



Pacelli Career and Academic Academies

FAQ

The **Pacelli Career and Academic Academies** provide PCHS juniors and seniors with opportunities to start their college education early. Saving students thousands of dollars in tuition while giving them a significant academic edge in college is a major benefit of this program. Many of the courses that are part of the **Pacelli Career and Academic Academies** are transferable to UW college undergraduate programs*. There are over 16 different academies to choose from:

Business, Marketing, Computer Science, Manufacturing, Welding, Nursing/Pre-Med, Forestry, and more.

*Families and students need to contact their university admissions office to see if the credits are transferable into their program. Every college and university has its own rules about what is accepted as college credit. It is best to contact the college or university admissions office to verify whether they will offer credit for any class taken. [College Transfer Wizard](#) will provide you with generally information about classes accepted in the UW system, but it is always best to verify this information.

1) Where are the courses offered?

- Mid-State and Pacelli work together to find times that fit the student's learning needs.
- Several of the courses are offered via online modes. For many students this is a new way of approaching their learning. As parents and a school, we must provide students with this learning opportunity as more and more graduate and undergraduate courses are being offered through this learning mode. At times, students may need to travel to Mid-State for hand-on style classes such as welding, manufacturing, and forestry. In these cases, students will be flexibly scheduled at Pacelli allowing them to leave PCHS early. Students will be responsible for their own transportation.

2) Should I be concerned and worried about learning from an online course?

- The reality is that more and more undergraduate courses are moving to an online mode. It is very important that we make sure all high school graduates have the opportunity to experience an online course. One of the most important learner characteristics picked up through an online course is time-management and self-advocacy. Both of these characteristic are essential to success in college. Self-advocacy is the ability of a young student to seek support and resources as part of their learning process.

3) How are the courses offered? Face-to-face? Online?

- Depending on the student's scheduling needs and the times that the courses are offered determines the mode that the class will be presented. When possible, students will travel to the Mid-State: Stevens Point Campus. There are times that online courses provide us with a great deal of flexibility.

4) What is the cost?

- During the semester, before the Mid-State semester begins, students will pre-register with Pacelli to take a Mid-State course. Pre-registration allows Pacelli to reserve money to pay for the college class and the textbooks. Over the past three semesters, Pacelli has paid up to \$750/student/semester for their college courses. Funding is limited, so students must pre-register early. Once the funding is used, students and families would have to pay for the class themselves. After they pre-register, students and their parents would go to Mid-State to officially register for the course. At that time, the family would pay for all the costs associated with the course (fees, textbooks). At the end of the semester, and if they pass the course, the family submits their receipts and transcript to PCHS. PCHS will then reimburse them for the amount they were approved for at the time they pre-registered.
- There is financial assistance available for families who cannot prepay the course fees and textbooks. We highly encourage parents to speak to Mr. Theiss if this is a concern.

5) How does the class appear on my high school transcript?

- The Mid-State course will appear both on the student's schedule and on their transcript.
- On the Pacelli transcript the class will appear under the category Zero Credit Non-Pacelli because they are not receiving Pacelli credit for the course. The course is viewed as a 100% Mid-State class which includes a Mid-State (college) transcript. We have found through our work with university admission counselors that the college transcript carries more weight in the admissions process. Also, by not including the course on the Pacelli transcript, it reduces the risk of the class negatively impacting the student's high school GPA.

6) What are the benefits to taking these courses?

- Develops a strong academic record for the student. These are real college classes. More and more university admissions offices are looking for students with college experience.
- Data shows that college freshmen with experience in college classes are more successful and less likely to drop-out saving the university (and parents) thousands of dollars.
- Provides the student with credits that will give them an opportunity to sign-up for their college classes prior to their peers and as a result get preferred classes and/or schedule.
- Parents and students save thousands of dollars in tuition costs. For example a student who completes the Business and Marketing Academy and then enrolls in a UW system school could potentially save up to \$4,700 in tuition. Additionally, this student will have completed nearly one semester of college course work.

7) Does it apply to all UW schools? Private schools?

- Every college and university has its own rules about what is accepted as college credit. It is best to contact the college or university admissions office to verify whether they will offer credit for any class taken. [College Transfer Wizard](#) will provide you with general information about classes accepted in the UW system, but it is always best to verify this information prior to admission.

8) Are there Pacelli teachers who can support my student?

- As a Pacelli Family, we want to ensure that every student is successful here at Pacelli. We also believe strongly in developing a learning mindset that will prepare them for college and their careers. Throughout the semester, the counseling office and principal will work with the students and their Mid-State professors to ensure they are successful.

9) Do I have to take all the classes listed in the academy?

- No. You don't have to take all the courses listed under any specific academy. In most cases the academy courses are selected based on pre-requisites and after considering what some college degree programs require. For a clearer understanding of this you can refer to the [College Transfer Wizard](#) or contact your specific school's website for degree program course sequences. Mid-State counselors can also help to determine the best, most transferable course available to your child.

10) Will any of these classes take the place of required Pacelli courses?

- In most cases, no. Academy classes are electives meant to give the student the opportunity to take college coursework and earn college credit. Mid-State classes are considered Zero Credit, non-Pacelli Courses. Although, there are times, due to schedule conflicts, that Mid-State classes will be approved for Pacelli credit, but this rare and only done under specific circumstances.

11) When do we register for an Academy course? Are there deadlines for paperwork?

- **Spring/Summer Courses:** Pre-registration occurs in October/November
- **Fall Courses:** Pre-registration occurs in March/April
- Pre-registration is Pacelli's way of allocating funds for students. Funds are disbursed on a first-come, first-served basis. Once all funding has been allocated, families will be responsible for the cost of the course.
- Pre-registration will be announced via email and the Cardinal Weekly Update...keep your eye peeled as the program has limited money and is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Parents and families must register for the course BEFORE the first class. Pacelli does not register students.

12) What if a student wants to drop a class?

- Mid-State has very specific guidelines for dropping a class. Here's a link to their [MSTC Drop Policy](#).
- Dropping a college class after the first day of the class will likely result in a forfeiture of class fees and textbook costs.
- Although the a drop/withdrawal may appear on the students Mid-State transcript, it will not impact their Pacelli transcript.

13) Can parents check student grades like they can with Skyward?

- No. Pacelli does not track or monitor the student's college grades. The student will need to track and monitor their own grades through Mid-State's student management program: BlackBoard. Students will receive their BlackBoard account information on the first day that they register for classes.

14) Do students need to have an ACT/Accuplacer score to get into Mid-State classes?

- In most cases, no. By registering for a course as a Pacelli student (non-degree seeking student), the student is not required to take a placement test. If a student wishes to enroll in a degree/certificate seeking program, they will be required to go through the Mid-State application process.