school class of 2011. This is really an amazing opportunity.

The PSEO program doesn't just help one academically but personally too. Taking college classes as a high school junior and senior, I have learned many new things, became more mature, and made many new friends as well. This is a really wonderful program and I would highly recommend it to any junior or senior. All that I have to say is, if you're willing to try something different or new PSEO is the way to go. If you're up for a challenge, take advantages of the opportunities and resources available for college credit such as Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), Advance Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), College in the Schools, and etc.

ANY COLLEGE EDUCATION GIVES YOU A BETTER LIFE

2007 Average Income of People 18+

~ Don't Graduate H.S.	\$21,251
~ High School Diploma	\$31,286
~ 2 Year Degree	\$39,746
~ 4 Year Degree	\$57,181
~ Masters Degree	\$70,186
~ Doctorate Degree	\$95,565
~ Professional Degree	\$120,978

(Source U.S. Census Bureau 2008)

WITH A COLLEGE DEGREE, YOU ARE MORE LIKELY TO

- ~ Earn a higher income
- ~ Increase your chances of having a job
- ~ Have better access to healthcare
- ~ Own a home
- ~ Own a car
- ~ Travel?
- ~ Buy a boat?
- ~ Help your family?

(Source U.S. Census Bureau 2008)



Overcoming Stereotypes With The Help Of Advanced Placement

By Dana Mansfield,
DeLaSalle High School
Minneapolis, MN

Because I am a student of color, I sometimes feel like I have to work twice as hard to prove I am an intelligent human being because of what the media portrays. That being said, I feel as though it is almost a necessity for me to take Advanced Placement classes to break the stereotypes and to reach my abilities in the classroom.

I strongly advise students to participate in Advanced Placement programs because not only will they learn about their subject profoundly, but they will

also learn about themselves. With the help of these classes, students will benefit by discovering their strengths and weaknesses, their study habits, and their individual wants and needs. Those who take this class will become better students, better learners, but most importantly they will become better people. It doesn't matter what race you are, how much money you have, or what your parent's do for a living, with the right effort, the right work ethic, and the right attitude, any willing student can thrive in these very demanding classes.



Homeschoolers Can Do PSEO, Too!

By Alyssa Wong
Homeschool Student

I discovered Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) during junior high school. Or perhaps it would be better to say that it was my parents who discovered PSEO? Whatever the case, my parents encouraged me to apply, and I'm happy that they did. Participating in the PSEO program allows a student to enroll in college classes while still in high school. While participating in PSEO, you are granted both high school and college credit. The fantastic part of this is that tuition and books are paid for!

Sometimes prospective PSEO applicants do not apply because they are worried about how they will fit in socially and academically. However, the fact is: while on campus, no one knows you are a PSEO student unless you tell them. Another thing that worries potential applicants, and worried me, is the application process. I think you should know that the application itself isn't that bad, waiting for an answer is the worst part!

The size of college classes can be daunting, but at the University of Minnesota there are usually two parts to your class: a large lecture and a small discussion

section. My Japanese discussion class has only twenty-two students, while my Japanese lecture has sixty-six. The discussion section makes it easier to meet new people and socialize; it also provides a more personal environment with your professor. PSEO students are welcome to participate in the many festivals and events that take place on campus. For example, the Japan Student Association recently hosted a festival in which they served Japanese food, set up games and allowed students to try on kimonos! Occasionally, the PSEO board will set up Friday night activities, usually involving Annie's Parlour (YUM!) and a movie.

High school is a time brimming with excitement and anticipation. Above all, high school is a transitioning time; the time when a young adult leaves the adolescent world and departs into the world of college. The most prominent part of high school is the college application process. PSEO is an extraordinary means of adding that extra sparkle to your college application. As I stated before, while in PSEO, you are technically a college student; PSEO will prepare you for college life. You'll begin college well prepared for the social and academic rigors that college life presents.

Getting any form of college education will help you build a bright future for you and your family. Dual Credit courses can help get you there with free college classes in high school.

