

# Ridgewater College College in the Schools

An insiders guide for parents of College in the Schools students

## NACEP Accreditation: Why Quality Matters for College in the Schools Classes

In June of 2012, Ridgewater College submitted their application to seek the accreditation of NACEP: the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. In April 2013, Ridgewater received this accreditation.

Since the beginning, Ridgewater has adopted NACEP's 17 accreditation standards for their College in the Schools program. Colleges and universities who seek this accreditation, not only need to implement these standards but need to have their program established for at least 5 years. The standards cover a range of criteria, including the credentialing of faculty, insuring the rigor of the course, as well as additional criteria to keep our high school teachers engaged and prepared.

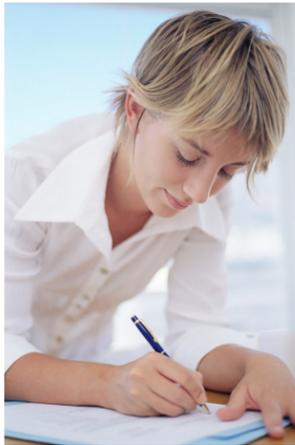
"NACEP works to ensure that college courses taught by high school teachers are as rigorous as courses offered on the sponsoring college campus. As the sole accrediting body for concurrent enrollment partnerships, NACEP helps these programs adhere to the highest standards so students experience a seamless transition to college and teachers benefit from meaningful, ongoing professional development." (NACEP website)

In short, a college that implements the 17 standards is making quality education a top priority for College in the Schools courses.

## Enroll Today!

Enrolling your student into College in the Schools is as easy as 1, 2, 3....

- 1** Download the PSEO application from the Ridgewater website (all students in CiS courses complete the PSEO application).
- 2** Complete the application, including a signature from the high school counselor (or school representative) and transcript.
- 3** Make arrangements with Ridgewater to take the Accuplacer exam (if your student hasn't already or if the school hasn't made arrangements). Applications are due at exam time.\*



\*Students in the Nursing Assistant and KCEO course are exempt from taking the Accuplacer exam.

## Parents Should:

- Know the differences between PSEO, AP, and College in the Schools
- Know that class expectations are often higher and more intense in these classes
- Celebrate the way College in the Schools helps students prepare for—and succeed in—college
- Know the consequences of withdrawing from a course or earning a grade below a "C"

*Further information regarding these points are explained within this document...*



## Inside You'll Find...

College Credit Options P.2

Cost factors P.2

Benefits of College in the Schools P.3

How to apply P.4

## Welcome!

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Ridgewater College, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family! Making the decision to take college courses while still in high school is a big step. This publication will answer frequently asked questions and provide you with important information that you need to know about College in the Schools.

Currently, Ridgewater College has College in the Schools partnerships with a variety of high schools in the area, offering a variety of courses including Biology, Chemistry, English, Agriculture, History, Marketing & Sales Management, and Nursing Assistant. We pride ourselves on providing good customer service and building quality relationships between our faculty, staff, high school teachers, students and parents.

If at any time you have questions, please feel free to contact me.  
Sincerely,

Kelley McClure Mork  
Special Projects Coordinator  
Ridgewater College  
kelley.mccluremork@ridgewater.edu  
320-222-5210  
www.ridgewater.edu/cis



**RIDGEWATER**  
COLLEGE

a community and technical college

## Grades Matter

Did you know that grades earned in a college class **follow** the student for their entire college career, and may affect their college GPA? This includes course work taken through CiS classes.

Students who fail courses, withdraw (showing a “W” on their college transcript) or have unresolved incompletes put their college career in jeopardy. The same is true if students earn a “D”.

### How does this have a negative impact?

- If a student is applying for financial aid, it can impact their eligibility.
- It can potentially put the student on **academic probation**, meaning they are starting their college career on the wrong foot.
- It could impact their acceptance to other colleges, regardless of how well they've done in their other high school classes.

### What can parents do?

- Know your school's withdrawal deadline. Sometimes a withdrawal can happen early enough without showing on their transcript.
- If your child is struggling in a class, have them speak with the teacher and discuss strategies for success.



