

PC College and Career Start

A Pathway to Your Future

Program Overview

PC College and Career Start (PCCS) is a partnership between Putnam County High School (PCHS) and Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) that allows qualified seniors to earn college credit while completing their high school diploma. Through this program, students take college courses at IVCC on a part-time basis while remaining enrolled at PCHS for their required high school classes.

This opportunity provides motivated students with a head start on their college education and exposure to the expectations of higher-level learning, all while staying connected to PCHS activities and support.

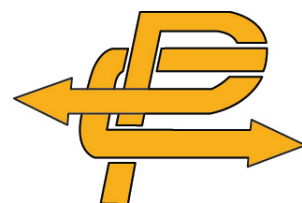
Eligibility and Program Requirements

- Be in senior standing at PCHS as of August 1 of the academic year.
- Have earned at least 21.5 credits and be on track for graduation.
- Students must have earned at least a composite score of 18 on the ACT (or PreACT) score prior to May 1 of their junior year. Students who choose to retake the ACT over the summer to better their score will be considered for enrollment in PCCS for 2nd semester.
- Students must have 18 service-learning hours accepted by the end of junior year.
- Submit a complete application and 500-word essay outlining academic and career goals.
- Participate in a monthly check-in with the PCHS school counselor during each semester of IVCC enrollment to ensure academic progress and graduation alignment.
- Maintain strong academic performance throughout participation and completion of PCHS graduation requirements.
- Students' disciplinary and attendance records will be considered for enrollment in PCCS.
 - Students receive a program overview near the start of junior year. Those with academic, behavioral, or attendance concerns may be required to complete a Counseling Support Agreement outlining expectations.
 - Students must meet all terms of the agreement to remain eligible. Failure to do so will result in loss of program eligibility.

Program Guidelines

To ensure academic success, the following guidelines apply:

- Students may only enroll in IVCC courses on a part-time basis.
- Courses offered at PCHS must be taken at PCHS.
 - English must be taken at PCHS to meet graduation requirements.
- No credit will be given for IVCC courses that begin with "0".
- The number of IVCC courses permitted each semester will be determined by the student's overall GPA as follows:



<u>Student's GPA</u>	<u>Maximum Number of IVCC Courses</u>	<u>Minimum Number of PCHS Courses Required</u>
Above 4.0	4	1
3.5 - 3.99	3	2
3.0 - 3.49	2	3
Below 3.0	1	4

Students choosing less IVCC courses will still enroll in a course load that completes PCHS graduation requirements.

**** Final approval of student's semester schedule is granted by the PCHS Counselor and Principal. ****

Application Process

- Complete this PCCS Application and return signed agreement form to PCHS counselor
- Attend a visit to tour IVCC.
- Complete and submit the PC College and Career Start Application (below and attached).
- Write a 500-word essay outlining academic and career goals, experiences, and interests.
- Complete the IVCC Application (available on the IVCC website).
- Take IVCC placement tests (if required).
- Attend a required advising session with an IVCC counselor.
- Develop a two-semester education plan with guidance from IVCC and PCHS counselors.

Ongoing Student Responsibilities

- Register for IVCC and PCHS courses in accordance with program requirements.
- Submit a copy of their IVCC class schedule to the PCHS Guidance Office prior to the start of the semester.
- Provide a copy of their IVCC transcript (or official IVCC grades) at the end of each semester.
- Meet with the PCHS counselor at least once per month to ensure academic progress and graduation alignment.

**** Failure to meet these expectations may result in removal from the program and could affect high school graduation status. ****

PC College and Career Start Application

Application & Checklist

- Total credits earned by end of junior year: _____
- Complete IVCC application and request transcript be sent. _____
- Complete IVCC placement testing (if required). _____
- Meet with an IVCC academic counselor for help selecting courses. _____
- Submit this completed PC College and Career Start Application. _____
- Attach a 500-word essay describing goals, experiences, passions, and interests. _____
- Create and submit a two-semester education plan. _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

IVCC Academic Counselor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Agreement and Acknowledgment

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Signatures on this form constitute approval and acceptance of the following statements:

1. IVCC and PCHS reserve the right to determine admission to college and/or certain classes.
2. Courses that are offered and required at Putnam County High School must be taken at PCHS.
3. The student agrees to complete all high school graduation requirements.
4. The high school is the final authority on high school graduation requirements. Students must work closely with the high school counselor to ensure that graduation requirements are met.
5. It is understood that it is the student's responsibility to ensure that college courses completed as part of PCCS will also meet high school requirements and failure to complete the courses may result in the student not graduating from Putnam County High School.
6. The parent/guardian and student understand that if the student does not successfully complete the PCCS courses, the student may not meet high school graduation requirements.
7. The student and/or parent/guardian is responsible for the payment of tuition, fees, books and consumable supplies, lab fees, transportation, and any other related educational expenses.
8. The student and parent/guardian have read and understand the FERPA policy found on IVCC's website.
9. The parent/guardian and the student understand that the student is expected to participate fully in all course activities, including labs, exposure to alternative viewpoints, and the possibility of material of an adult nature.
10. The parent/guardian and student understand that Putnam County High School is not liable for the student's health and safety when the student has left the high school campus.
11. The student agrees to attend an IVCC Student Counseling session. The student agrees to meet with an IVCC academic advisor once each semester and the PC counselor once each month for counseling of future course work.
12. The student agrees to allow PCHS Counselor and Administrator access to IVCC grades.
13. The student agrees to provide an IVCC transcript to Putnam County High School after each semester.
14. Signature by both individuals also indicates recognition that the student will provide his/her own transportation to and from all events associated with PC College Start. By providing such transportation, the student and/or parent/guardian assumes all responsibilities associated with costs for transportation, including but not limited to, mileage, insurance, and accidentals.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

PCHS Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

PCHS Counselor Signature: _____ Date: _____