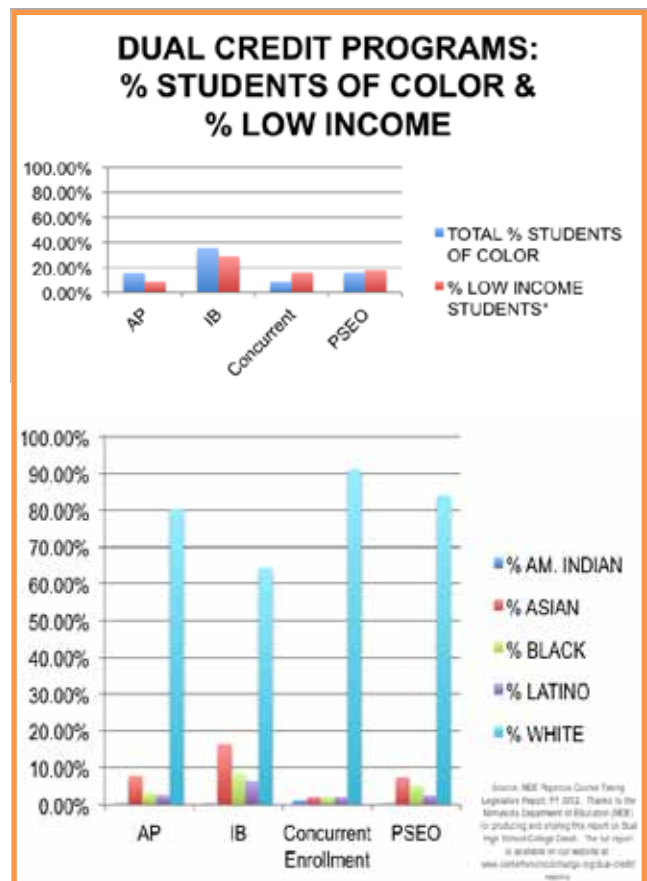
So... Who can take advantage of these wonderful opportunities? You may be surprised:

Who Is Eligible?

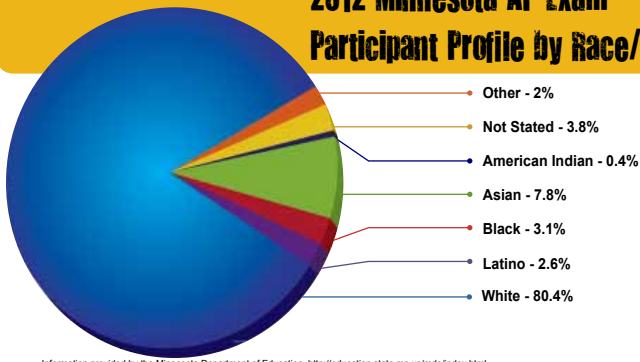
- ~ **EVERY** HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IN MINNESOTA
(From public, charter, private or home-schooled)
- ~ CAN BE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL) - PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP IS **NOT** REQUIRED
- ~ MUST MEET ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS OF PROGRAM
- ~ FULL TIME OR PART TIME
- ~ PARTICIPATE ON HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE CAMPUS

The following figures display the most recent participation rates of MN high school students in AP, IB, CE, and PSEO by race and economic level. These are important figures to share, especially at a time when the state of Minnesota is becoming increasingly more diverse. Part of CSC's work is dedicated to helping increase the number of traditionally underserved students who participate in these programs—students of color and those from low-income families.

A lot of recent research (which is available on our website at: www.centerforschool-change.org/dual-credit/reports) suggests that taking any form of Dual Credit course significantly increases the entrance and success rates of students in college. This impact is especially true for students of color and those from low-income families. Through these Dual Credit courses, students can truly get an immense “Jump Start” on their college education, and in turn, their future.



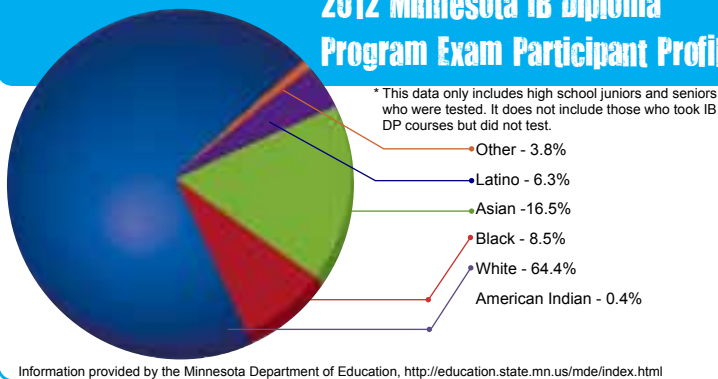
2012 Minnesota AP Exam Participant Profile by Race/Ethnicity



All data comes from the “Rigorous Course Taking” legislative report published by the Minnesota Department of Education in February 2013.

