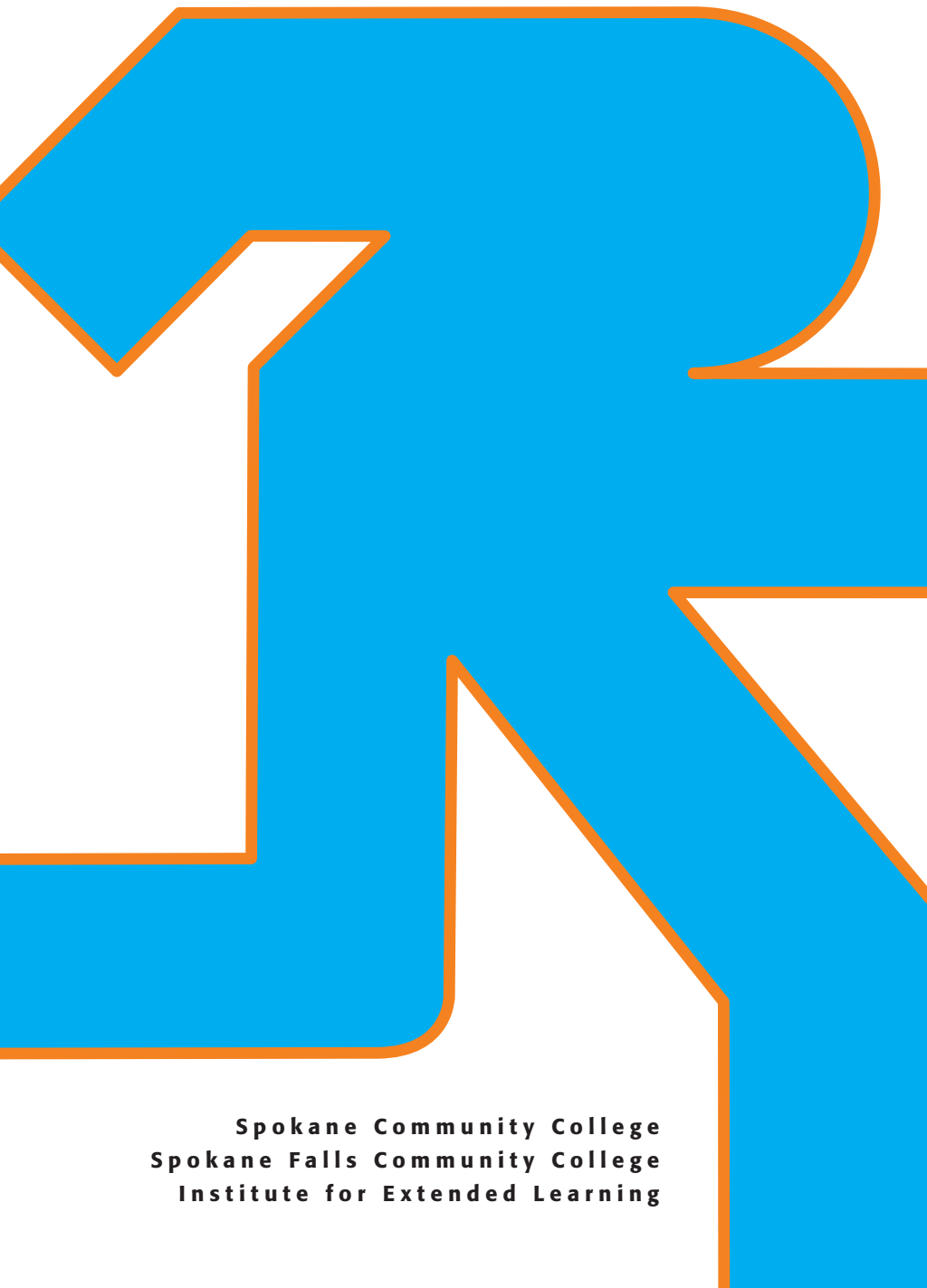
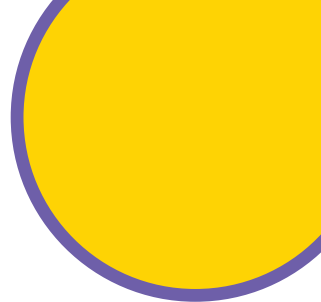


COMMUNITY COLLEGES OF SPOKANE

Running Start Guide



Spokane Community College
Spokane Falls Community College
Institute for Extended Learning



Every year, thousands of high school juniors and seniors in Washington earn tuition-free college credit through **Running Start**. You could be one of them! Spokane Community College, Spokane Falls Community College and our Institute for Extended Learning rural education centers make it convenient for you to get a Running Start on your college education close to home. Our counselors guide you through the process. You'll benefit from our small classes and dedicated instructors. And, you'll find an exciting variety of challenging courses to choose.





What is Running Start?

If you're eligible, Running Start allows you to take college-level classes that not only earn college credit but also count toward your high school graduation requirements. Be sure to check with your high school counselor about your school district's graduation requirements.

You may choose to take a combination of high school and college classes. Or you may decide to attend college full time. Either way, you'll save on college tuition.

Is Running Start Right for You?

Successful Running Start students have good study skills, self discipline and motivation. You'll need the maturity and initiative to attend class and participate at the same level as regular college students. Ask your parents, teachers and high school and college counselors for help to decide if you should enroll in the program. Consider these important points:

Academics

Spokane Community College, Spokane Falls Community College and the Institute for Extended Learning offer hundreds of challenging courses, all taught at a faster pace than high school classes. Our classes cover as much material in one quarter as most high school classes cover in a year. Often, classes require up to two hours of out-of-class study per course credit per week. All Running Start grades become part of your permanent college transcript.

