

EARLY ADMISSION FAQs

Q. What is Early Admission?

A. Early Admission (EA) is a one-year, full-time program for rising seniors. Students spend their senior year attending all classes at SPC campuses, completing high school graduation requirements while earning credits toward a college degree. There is no cost for application, tuition or textbooks.

Q. What is the cost to participate in EA?

A. There is no cost for application, tuition, or required textbooks. Textbooks are loaned to students by PCS and must be returned at the end of each semester.

Q. How do I qualify for EA?

A. Qualified students are required to earn passing scores on the [College Placement Test, PERT or PSAT/SAT/ACT/CLT](#) and hold an unweighted high school GPA of 3.0+. Student must have been enrolled in a Pinellas County public high school for a minimum of one term immediately prior to entering the EA Program.

Q. How do I get started?

A. All EA students must [complete an online application](#) for one of our high school programs to get an SPC ID number and SPC e-mail address. There is no residency/citizenship required for EA students, and the application fee is waived upon enrollment. Carefully review the [Early Admission Program guidelines](#). See your high school counselor for instructions on how to apply through the PCS Student Reservation System and to be sure you meet all necessary requirements.

Q. How will students be chosen to attend EA?

A. Students who meet the entrance criteria and whose completed EA application packet is received by the ECP/EA and PCS staff on or before **the established January/February deadlines** will be eligible to be entered into the lottery. The computer-generated lottery will create a list of students who will be invited to attend EA, as well as a waitlist. As an opening occurs, students will be invited to attend EA in the order they appear on the waitlist.

Q. Where are the EA classes held?

A. Classes are held at the Clearwater, Seminole, St. Petersburg/Gibbs, and Tarpon Springs Campuses of SPC. Classes may not be taken at the high school.

Q. Can I apply for EA at multiple campuses?

A. No. EA applicants must choose one campus. Each campus has 40 seats available. If you are not selected for your chosen campus and are placed on the waitlist and a spot becomes available at a different campus, you may be given the option to take that available spot or remain on the waitlist for your original campus choice.

Q. Can I still participate in the extracurricular activities or athletic programs at my high school?

A. Yes! Students are encouraged to maintain a connection with their assigned high school. Participation in extracurricular activities, including athletics, must be after school hours.

- Q. Are EA students able to participate in extracurricular activities on the SPC campus?**
- A. Yes! EA students are strongly encouraged to be actively involved in the SPC community by participating in student clubs, organizations, and extracurricular activities.
- Q. What if my student is not zoned for their current high school? At which high school could they participate in extracurricular activities?**
- A. Your student could participate in extracurricular activities/athletics/student organizations at the high school they left prior to coming into ECP, as long as the activities occur after school hours.
- Q. Will my credits from SPC transfer to other Florida colleges and universities?**
- A. Yes, your credits will be fully transferable within the state of Florida; however, for private or out-of-state schools, you should contact that school to inquire.
- Q. What academic and/or student resources are available at SPC?**
- A. SPC provides a variety of academic resources aimed at student success including:
- SPC instructors have office hours for one-on-one student help.
 - Libraries and Learning Centers on each campus offer resources and free tutoring.
 - Students can map out their classes in SPC's My Learning Plan software.
 - New students can also register to take a one-hour orientation that includes a tour of their home campus so they'll know where to get the services they need to succeed.
 - A [Technical Support Center](#) is available at 727-341-HELP (4357) for help in MyCourses (SPC's Learning Management System) and other technology issues.
 - If you have hearing or vision loss, a chronic illness, an emotional, learning or physical disability, or need assistance with life issues, SPC offers a variety of [Student Support Resources](#) to meet student needs, including [Accessibility Services](#) and [Student Assistance Programs](#).
- Q. As an EA student, where would I go for resolution of an academic or non-academic issue?**
- A. SPC is committed to providing a prompt and fair resolution of all student concerns, whether inside the classroom or outside the classroom. The [Student Complaints](#) site will help guide you through the College's procedures to help you get resolution.
- Q. Is the high school Seminar class a "real class"?**
- A. Yes. Seminar meets once a week for one hour. You are expected to complete all class assignments related to the course requirements, and you will receive a grade for the class, which is reflected on the high school transcript.
- Q. Am I permitted to work while enrolled in EA?**
- A. Yes, but it is highly recommended you focus on your academics and make that your first priority.
- Q. Is transportation provided for EA students?**
- A. All students are responsible for their own transportation; however, PSTA offers free bus rides for SPC students who have an ID badge and are currently enrolled.
- Q. Is lunch provided to my student? He/she gets free/reduced lunch at school.**
- A. No, your student is responsible for getting his/her own lunch. There is a café on every SPC campus.

Q. Will my participation in EA affect my status in a Magnet Program?

A. Yes. Because EA is considered a special program, EA students are not permitted to be enrolled in multiple programs.

Q. Does the PCS Code of Conduct pertain to me?

A. At SPC, all EA students must abide by guidelines in the Student Performance Contract. If you visit your high school for any activities, you must abide by the high school's Code of Conduct.

Q. If I don't like the Early Admission Program, can I return to my high school?

A. Students can only return to their high school after semester break, and only to their assigned school. Students cannot return to a magnet program or application school.

Q. Will my student still be eligible for Bright Futures?

A. Yes, as long as your student meets eligibility requirements.

Q. What courses do I need to complete before entering into Early Admission?

A. You need to have completed 1.0 credit each of HOPE, Geometry, Biology, and World History. Refer to the [Early Admission webpage](#) for more detail.

Q. Is it possible to get my AA degree through EA?

A. This depends on how many credits you took under Dual Enrollment prior to entering EA. An AA degree requires 60 credits. EA will satisfy approximately 30 of those credits.

Q. As an EA student, if I desire to remain at SPC after I graduate high school, what do I need to do to become a traditional SPC student?

A. We would be glad for you to remain a student at SPC after you've met all high school graduation requirements. Please go to the [SPC Supplemental Application](#) to complete the steps necessary for a successful transition from Early Admission student to traditional SPC student. You will then need to meet with an SPC Academic Advisor on your home campus to complete the required steps to enroll.

Q. How do I learn more?

A. Plan to attend an Information Session in November or January during your junior year. Watch the website and your U.S. mail for details. Further details can be found on the [Early Admission Program website](#).