## College in the Schools, AP, PSEO. What's the difference?

While it may seem small, there is a difference between these 3 options for college credit.

It sounds like alphabet soup: CiS, AP, PSEO. For a student, the options are exciting; being able to earn college credit while in high school! For a parent, it is important to know the difference between the three to help your child make the best choices for their success:

### AP:

- Advance Placement (AP) are high school classes that meet specific criteria in their course content and instructors attend special training to teach these courses.
- The goal of AP courses are to prepare the student for college level work, with the possibility of earning college credit after successfully passing the AP exam.
- Some high schools do have eligibility requirements (class rank or scores on a standardized test, for example).
- Each college is different on what score they'll accept and if it will result in college credit.
- *In short: AP classes are not a guarantee for college credit.*

### PSEO:

- Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) allows high school students to take classes at the college for little or no cost.
- Students commute to the college and take a course taught by a college faculty member.
- The student earns college credit as well as high school credit.
- Sometimes schools work with colleges to offer PSEO in the high school, where the class is taught by a college faculty member.
- Students must meet admissions requirements, including passing scores on the *Accuplacer* exam.

### CiS:

- College in the Schools (CiS) allows students to take a college level course, taught at the high school, by a qualified high school teacher.
- The student earns college credit as well as high school credit.
- The teacher is eligible to teach the course because they hold the same degrees and credentials as a college faculty member.
- Teachers are mentored by a college faculty member, who helps the high school teacher in preparing a course that is of the same rigor as the college course.
- Students must meet the same admissions requirements as those in PSEO, including passing scores on the *Accuplacer* exam.



## The Benefits of College in the Schools...

Each summer, Ridgewater surveys former students who took CiS classes, concentrating on students who are 1 year and 4 years out of the program. Through the surveys we have learned:

- 100% of the students surveyed attended college after high school
- 97% of students surveyed were able to transfer their CiS credits toward their degree, reducing completion time and total cost of their degree
- 100% of students surveyed maintained a GPA of 3.0 (“B” average) or higher. 47% of these students reported a GPA of between 3.6 and 4.0.

Students reported that College in the Schools prepared them for college by:

- Strengthening their writing skills
- Strengthening their public speaking skills
- Developing a more realistic expectation about the rigor of college courses
- Improving their confidence & ability to succeed
- Strengthening their study habits

## College courses don't always mean transfer credit

Your child took a class as part of PSEO or CiS. They earned an A. Upon graduation, they decided to apply at a different college. They obtained their transcripts from Ridgewater and submitted their application. Upon review, it was determined that the class they took at Ridgewater would not transfer in.

Why not?  
It's a college course!

Here's what you need to know:

- If a class does not transfer it does not mean that your child took a “weak course.”
- While the course may have the same title (Animal Science, for example) it is likely that the course

REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	A			
WRITING/COMMUNICATIVE SKILLS	A			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	C			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	B			
SOCIAL STUDIES	B			
ART	A			
MUSIC	A			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C			
Grade Average	B			
Attendance	Present	Excused	Unexcused	
Behavior	Good	Fair	Poor	
<small>           A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = 50-59%         </small>				

content was different, so credit could not be given.

- Check their transfer credit policy; some schools only allow a specific number of credits to transfer in.

Transfer credits are up to the college the student chooses to attend. It is always in your best interest to learn about their transfer credit policy **BEFORE** your child applies to their school of choice.

If you feel that there was a mistake, ask to appeal the decision. Students are encouraged to keep their course materials for this exact reason. Review the *Transfer Credit* handout included in this packet for more details.

## The Cost Factor

Parents can rest easy knowing that the cost for classes taken as part of College in the Schools is **minimal, often costing the family nothing out of pocket.**

Of the classes that are currently offered in CiS, the out of pocket expense has been minimal, often using items that you may already have on hand (like a calculator or extra notebook for an assignment). The cost of the class, books, and any fees have been covered by the school or the school district. Not only does this make CiS a desirable option, it may also shorten your child's time in college—saving money in the long run.

*Nursing Assistant students are required to have proper attire & reliable transportation.*