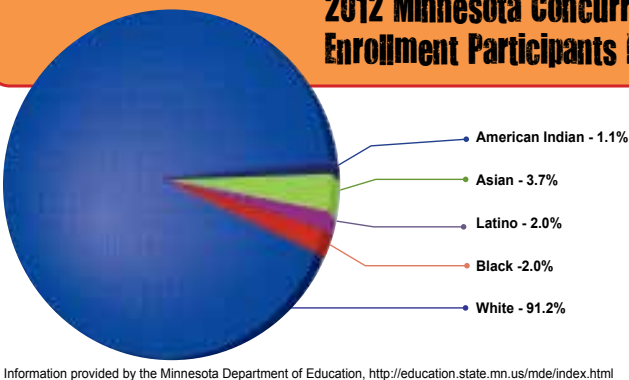
“What are the implications for Minnesota’s achievement gap? Although the percentage of students of color increased significantly in all programs, the percentages remained lower than the overall percentage of students of color in the state (23 percent). This was the case for AP (16 percent of students of color in 2012), PSEO (also 16 percent in 2012), Concurrent Enrollment (9 percent in 2012). The exception was IB, which had 35 percent students of color in the program in 2012.

2012 Minnesota IB Diploma Program Exam Participant Profile

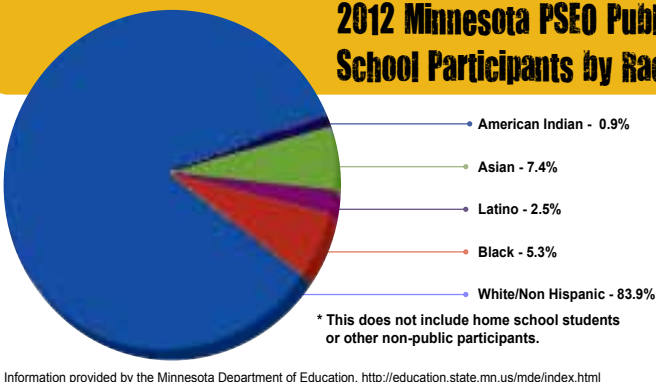


As with racial diversity, socioeconomic diversity for all of the programs increased significantly but remained at or lower than the average for the state. The average enrollment for the state was 29 percent in the Free and Reduced Lunch program over the past six years. The percentage of low-income (2011-2012) student participation in AP was 9 percent, in IB - 29 percent, in PSEO - 16 percent, and in Concurrent Enrollment - 16 percent.”

