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Reasons for Early College Credits with a Purpose

Students have access to many early college opportunities through Maine's public universities and community colleges. It is important to make sure students choose their courses with intention. There are many benefits of early college, however, credits without a purpose can have unintended impacts on college plans.



TRANSFERABILITY

- Only the receiving college can confirm whether a course will transfer
- While most credits will transfer as electives, college programs may limit the number of electives students can use
- College programs have specific course requirements and courses outside those requirements may not transfer

FINANCIAL AID

All colleges must follow federal financial aid rules. Many Maine students attend college using Pell Grants and/or federal loans. While most early college activity has no real impact on financial aid, students and families should be aware of these areas:



Satisfactory Academic Progress

- **Grades:** Failing or withdrawing from too many courses can impact the student's financial aid eligibility if they continue at the college where they earned those grades
- **Courses:** Taking too many courses outside of a college program will limit financial aid eligibility

Full-Time Enrollment: Taking too many courses that fill general education requirements may limit the student's ability to be full-time once they get to college, which may limit financial aid eligibility



COLLEGE SUCCESS

- Research has shown that students who take even just 1-2 early college courses benefit from higher college success rates
- Too many unsuccessful courses on a college transcript generated in high school can impact future academic standing or program acceptance
- Doing well in select courses is the best way students can prepare for a college major

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