COLLEGE NOW STUDENT GUIDE

Welcome to College Now!





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WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to College Now! The College Now program through Central Oregon Community College (COCC) lets you earn college credit while you're still in high school. You'll take College Now courses right at your high school, taught by teachers approved by COCC. The best part? These classes fit right into your regular school schedule. You have transfer course options like math, writing, and history as well as hands-on career and technical education courses like automotive technology, criminal justice, and culinary. To see which College Now courses are available at your high school, visit COCC's College Now website.

College Now benefits include:

- Conveniently taught at your high school during school hours
- Earn both high school and college credit
- Save time and money (only \$25 per credit)
- Get a jump start on college coursework
- Explore new careers and areas of interest

We are excited to have you be a part of the College Now program!

Sincerely,

COCC's College Now Team

TYPES OF COURSES (TRANSFER VS CTE)

Transfer Courses

The College Now program offers transfer courses (also called lower-division collegiate) which are designed to transfer to community colleges, colleges and universities. Many of these classes fulfill requirements for the AAOT (Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer) degree which is designed so that you can easily transfer to an Oregon public university to pursue a bachelor's degree. If and how College Now courses transfer is up to the receiving institution. We recommend you check with the college or university you plan to attend to see how credits earned through COCC will transfer and apply. You can also see how COCC courses will transfer using Transferology which is a free tool that provides a quick way of seeing how courses will transfer.

Career Technical Education (CTE) Courses

The College Now program offers Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses which lead to a certificate or degree and are designed for entry into the workforce. CTE courses offer skills and hands-on education. Options include courses in automotive, business, criminal justice, culinary, hospitality, early childhood education, and manufacturing. While CTE courses are not designed to meet degree requirements at four-year colleges, most Oregon Public Universities accept up to 12 credits of CTE courses. Check with specific colleges and universities about transferring these credits to their institutions.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR COLLEGE NOW COURSES

Step 1: Submit the College Now online registration form located on COCC's College Now
website (select your high school). Registering for a College Now course can take as little as 5 minutes. Registration takes place after you start your College Now course at your high school.

Only students scheduled into College Now courses at your high school are able to register.

Please see College Now dates and deadlines to view when registration opens and closes at your high school.

Step 2: Activate Your COCC Bobcat Web Account. You will need to activate your account to verify your registration, pay for your College Now courses, to view your grades, print unofficial

transcripts and request official transcripts. Please view <u>COCC's College Now Student Resources</u> webpage for instructions and video tutorials on how to activate your account.

Step 3: Pay for your College Now courses (see below).

HOW TO PAY FOR YOUR COLLEGE NOW COURSES

All College Now courses are \$25 per credit and payment is due after your registration is processed (1-2 business days). You will receive an email with payment information once your registration has been processed. Your parent/guardian will receive the same information if you entered an email for them on the registration form.

To pay online, you will first need to <u>activate your Bobcat Web Account</u>. You can also pay over the phone by calling COCC's cashier line at 541-383-7229. If you have a financial barrier, connect with your high school counselor to see if there are scholarships or other sources of funding available. Students who have a balance due will not be able to register for future COCC College Now courses or standard COCC courses until the balance is paid. Please see <u>How to Make a Payment (Video)</u> for more information.

COLLEGE NOW CONSIDERATIONS

Credits with a Purpose

Earning college credits while still in high school is a great opportunity, however, credits should fit into your future plan of study or major to provide the greatest benefit. Poor grades can impact admission into colleges/universities and future financial aid eligibility. Below you will find additional information on financial aid considerations as well as information on how courses transfer.

Financial Aid Considerations

There may be future financial aid implications for unsatisfactory academic progress (grade of D, F or W) in a College Now class. Unsatisfactory academic progress includes a cumulative college GPA below 2.0 and a cumulative completion rate below 66.67% of calculated credits at the end

of each term. When the student applies for federal financial aid, the Financial Aid office at the college evaluates all grades and credits on their transcript. That will include grades and credits attempted in COCC College Now courses.

In addition, students are limited to financial aid eligibility for 150% of the published credit length of a selected academic program. All credits on the student's transcript, including college credits attempted in high school, count toward the 150% limit for their selected program. The limit is approximately 135 credits for a two-year degree. It is also important to note that the Oregon Promise scholarship covers up to 90 credits, including any credits earned in while high school.