2012 Minnesota Concurrent Enrollment Participants by Race

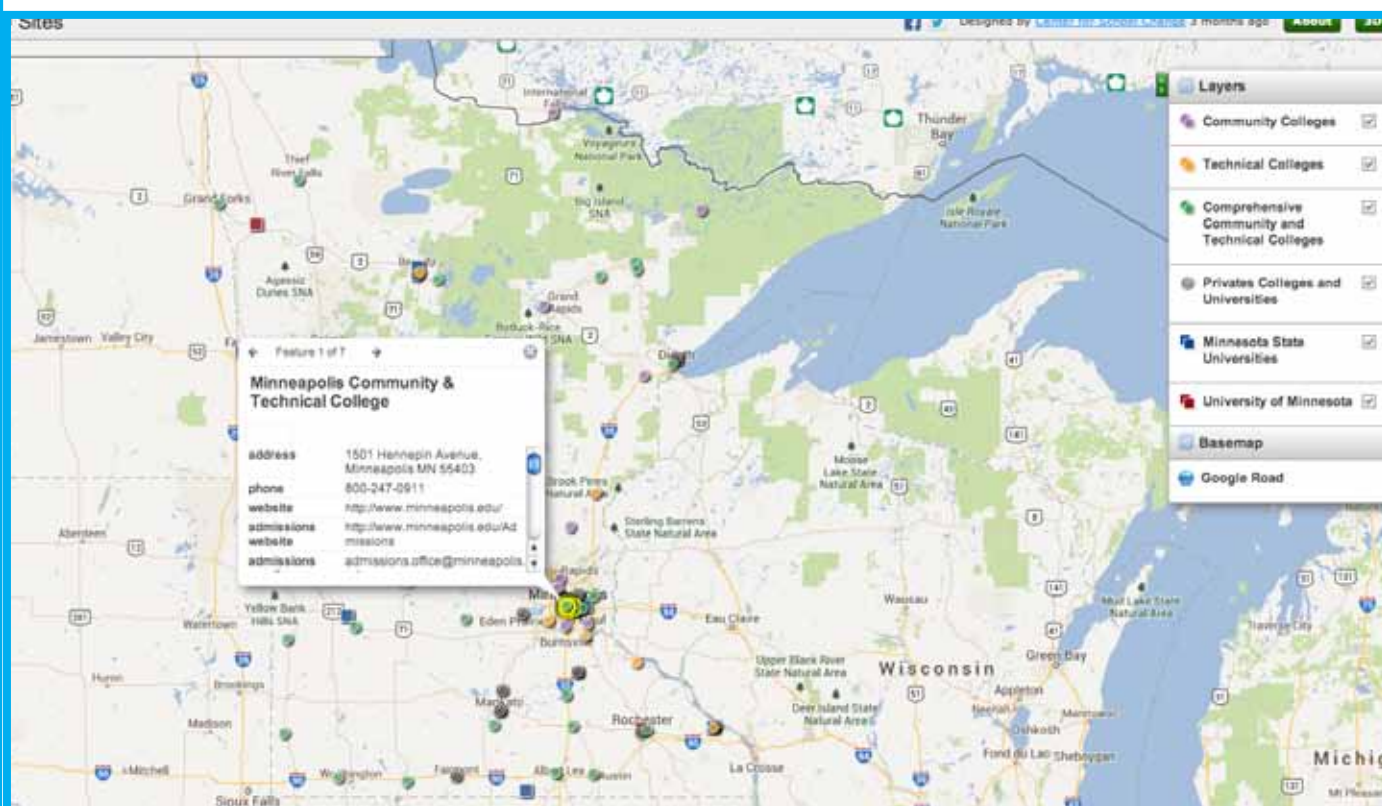


2012 Minnesota PSEO Public School Participants by Race



All of the basic information you need to get started on planning your college education is at your fingertips!!

***CHECK OUT THIS FREE INTERACTIVE MAP:
MN HIGHER ED, DUAL CREDIT POLICIES AND PSEO SITES***



**Go to this free interactive map on our website at
www.centerforschoolchange.org.**

You can find every public and private not-for-profit college and university in the state. When you click on each, an information box pops up with their basic information (address, phone number, website), admissions contact information, and also what forms of Dual Credit they accept. Do they accept AP credits? PSEO credits? IB credits? If yes, from which tests and at what scores?

Visit www.centerforschoolchange.org/dual-credit to learn more about the Dual Credit options near you!

Dual Credit Frequently Asked Questions

How do I find out more information about a dual credit program that I'm interested in?

Start by:

- 1) Checking with one or more colleges/universities if you are interested in taking a PSEO course on their campus (visit their website through the internet).
- 2) Checking in with your high school's registration materials to see if AP, IB, or Concurrent Enrollment (College in the Schools) is available at your high school.
- 3) Meet with your high school counselor to check your progress on graduation requirements and how dual credit courses could fit into your schedule.

It's also a good idea to ask students who you know are currently in a dual credit program because they can give you helpful feedback and insight! Also, **START PLANNING EARLY!!**



"I signed up for two Advanced Placement (AP) courses, United States History and Psychology. These classes helped me prepare for college because it gave me confidence that I could take on any future challenges. They also helped me decide what major I wanted to go into."

--Reginald Gandy, DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis, MN



"During my sophomore year, I visited my counselor multiple times throughout the school year to find out more about PSEO requirements and how to get into a college with PSEO credits. I learned from my visits with my counselor that each college had different requirements for PSEO students. Without the help of a high school counselor, I wouldn't be able to take part in this program and begin my college plan."

- Amy Her, former PSEO student at Park Center High School, Brooklyn Park, MN

Can I take PSEO courses online?

YES!! You can take PSEO courses online through any college and university that offer online courses to PSEO students, from anywhere in the state! And they are still **FREE!**

Some college/universities that offer online college courses to PSEO students are:

Northwestern College, University of Minnesota Morris, Minnesota State Community and Technical College (Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, Moorhead and Wadena), Northland Community and Technical College, Alexandria Technical & Community College and Northwest Technical College.

Do I have to pay to participate in any of the dual credit programs?

NO! These Dual Credit programs are free and available to all eligible students. AP, IB, and Concurrent Enrollment classes are offered at various, but not all, high schools in MN. However, **ALL** MN high school students have the opportunity to participate in PSEO, no matter which high school they attend.

What can participating in a dual credit program do for me?

Many things!

Helpful Resources

For more information on Dual Credit Programs:

Center for School Change

www.centerforschoolchange.org/dual-credit
info@centerforschoolchange.org
651-645-1000 ext. 168 or 169

Minnesota Department of Education

www.education.state.mn.us
www.readysetgo.org
Center for Postsecondary Success
www.mde.postsecondary@state.mn.us
Phone: 651-582-8768

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Karen Hynick
Karen.Hynick@so.mnscu.edu
www.mnscu.edu
Phone: 651-201-1760
Toll Free: 800-456-8519

Minnesota Office of Higher Education

www.ohe.state.mn.us
Phone: 651-642-0567
Toll Free: 800-657-3866

University of Minnesota

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