



Frequently Asked Questions

Application Process

Q. How will students and parents find out about TEC?

A. There will be informational meetings, announcements at their local schools and mailers sent to parents and students at home. In addition, information regarding The Early College will be available at <http://www.lcc.edu/earlycollege/> and will be updated as more information becomes available.

Q: How do students apply?

A: Students and parents can apply through their local school districts and the application is also available online at <http://www.lcc.edu/earlycollege/> .

Q: Can students from other counties participate?

A: Right now this is for Ingham ISD service area and Eaton Rapids public school students, but this may expand in the future.

Q: Can home schooled or private school students apply?

A: Financial support for this program comes from the state student funding allowance. Because of this funding stream, this program is for public school students. Home schooled or private school students would have to enroll in their local district in order to apply.

Q. Are there minimum requirements, age or grade level to apply?

A: Students have to be in their 10th grade year and on track to qualify as an 11th grader by the end of the 2014-15 school year (within 1 credit). It is recommended that students have demonstrated proficiency in the following: Algebra I, Geometry, English 9, English 10, 2 core Social Studies credits, 2 Foreign Language credits (same language), and 2 core sciences (one being Biology) prior to entering The Early College.

Q. Are there limited seats available per local school district?

A. Each local school district has a limited number of seats and the seats will be selected through a lottery. This means all applications should be submitted to the local high school and the high school will submit them to Ingham ISD.

Q. Are there any minimum or maximum income requirements to apply?

A. No.

Q. What academic skill levels must students have to qualify to participate in TEC@LCC?

A. The academic program at The Early College is fairly rigorous. Teachers provide a great deal of support to help students succeed, but students need to do their part as well. Students should expect to do two to three hours of homework every night and come prepared to class each day with questions and ideas. It is recommended that students have demonstrated proficiency in the following: Algebra I, Geometry, English 9, English 10, 2 core Social Studies credits, 2 Foreign Language credits (same language), and 2 core sciences (one being Biology) prior to entering The Early College.

Q. When are applications due?

A. The applications are due to the local districts parent/student liaison (high school counselor) by March 27, 2015.

Q. How do you select students?

A. Students are selected through a lottery to fill the seats available for the program. There are a certain number of seats per district. The Early College has a 100 seat capacity.

Q. When will parents have an orientation?

A. After students have been notified that they will be part of the early college program, a parent meeting will be scheduled.

College Credits

Q: When can students begin taking college courses?

A: Each student will start taking college courses when s/he demonstrates proficiency in their core academics and Success Skills. Students may begin taking college courses at different times.

Q: How many college credits can a student earn?

A: Students in this program can earn up to 60 college credits. It is anticipated students will earn at a minimum, one of LCC's certifications in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) or other related fields.

Q. Can credits be transferred to 4 year university?

A. Students will need to work closely with an LCC advisor to ensure they are in a program that will be able to transfer to other universities. LCC has the MTA (Michigan Transfer Agreement) with public colleges state-wide to transfer general credits. It is extremely important that a student works closely with their advisor to ensure that all credits transfer.

Q. Will these college credits that I earn at LCC be valid credits for all colleges?

A. Courses that are part of the MTA will be accepted by all Michigan public colleges. If LCC has articulation agreements with colleges outside of Michigan the credits will be accepted if they are part of the agreement.

Michigan Transfer Agreement: <http://www.lcc.edu/transfer/mta.aspx>

Curriculum

Q. What types of classes will I be taking as a high school student?

A. Classes will include required classes to complete the Michigan Merit Curriculum expected outcomes. As an 11th grader, you will be taking accelerated high school science, math, English and social studies. In the 2nd and 3rd years of the program, you will be choosing from a wide range of college courses.

Q. Will the students in the TEC have choices in their classes based on their individual career plans and be in classes with all the regular college students or will they just be with fellow TEC students following a pre-designed program?

