College Credit Opportunities

Overview

Pella Christian is pleased to continue facilitating opportunities with Calvin University, the Career Academy of Pella (partnering with DMACC & William Penn), College Board (Advanced Placement), DMACC, and Dordt University for our students to earn college credits while in high school, including in-person, online and testing opportunities. Through these arrangements, students can earn college credits at costs significantly lower than those charged to traditional college students.

Students pursuing college credit while in high school receive high school credit AND college credit for a class. These credits will appear on the student's Pella Christian transcript and factor into a student's GPA at Pella Christian.

Credit Transfer

To request transcripts or score reports from Calvin, Cedarville, DMACC, Dordt, or William Penn navigate to their websites and follow the provided instructions. Students are responsible for obtaining transcripts directly from the college or university and having them sent to their intended college after high school graduation. Without taking this important step, students will *not* receive credit at their intended college for the credits earned during high school. Note: Pella Christian staff do not have access to official college transcripts and are unable to complete this step on behalf of students.

While not a college class, many colleges will accept AP test scores of 4 or 5 in lieu of a college credit. Students are responsible for obtaining AP test scores directly from College Board and having them sent to their intended college. Students can send one score report per year for free.

Advantages of College Credit while in High School

Choosing to enroll in college-credit courses may benefit students in a variety of ways:

- Early Graduation from College: Most college students take 15-18 credit hours per semester in college. Students who enter college with college credits that can be applied to their program of study may have the option to graduate early. This will save students significant tuition costs.
- Lighter College Course Load: Students who participate in collegiate sports or work while attending school may have the option to reduce their class load during one or more semesters.
- Multiple Majors: Students who have met some of their college's core requirements while in high school may be able to complete an additional major in four years or start graduate work early.
- Study Abroad: Students may have more flexibility to study abroad and still complete required coursework within four years.

Course Limit

Due to the nature of online classes, students are encouraged to take only one online course their first semester as they adjust to online learning. A student who successfully completes one online course can be confident in taking more than one online class in subsequent semesters. Students are strongly encouraged to not exceed two online classes per semester. Note: This suggested limit applies to asynchronous classes, not synchronous classes such as Calvin classes and classes taught by Pella Christian or Pella High teachers.

Students are not permitted to take online courses in place of classes required for graduation offered in-person at Pella Christian.

College-Credit Classes Taken with Pella Christian Teachers

- Students will earn both Pella Christian and DMACC credit for these classes. Nothing is required of students or parents to facilitate this process.
- The ability to offer these classes for college credit is dependent on staffing availability.
- Fees: $0, books are provided

PC Class	Length	College Code	College Credit	Fee
College Composition taken 2026-2027	1 Semester^	DMACC ENG105	3	$0
College Composition taken 2025-2026	1 Semester^	Cedarville University ENG1400	3	
Intro to Business	1 Semester	DMACC BUS102	3	$0
Personal Finance	1 Semester	DMACC FIN121	3	$0

^ College Composition is a full year course at Pella Christian. College credit is awarded for the spring semester only.

College-Credit Classes Taken at the Career Academy of Pella

- Students request CAP classes by signing up during the spring class request process. The Academic Counselor will process these requests with Pella High. Nothing additional is required of students or parents to facilitate this process.
- Students will earn both Pella Christian and DMACC or William Penn credit for CAP classes. Nothing is required of students or parents to facilitate this process.
- Students are encouraged to contact the Pella Christian Academic Counselor for a list of available classes.
- Fees: $0, books are provided

College-Credit Classes Taken Online with Calvin University

- Spanish Immersion students will have one Calvin class available to them per semester of their junior and senior years.
- Read more about guidelines and other helpful information.
- Students may take Calvin classes their senior year even if none were taken their junior year.
- Learn more about the advantages of taking Calvin Spanish Immersion classes.
- Fees: $400 per class (checks made out to Pella Christian) plus books, to be purchased by the student
    - Students may be required to pay the full cost of the course if they choose to withdraw from an online class after Calvin's drop/add period. Students who fail an online class may also be assessed the full cost of the course.

College-Credit Classes Taken Online with DMACC

- Check out the approved list of DMACC classes available to Pella Christian students.
- For details on scheduling, available seats, etc, check out the DMACC course schedule
- Fees: $0, books are provided

College-Credit Classes Taken Online with Dordt University

- Navigate to Dordt's online course offerings.
- Fees: $400 per class (checks made out to Pella Christian) plus books, to be purchased by the student
    - Students may be required to pay the full cost of the course if they choose to withdraw from an online class after Dordt's drop/add period. Students who fail an online class may also be assessed the full cost of the course.

Admission Requirements for Online College Classes

- A "proficient" score on the annual Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP)
    - In addition, Dordt also requires a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- A minimum score on a math placement test, to be arranged by the college or university, is required for students enrolling in math classes
    - Dordt will accept a qualifying ACT math score in lieu of the placement test.
- Calvin applicants must be enrolled in the Spanish Immersion program and have a minimum Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Literature exam score of 4 or 5.