You also are responsible for completing all high school graduation requirements, including your culminating project. Ten percent of our Running Start students earn associate's degrees and high school diplomas at the same time.

You'll definitely get a Running Start on your four-year degree. Generally, the college credits you earn transfer to all other Washington state public colleges and universities, according to the guidelines of those institutions. To be sure the courses you take will transfer, work with your counselor at the community college and the next institution you plan to attend.

Finances

Through Running Start, your college-level classes are tuition-free up to 18 credits each quarter. You just pay the cost of books*, supplies, non-course related fees) and transportation to and from college. You can save thousands of dollars in tuition.

If you do register for below-100 level classes or for more than 18 credits, you simply pay resident tuition. See current CCS tuition rates at www.ccs.spokane.edu.

* Some Running Start students may qualify to receive up to \$100 per quarter from the CCS Foundation to help with the cost of textbooks. Ask your high school counselor to complete a Running Start Financial Support Application, available online at www.ccs.spokane.edu in the Students section.

Personal

Running Start can open new and exciting frontiers in your academic, social and personal life, while you continue to participate in high school sports, music, clubs or other extracurricular activities. However, you inevitably will miss some of the “high school experience.”

Since we operate on a quarter system, college and high school holidays and vacation periods often differ. You’ll be expected to attend your college classes even though your high school isn’t in session. And, you’ll need to plan carefully to avoid conflicts with family and school activities. Because of this, it’s best to begin Running Start in the fall.

College Life

Once you begin Running Start, you have all the freedoms and responsibilities of a regular college student. You can pick your own classes, join clubs and participate in activities. You are responsible for following the CCS student code of conduct, attending class, seeking academic help, and addressing any problems you may have directly with your instructors.

Community Colleges of Spokane is required by law – the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) – to keep student records confidential. Without your written permission, we won’t share your student records with anyone but you (or appropriate college employees). Your parents cannot contact instructors or counselors on your behalf. College instructors are not informed of your age or Running Start status.

It’s also important for you and your parents to realize that your college classes may cover a wide variety of sensitive subjects, including sex, violence and religion. After all, in Running Start, you’re a college student.

Are You Eligible for Running Start?

You’re eligible to enroll in Running Start if:

- You are under age 21 at the beginning of the school year.
- You are currently registered in a Washington public school district. If you are a private or home school student, you must register with – but not necessarily attend – the public school district in which you live.
- You are in 11th or 12th grade by the first quarter of Running Start. (Your high school determines your grade status.)
- You achieve college-level scores on the college’s assessment tests.

Here’s How You Apply.

Application and Testing Steps:

1. Contact your public high school counselor for a CCS Application for Admissions form and a Running Start Student Application Procedures sheet. Visit www.ccs.spokane.edu and click on Students to find and preview these documents.

You may apply any time, but we recommend the dates below. This allows plenty of time for us to determine your eligibility and for you to register as early as possible, giving you the best chance of getting the classes you want.

Fall QuarterMarch 1 to May 15

Winter QuarterOctober 1 to November 22

Spring QuarterJanuary 3 to February 15

NOTE: Admission to the college does not guarantee acceptance into certain classes or programs.

2. Send an official copy of your high school transcript with your application to Spokane Community College, Spokane Falls Community College or the Institute for Extended Learning.
3. Follow the instructions you'll receive from the college to schedule and take the ASSET or COMPASS assessment, which costs \$20, due at the time of testing.

Registration Steps

1. Fill out the Running Start Course Recommendation Form. Your high school counselor will help you know which courses meet your high school's graduation requirements.
2. Meet with your Running Start counselor at SCC, SFCC or the IEL prior to registration. Their names and telephone numbers are on the back of this brochure.
3. Register for classes at your appointed time. You'll receive appointment information by mail.
4. Buy your books before the first day of class at the college bookstore or online: www.bookstore.spokane.cc.wa.us

Congratulations!

You're on your way to college.

Parents, Take Note

Created by the Washington State Legislature, the Running Start program gives students the opportunity to earn tuition-free college credit while still in high school. It's a tremendous opportunity for you to save on college tuition.

Please read this entire brochure carefully. Go to our website — www.ccs.spokane.edu — for more details. Talk with your student's high school teachers and advisers as well as our college counselors about Running Start.

Students must maintain a grade-point average above 2.0 to maintain good academic standing. Students may face dismissal if they are academically deficient for three consecutive quarters.

Above all, remember, as a Running Start student, your son or daughter is considered a regular college student responsible for his or her education. You can't interact with college faculty or staff on his or her behalf. If you feel any aspects of Running Start are unacceptable, then it is not the right program for you and your family. However, if you feel your student would flourish in a college environment, encourage him or her to apply today.



Running Start Contacts

Spokane Community College

Gretchen Ford(509) 533-8062

Spokane Falls Community College

Doug Morgan(509) 533-3524

Institute for Extended Learning

Colville Center

Suzanne McCurdy(509) 685-2120

Newport Center

Pat McGinty(509) 447-3835

Whitman County Center

Della Blahak(509) 332-2706

Community Colleges of Spokane

District Director of Outreach

Travis Merrigan(509) 434-5162

Community Colleges of Spokane does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age in its programs, activities and employment. Marketing and Public Relations. February 2007.

Spokane Community College
Spokane Falls Community College
Institute for Extended Learning



Dream. Discover. Do!