

EARLY COLLEGE AT AIEA HIGH SCHOOL

Aiea High School, in partnership with Leeward Community College (LCC), offers college courses to all of our enrolled students. Early College is a program that allows high school students to enroll in college classes and earn credit toward high school graduation and a college degree. The instructors are LCC faculty members. The classes will be held during the weekdays both during the school day and at the end of the school day on the campus of Aiea High School.

The Hawaii State Department of Education does cover a portion for each college course. Our school administration recognizes the importance of early college courses and has committed to cover the remaining portion of the tuition for the student, even during these times of budget cuts. For the school year 2024-2025, tuition for a 3 credit class at Leeward Community College is \$393.00. **Aiea High School students and their families will not have to pay tuition and only need to pay for textbooks, if required.**

Enrollment into the Early College class is based on 1) first come, first serve until enrollment capacity is reached, 2) completion of both the Dual Credit application and University of Hawaii online application, 3) EdReady placement cutoff scores and course prerequisites, and 4) returning student status. When student demand for a course exceeds the number of available seats (20), qualified students will be put on a waiting list. Students on the waiting list who are not able to be registered for an Early College class that semester will be given priority status the following term. The enrollment period follows the Leeward Community College schedule and usually takes place in October (for spring semester) and March (for fall semester).

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Aiea High School Early College FAQ

1. **Can I still play sports in high school while taking Early College?**

Considering that both Early College courses and most sport practices take place after school, it may be difficult to attend both things. Students might have to consider taking only either one. If students cannot attend classes, they should not register for after-school courses.

2. **Do Early College courses be applied as high school electives?**

Yes, certain Early College courses may count as electives.

3. **Are there any requirements to take Early College?**

Prospective Early College students will need to fill out three applications when applying for the first time: 1) a Dual Credit application from Aiea High, 2) Leeward CC Kamaaina online application, 3) Parental Consent Form. Students will also need to take a placement test..

4. **Let's say you plan on attending a 4-year college, do Early College courses take some of those years away? (Do we graduate early?)**

The number of accumulated college course credits a student could potentially earn through four years of high school is 24, which is almost two semesters of college! So yes, taking Early College courses may allow students to graduate college earlier.

5. **What subjects do you get in Early College?**

As of school year 2024-2025, Aiea High School Early College program will offer three courses per semester. Aiea High will always offer the same two courses per semester in order for students to complete their Foundations requirements. The third course will rotate among various subjects including: English, Math, History, Economics, Sociology, Music, Speech and Theater – some of which come in different levels.

6. **Isn't it going to be difficult to be handling regular high school along with Early College? Won't I be stressed?**

Having both regular high school and Early College on the watch can be quite stressful. But that is why it is entirely up to the student to decide if s/he can handle the work given from high school and Early College. Moreover, Early College courses are taught only twice a week, on non-consecutive days. Students should make plans to dedicate a large amount of time toward their college course.

7. **Are there any colleges where credits earned from Early College won't transfer?**

Unfortunately, there are some colleges in which they will not accept credits earned from Early College courses. Students should make sure that their college(s) of interest do accept Early College credits or not.

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8. How do we get to Early College from Aiea High School? Do we get to go to an actual college?

Early College courses are held conveniently at Aiea High School. Students do not actually have to commute to an actual college campus.

9. Are the courses very hard?

The courses offered are taught by actual college professors at the same level they teach their college students. In other words, high school students are given the same rigor in the Early College courses as do college students. Depending on the students' ability to handle the rigor or their understanding of the course content, the difficulty of the courses vary from student to student.

11. How do you apply?

The application process occurs twice a year: late March (for Fall Semester of the following school year and late September (for Spring Semester). Watch for the official school announcement on the Aiea High School Early College page:

<https://sites.google.com/k12.hi.us/aiea-high-school-library/early-college>. To apply as a first time Early College student, you must complete the following: 1) a Dual Credit application from Aiea High, 2) a Leeward Community College application through Aiea High, 3) earn a passing score on the EdReady Placement Test. There is no charge to high school students applying for Early College.

12. Are Early College classes held during school, or do they take time after school? (Will it keep me from sports/band?)

As of school year 2024-2025, two Early College courses are offered after school. One course will be offered during the school day. The after-school classes typically begin at 2pm and end at 3:15pm, which may hinder some students from attending sports or band practices depending on when they start.

13. Do we need a 3.5 GPA or higher to be in Early College?

When it comes to the Early College program, all students are welcome to apply for the program despite the GPA that they have. The main goal of the Early College program is to help out underrepresented groups with their college education and improve their academic success. Therefore, the academic success of a student is not what determines whether the student gets in the program or not.