A. After the grade 11 coursework is completed and students have demonstrated readiness to succeed in freshmen, credit bearing college coursework - TEC students will have latitude to build a schedule that reflects their career plans. Any given LCC class TEC students are in will not exceed a class ratio mix of 25% TEC students to 75% general population LCC students.

We will be following the guidelines of the national middle and early college association. There are approximately 250 early colleges in the U.S. They have been generating principles of best practice as they have been developing over the past dozen years. The mix of students is one of the principles, the idea is that we really are working to get our TEC students functioning successfully in the college coursework (providing first the targeted preparation and then once launched good support/guidance and a home base). Likewise, we do not anticipate alerting the LCC professors about which of their students are TEC students.

Q. If students prove proficiency and finish requirements of MME by 11th grade, can they take college classes right away?

A. Very few students finish MME requirements by the end of 10th grade. If they're in CHAMP and finish math requirements by then, they could certainly go into an LCC calculus class as an 11th grader. If the question means "finished MME requirements by the end of 11th grade" we're hoping that all students do this and are taking college classes in their 2nd year of the program.

Q. Can students take extra-curricular classes at LCC?

A. For sports activities, students cannot play NJCCA athletics. Students at TEC will be LCC students, so they will be eligible for LCC clubs. Students could plan a course of study in their 2nd and 3rd year that included a couple classes in areas such as foreign language, culinary arts, or physical education, but the number of those classes would be limited because of the STEM focus.

The following link provides the most recent list of active clubs and organizations at LCC:

http://www.lcc.edu/studentlife/clubs_and_organizations/registered_organizations.aspx

Q. I already take AP and honors classes, I still maintain a 4.0, and go for all the extra credit opportunities. How similar are these classes going to be to these hard classes I already take?

A. LCC classes that are part of a TEC student's program will be as challenging and demanding as the AP and honors classes they take in high school. Students will be placed in appropriate classes so that they will be challenged and move through their college program at whatever pace they can handle.

Home School Concerns

Q. Can students still participate in high school sports at their home school?

A. Yes. However, the student's schedule would have to accommodate participation in these activities and parents must arrange student transportation.

Q. Will this have an impact on the graduation rate at the local school district level?

A. No.

Q. Will I be graduating with my diploma at my high school or will I be graduating with my diploma from LCC?

A. The high school diploma comes from your high school.

Q. Can I organize my schedule any way I need to? (Such as...to incorporate high school practices that may interrupt a schedule.)

A. This will be more likely when a student is taking all college classes. They will have more flexibility in their schedule.

Q. How will this program work for students who have the Hope Scholarship through Lansing?

A. HOPE Scholars are not required to graduate with their cohort. Therefore, HOPE Scholars can graduate the 13th year and still use the scholarship dollars if they are eligible. This is true of the Lansing Promise as well.

Q. How does being in The Early College affect graduation for high school? Does my child still "graduate" with his/her class? How does it affect being Valedictorian?

A. Being an early college student means the H.S. diploma is awarded when the TEC program is completed (TEC program completion requirements were noted on the literature sent with the award letter). The sending district will have the latitude to permit students to walk with their peers at graduation. The Valedictorian question is better answered by the sending district. They would have to think this through based on how they currently sort/select/rank etc.

Q. Will students still be able to participate in activities at their home school? Examples: Spanish Club, robotics, National Honor Society, etc.

A. For the two years the student's peers are in 11th and 12th grade – the student could participate in the sending district extra-curricular activities providing he/she is able to honor and keep up with his/her TEC academic schedule (that's the first priority). In the third year, or as soon as the student has zero H.S. courses to complete, he/she will have access to the extra-curricular activities at LCC (there are many options).

Lansing Community College

Q: What is the benefit of this environment over dual enrollment?

A: Students are immersed into the college environment. As high school students they are on campus all day and learn to take classes with adults and behave like adults in an adult learning environment. It helps students bridge the learning and social gaps between high school and college. In addition, some classes can be counted as a high school and college credit.