COLLEGE NOW GRADING POLICY

High school teachers certify your course completion based upon your mastery of required articulated course outcomes. You are graded according to these pre-determined course outcome requirements. Course grading is explained on the course syllabus your teacher gives you at the beginning of the course. The COCC Grading Policy is followed for all classes. Please see COCC's Grading Policy for a list of grades, the grading scale and additional information.

DROPPING A COLLEGE NOW COURSE

If you are doing poorly in a College Now course, you may drop the course to avoid having a poor grade on your college transcript. Please view <u>COCC's College Now website</u> to view drop deadlines specific to your high school and to access the needed drop form.

Refunds

COCC will issue a refund if you drop a College Now course by the stated College Now drop deadline. Please note, there is no refund when withdrawing from a College Now course. There is a petition process available in cases of exceptional circumstance where you were unable to drop a course by the stated deadline and/or would like to request a refund of College Now fees.

Please view the <u>College Now Dates and Deadlines webpage</u> for drop and withdraw deadlines or contact COCC's College Now office at <u>collegenow@cocc.edu</u> for more information.

PRIVACY AND YOUR STUDENT RECORDS

Now that you're a college student, your records are protected, even from your parents. You can provide a release for your parents/guardians or other non-college entities by completing and signing the "Release of Information" section on the College Now registration form. Please view COCC's FERPA Privacy Policy for additional information.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I COMPLETE MY COLLEGE NOW COURSE?

After you complete your College Now course, you will be issued a COCC grade. The course will be recorded on your COCC academic transcript, which is your official record of courses, grades, and credits awarded. Through the official transcript, the courses can be used to meet COCC certificate or degree requirements or may be transferred to many other community colleges and universities in Oregon and across the country.

Viewing your Grade(s)

COCC will transcript credits and post grades to your <u>Bobcat Web Account</u> after your high school instructor enters final grades. Grades are posted at the end of each COCC term (approximately five days after COCC's finals week). Please see <u>COCC's College Now Dates and Deadlines</u> <u>webpage</u> for official dates when grades are posted. View <u>How to View Your Grades</u> for more information.

How to View/Print Your Unofficial Transcript

You can view and print an unofficial COCC transcript at no cost from your <u>Bobcat Web Account</u>. View <u>COCC's Transcript Request webpage</u> for instructions on viewing and printing an unofficial transcript.

How to Request an Official Transcript

Request an official transcript through your <u>Bobcat Web Account</u> or through <u>COCC's Transcript</u> <u>Request webpage</u>. Both places direct you to the National Student Clearinghouse to order an official transcript. Official transcripts are \$7 each.

How College Now Courses Transfer

Credits earned through College Now are regular COCC credits which are transferable to community colleges, colleges and universities. If and how College Now courses transfer is up to the receiving institution. It is important that you check with the college or university you plan to attend to see how credits earned through COCC will transfer and apply. On COCC's How College Now Courses Transfer webpage, you will find links to each Oregon Public University transfer equivalency tool. Colleges and Universities usually have a similar tool posted to their website if you are not transferring to an Oregon Public University. You can also see how COCC courses will transfer using Transferology which is a free tool that provides a quick way of seeing how your courses will transfer.

Student Course Evaluation

As part of our commitment to continually improving COCC's College Now program, you will be invited to participate via an online course and program evaluation/survey for each College Now course you are registered into when the course concludes. The evaluation/survey is anonymous and results will be shared with each College Now High School instructor <u>after</u> final grades are posted.

Other COCC High School Options

Do you want to take additional credit courses through COCC in addition to College Now? You have the opportunity to take credit courses on COCC's Bend, Redmond, Prineville or Madras campus or online through concurrent enrollment. Visit COCC's High School Options webpage for more information. Please note that College Now is a unique program that doesn't require official admission to the college. If you want to take classes at a COCC campus or online, you'll need to apply to COCC and complete the enrollment steps.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please reach out to the <u>COCC College Now office</u> if you have any questions. We are happy to help!

RESOURCES

- College Now FAQ
- Intro to College Now (Video)
- How to Register for a College Now Course (Video)
- Activating Your COCC Account (Video)
- Accessing Your Bobcat Web Account
- Grading Policy (PDF)
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- <u>Consumer Information</u>
- College Now Contact Information