

SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL PSEO GUIDE

CHECKLIST

STEP 1 – Determine if PSEO is right for you

- Determine your reason(s) for considering PSEO...
 - *Academic:* Are you ready for college academics and a faster pace?
 - Have you “topped out” on the available higher-level coursework at your high school? (Colleges tend to prefer to see that you have before taking PSEO classes.)
 - *Financial:* Are you interested in the dual credit option to earn free college credit?
 - Keep in mind that some colleges may not accept the transfer of any or all credits earned outside their institution – it is not guaranteed that your PSEO college credits will transfer to the college you end up attending after high school.
 - *Personal/Social/Emotional:* Are you ready for a different academic environment than what you experience in your high school?
- Have you demonstrated independence and responsibility?
 - Are you confident in getting to classes on time each day independently?
 - Are you confident in completing assignments on time on your own, or seeking support on your own when you need it?
 - Can you independently manage two school systems (the college campus system and the SWHS system)?
- Would you miss not being in high school?
 - Keep in mind there may be special events that you would miss to leave for your PSEO classes.
- Will you be able to be flexible, and will the college schedule allow for you to arrange your schedule to get to your classes at your high school and at your college (if doing part-time PSEO)?
 - How long will travel time take to get from one school to the other?
 - What form of transportation will you use?
 - Are you taking any high school classes (e.g. Choir) that are only offered during 1 period of the day?
 - Are you involved in activities at your high school that you must be present for?
- What requirements do you need to meet to graduate from high school?
 - If you enroll in PSEO classes that don’t count toward your graduation requirements, you might not graduate on time.
 - If you withdraw from or fail a PSEO class that does count toward graduation requirements, you might not graduate on time.
- What are your plans for after high school?
 - Oftentimes, different colleges have difference preferences for if high school students do PSEO or if they stay involved in their high school community.
 - Do your research – talk with potential colleges you’re interested in attending after high school to learn what they’re prefer to see you do in your junior and senior years of high school.
- Talk with your parent(s)/guardian(s)/family

STEP 2 – Apply for PSEO

- Applications can be found on each college’s PSEO webpage (each college has their own PSEO application, application process, and application deadline).
- Do not pay the application fee at the end of the application (if you’re prompted to pay).
- If required, complete the admissions or placement testing required by the college(s) you’re applying to for PSEO.
- **NOTE: each college follows their own PSEO application process – do your research to make sure you complete all required steps (this might include a paper or online application, testing, required forms, etc.).**

CHECKLIST (cont'd)

Step 3 – Complete all required forms/paperwork

It is the student's responsibility to determine what forms are required by each college they apply to.

- Complete the Notice of Student Registration (NOSR) form (required by the state of MN for all colleges).
 - This form requires student, parent, and high school Counselor signature.
 - ***This form must be submitted to your SWHS Counselor no later than May 30th for the following school year (for both fall and spring semesters) with the student/parent portion already completed.***
 - You can print the NOSR form from the college's website, complete your portion at the top of the page, and drop it off in the SWHS Counseling Office for your Counselor to complete their portion on the bottom of the page.
 - This must be completed each time a PSEO student registers for new classes.
- Pick up a copy of your transcript from the SWHS Counseling Office to submit to the college you're applying to (if required by the college).
- Complete and submit any additional paperwork/forms required by the college(s) you're applying to.

Step 4 – Schedule an appointment with your SWHS Counselor

- After you've been accepted to a PSEO program, but no later than 2 weeks prior to registering for your PSEO classes, schedule an appointment with your SWHS Counselor to:
 - Review classes you need to meet high school graduation requirements
 - Confirm that your tentative PSEO course schedule will align with your high school schedule (if doing part-time PSEO)
 - Note: there may be limited scheduling flexibility with your high school courses. If you're only doing part-time PSEO, look for PSEO classes in mid-late afternoon or evening.
- * Note that SWHS Counselors leave for summer break mid-June and return mid-August. Oftentimes, orientation/registration for fall semester takes place at the colleges during the summer months. Students must work with their SWHS Counselor prior to when they leave for summer break.

Step 5 – Register for your PSEO classes

- Orientation/registration: The college will notify you in advance of in-person and/or online orientation and registration options that you must attend.
- Pre-approved PSEO courses: MPS has pre-approved courses that are eligible to meet high school graduation standards at the colleges listed below. Students may register for any pre-approved courses. The list of pre-approved courses at each of these colleges can be found at:
https://guidance.mpls.k12.mn.us/rigorous_course_waivers_2
 - Anoka-Ramsey Community College
 - Hennepin Technical College
 - Minneapolis College (a.k.a. MCTC)
 - Normandale Community College
 - St. Paul College
 - The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- Non-pre-approved PSEO courses: Students interested in registering for a PSEO course not approved (or who are attending PSEO at a different college) must apply for a Rigorous Course Waiver.
 - Rigorous Course Waiver information: https://guidance.mpls.k12.mn.us/rigorous_course_waivers_2
 - Rigorous Course Waiver application:
https://guidance.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/rcw_application_process.pdf
 - March 1: Deadline to submit Rigorous Course Waiver application for fall semester of the following year.
 - November 1: Deadline to submit Rigorous Course Waiver application for spring semester.
- Part-time PSEO students: You must make careful decisions about the timing of PSEO classes. Students cannot leave early or arrive late to a SWHS class to accommodate a PSEO class. Be sure to allow for ample travel time between schools. Transportation is not provided to and from PSEO sites.

Step 6 – Inform your SWHS Counselor of your PSEO class schedule

You will then be removed from corresponding courses at SWHS.

PSEO OPPORTUNITY COST

ADVANTAGES

- College credits paid for by the state
- Chance to experience college culture
- Chance to associate with older students
- Increased independence
- Meet new people
- Earn college credit while also earning high school credit and meeting high school graduation requirements
- Expanded course options at advanced levels
- Less structure
- Flexible schedule

DISADVANTAGES

- Decreases overall high school experience
- Self-discipline required due to fewer rules
- Associating with older students
- Increased independence comes with increased personal and academic responsibility
- Reduces time with high school friends
- Required courses may not be available when needed or may be full
- Low college/PSEO grades will impact high school GPA
- High school and college calendar are different and may not coordinate cleanly
- Colleges do not communicate with high schools if PSEO students are struggling or experiencing problems
- Loss of parental involvement (e.g. attendance monitoring, progress monitoring, grade checks, behavioral concerns)
- Parents and high school not notified if student withdraws from a class, misses class, or is failing
- Some colleges, often the selective and highly selective colleges, prefer to see high school students exhaust all opportunities at their high school before seeking PSEO opportunities