Q. Will The Early College students be mixed in with college students?

A. Yes in college courses only. We want no more than 25% of TEC students per college class, so students begin transitioning from high school to the college environment.

Q. When will students have access to facilities like the library and the parking structure at student rates?

A. Students will receive an LCC ID card that will provide them access to the library, cafeteria and the parking immediately.

S.T.E.M.

Q: What is STEM?

A: STEM fields are ones that have a basis in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, with an emphasis on problem-based learning and inquiry. They prepare students for a wide range of careers and provide a solid foundation for many four-year college majors. STEM degrees at LCC include areas such as architecture, technology, biology, computer programming, electrical technology, chemistry, manufacturing engineering, and alternative energy and many more.

Q: How is this beneficial to the community?

A: Our business partners have said that we want to develop talented, educated individuals who want to stay here in our community to live and work. The STEM fields are areas of potential growth and we have community partnerships with LEAP, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, CAMW!, Capital Area IT Council, Keep Learning and MSU that have signed a letter of support for this initiative to provide more options to students in our area.

Q. Can you provide a list of all the program options available to students at LCC in the STEM area?

A. There are several programs currently available through LCC which are available on LCC's website.

Q. What career paths would this program be best for? Would law school be a good career after this program?

A. Careers such as law, medicine, and engineering are all possible with a strong STEM undergraduate program. For any of these careers, TEC students would have to continue on to a 4-year program and get a bachelor's degree. Other career paths would include computer science, nursing, accounting, environmental sciences, architecture, the sciences, geography, horticulture, construction management, etc.

TEC Teachers

Q. Student/teacher ratio?

A. High school class sizes are expected to have approximately 25 students.

Q. Who are the teachers? (LCC Profs or other high school teachers)

A. Both. 11th grade courses are taught by certified high school teachers who regularly meet with their LCC faculty counterparts and are considered to be a part of the LCC faculty. LCC classes are taught by LCC professors.

Q. Will teachers have one-on-one time?

A. Teachers will have office hours before and after school where students can request extra help as they do in regular high schools.

TEC Program Structure

Q. Is transportation provided?

A. Parents must arrange student transportation.

Q. Are there any attendance and behavior requirements once they enter The Early College?

A. Yes, see the handbook for details.

Q. How is The Early College being funded?

A. It is funded through the per pupil allowance provided by the state under the early college guidelines, each district remits 97% of its per-pupil foundation allowance to Ingham ISD for each student that attends The Early College.

Q. Who administers the Michigan Merit Exam testing?

A. Testing is handled at LCC, but testing scores are provided back to the local school district. Student are tested in the 2nd year of each student's program.

Q. Can you leave earlier?

A. We are not seeking students who intend to use the program for one or two years because there are a limited number of seats available. The key to taking advantage of this opportunity (special status as an early college) is to utilize the state foundation for public school students to purchase college credit and make good progress toward completion of an associate's or 4 year degree.

Q. Do students still take the ACT?

A. Yes, the ACT is embedded in the Michigan Merit Exam.

Q. In other early/middle colleges, what is the average number of credits earned?

A. We have not found a state-wide average. However at TEC@LCC, we would like to see students achieve 45 credits or more with the goal of earning an associate's degree if possible.

Q. Taxes – will students get a credit on taxes too?

A. Please consult your tax advisor for tax questions, but because the tuition is not being paid by the student or the parent, it is not likely there will be a tax credit.

Q. Will students continue to get free and reduced lunch?

A. We are currently working with Lansing School District to offer free and reduced lunch options.

Q. Is this always a three year program or can it be a two year? While academics come first, my student participates in National and Junior Olympics. Can this affect any NCAA guidelines?

A. This is not intended to be a two-year program. The foundation allowance from the state pays for the college

credits by providing funding from grades 11-13. Please check with NCAA about sports guidelines.

Q. What is the first day of class?

A. The program will run on LCC's calendar and typically has started the last week of August. A date will be available on LCC's website.