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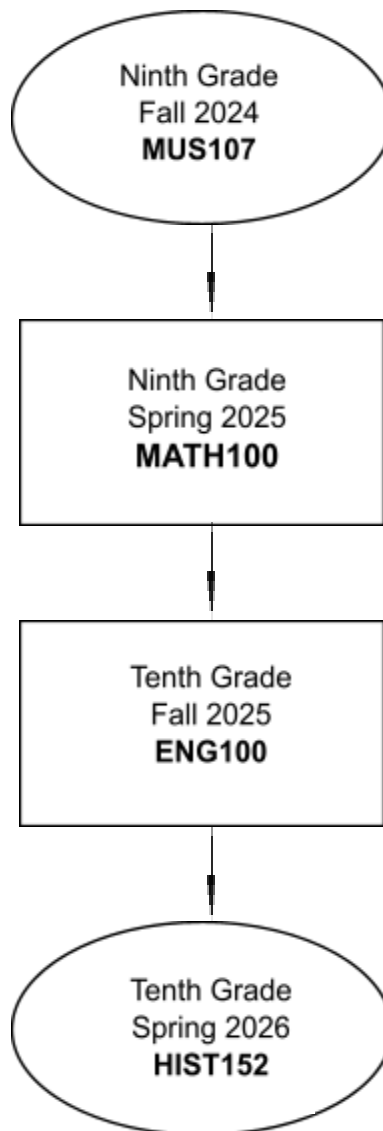
An important message from Mr. Ron Ikari, Aiea High School Early College Coordinator:

As the Early College Coordinator for Aiea High School these past 7 years, I want to now share some guidance and advice for our Na Ali'i ohana. This is an amazing opportunity but one that needs to be taken seriously. Early College courses are **Dual Credit**. This means that you can earn 3 college credits and 1 high school credit. This also means that a low grade (D, F) will affect your high school transcript/GPA **and** your college transcript/GPA. Your grade in this course can have an effect on potential college scholarships and college entrance. I have witnessed students take Early College classes for the wrong reasons and with a casual attitude, which resulted in negative outcomes. I cannot emphasize this point enough: **you will be a Leeward Community College student and will be treated as such**. Your parents, high school counselor, and myself cannot intervene and rescue you. Please keep all of these things in mind as you contemplate registering for this course. College courses are rigorous and time consuming. You will need to be on top of things, attend all of your classes, keep up with the work and not fall behind. If you are serious about this endeavor, I would recommend that you strive to keep your life in balance and rethink your after-school schedule, whether it be sports, band, extracurricular activities, jobs, or family obligations. Thank you for this opportunity to help you get started on this wonderful journey and best wishes!

Ron Ikari
Early College Coordinator
Aiea High School

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To support, enrich and retain our youngest students, our ninth graders, Aiea High School Early College Program has created a specialized track called the Foundations Program. Aiea High School's Foundations Program assigns interested incoming freshman students to a four semester, 12 credit track. After completing the four semester track, students will have completed their foundation requirements required for a Liberal Arts associates degree at Leeward Community College and/or their foundation requirements for a bachelors degree at University of Hawaii at Manoa.



Leeward Community College/University of Hawaii Foundation Requirements Completed!

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Students are now encouraged to take other rigorous Early College courses as 11th and 12th graders

SEQUENCE:

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
FALL	FOUNDATIONS - GLOBAL (FG) MUS107 (FG)	FOUNDATIONS - WRITTEN (FW) ENG100 (FW)	DIVERSIFICATION - SOCIAL SCIENCES (DS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECON120 (DS) • PACS108 (DS) • POLC110 (DS) • SOC100 (DS) 	DIVERSIFICATION - ARTS, HUMANITIES, LITERATURE (DA/DH/DL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART101 (DA) • ASAN203 (DH) • HWST107 (DH) • PHIL100 (DH) • REL151 (DH) • THEA221 (DA)
SPRING	FOUNDATIONS - QUANTITATIVE (FQ) MATH100 (FQ)	FOUNDATIONS - GLOBAL (FG) HIST152 (FG)	DIVERSIFICATION - SOCIAL SCIENCES (DS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECON120 (DS) • PACS108 (DS) • POLC110 (DS) • SOC100 (DS) 	DIVERSIFICATION - ARTS, HUMANITIES, LITERATURE (DA/DH/DL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART101 (DA) • ASAN203 (DH) • HWST107 (DH) • PHIL100 (DH) • REL151 (DH) • THEA221 (DA)

Student should be able to finish their Foundation requirements and much of their Diversification requirements