Admission Requirements for In-Person College Classes

- In-person college classes are available to all Pella Christian students, regardless of ISASP scores and GPA.
- Our teachers are restricted in how they can support our students with SEPs seeking college-credit. Please talk to the Support Services team for more information.

Teaching Perspectives

Although college level coursework can at times address more mature content, Calvin University and Dordt University, their professors, and the worldviews shared in their classes closely align with the teaching and worldview of Pella Christian and its staff. For those to whom it is important to continue in a Christ-centered education, Calvin and Dordt classes are a great choice.

Online classes taught through DMACC are also very strong in content. However, like all public institutions, DMACC classes will not be taught with a Christ-centered approach and may at times challenge our students in their faith. Parents and students should consider this fact as they decide whether or not an online DMACC class is the right choice for the student at this stage in their lives.

Additional Opportunities

Students seeking college credit with institutions other than the partner institutions listed in this document are welcome to do so via our Independent Study opportunities. Students should contact the Academic Counselor for more details. Do not delay - early deadlines apply.

Transferability

Many students and parents ask about the transferability of college credits from one institution to another. Unfortunately, every college/university, and oftentimes programs within a college/university, have different policies regarding this issue. While not guaranteed, the Academic Counselor can make recommendations for courses that tend to be more transferrable. Parents and students are encouraged to contact the registrar at the colleges and universities they are considering for information about the transferability of any college credit.

Action Steps - READ CAREFULLY

Registration for Online Classes - Timeline & Process

1. During the Course Request process at Pella Christian in the spring of the year, students will indicate an interest in taking online classes on their 4-Year Plan and Course Request Form. Class periods will be held open in the student's schedule during the scheduling process to accommodate the online class requests. Online classes will be added to the schedule once the registration process is complete. School release or Pella Christian classes will be added to the student's schedule in place of online classes if the student does not successfully complete the registration process in a timely manner.
2. Registration for classes takes place with the partner college/universities in the middle of the semester prior to the start of classes. An email reminder will be sent each semester when it is time to start registering for the next semester's online classes.
    - Partner institutions release course options for the upcoming semester in the March/April timeframe and again in the September/October timeframe.
    - Students are encouraged to carefully consider their options and promptly register once the decision is made. Students who delay any steps of the registration process could find their desired classes already full.
    - If a student changes their mind after registration, prior to the end of the drop/add period, changes can be made to the class registration. Administrative fees previously paid will be refunded.
3. Students are responsible for registering for online classes themselves.
    - Spanish Immersion students will receive Calvin instructions via email.
    - Students can register for DMACC classes on the DMACC Registration Portal. The portal goes live mid-semester, and a reminder email will be sent to all Juniors and Seniors at that time.
        - Students with a 504 or SEP must apply for accommodations prior to the start of class. This is the student's responsibility and will not be processed by the Academic Counselor's office.
    - Students can register for Dordt classes on the Dordt Website. Returning students may also follow instructions emailed by Dordt staff.
4. Upon registration, communication will be sent from the institution to the Academic Counselor, who will work with the institution to process requests. **Students and Parents are required to read the**

Expectations for Participation, sign the Parent Consent on the Family Portal, and pay all related administrative fees before the Academic Counselor will approve or process online registrations.

- **NEW** The parent consent form is completed on the family portal. Parents can navigate to their Family Portal → School → Web Forms → Online College Class Expectations. Parents must sign a separate consent form for each child taking a college credit online class.
- Payment, if required, must be brought to the Academic Counselor's office during the school year or dropped off at the school office during the summer break.
- Course registration requests will be processed regularly during the months of March-May for the fall semester and September-November for the spring semester. Processing will be limited during all other months. Since many online classes do fill up, students are encouraged to register early.
- Personalized reminders to complete all required steps will not be sent. Students are responsible for reading all communication from the Academic Counselor and meeting communicated expectations and deadlines.

5. Pay attention to registration deadlines. **Notice updated deadlines!**
   - Calvin will communicate registration deadlines directly with Spanish Immersion students. Student requests submitted after the Calvin deadline will be processed only if Calvin grants special approval.
   - The last day to complete all steps of the registration process for a DMACC online class will be June 1st for the fall semester and December 1st for the spring semester. Requests submitted after these dates will not be processed unless there are extenuating circumstances.
   - The last day to complete all steps of the registration process for a Dordt online class will be the last weekday prior to Dordt's start of semester. No registration requests will be processed once the semester has begun.
   - All steps of the registration process, including submitting registration requests to the university/college, signing the parent consent form on Family Portal, submitting payment when applicable, and taking any required placement tests must be completed by due dates stated above. If any steps of the process are incomplete at the deadline, registration requests will be cancelled.
6. Students wishing to take online college classes must be current with all tuition payments as of August 1st for fall semester online classes and December 1st for spring semester online classes.
   - If payments are not current as of August 1st / December 1st, online classes for the upcoming semester may be dropped from the student's schedule and replaced with school release or available Pella Christian classes.

Online College Class Expectations