

Early College Program

Parent and Student Information Meeting

March 12, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Zoom Link: bit.ly/ECPIInfoNight2026

Zoom link will go live closer to the meeting date



The Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) Early College Program (ECP), developed in partnership with Irvine Valley College (IVC), offers a unique opportunity for academically qualified IUSD students to earn nearly two years of transferable college credits while completing their high school education. ECP can save students thousands of dollars in tuition and valuable time, which can be directed toward a career or graduate work. This program is perfect for students planning to attend a University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) campus. Students from underrepresented groups or first-generation college families are encouraged to apply.

Application Deadline:

April 10, 2026

About ECP

- Open to current 8th-grade students starting their freshman year at any IUSD high school. Eight spaces per high school, with additional spots if available.
- Requires a 4-year commitment
- Most IVC classes are virtual or asynchronous Monday-Friday, 8-9:30 a.m., with occasional in-person assessments or labs.
- Courses earn college credit and transfer to UC/CSU systems.
- Courses also earn high school elective credit toward IUSD graduation requirements.
- Students can earn IGETC Certification and may complete an associate's degree with extra units.



Visit ivasecondary.iusd.org/ECP for more information, including application requirements.
Questions? Email ivasecondary@iusd.org

Early College Program

If you will be a 9th-grade student starting the 2026-27 school year, this four-year program may be a good fit for you! Through the Early College Program (ECP), students can earn nearly two years of transferable college credits while completing their high school education, saving thousands of dollars and valuable time to jump-start their college education.

Students will be required to apply for the Early College Program. The application process will include an essay, teacher and counselor references, a student/parent contract, and more. Additional information will be provided during the virtual **Parent and Student Information Meeting**.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply for Early College?

Current 8th-grade students, who will be 9th-grade students at the start of the 2026-27 school year, can apply for this four-year program.

What is the required commitment for the program?

Students must make a four-year commitment from 9th through 12th grade to fully participate in and benefit from ECP.

If accepted into the program, where would I attend high school?

Students will attend their home high school within IUSD to complete their high school coursework. Eight spaces are reserved for students from each high school. Should additional spaces become available, other students may be considered for the program. Students can also opt to enroll full-time at San Joaquin HS while participating in the Early College Program.

Would this impact zero period or elective classes during periods 1 and 2?

Yes. Most classes will be virtual or asynchronous, but occasional in-person attendance may be required for assessments and lab activities. Most IVC classes will be Mon - Fri from 8-9:30am during the period 1 and period 2 time blocks at each high school. This will allow students to complete all other coursework at their home school, whether that be at a comprehensive high school or San Joaquin.

Are Early College Program (ECP) courses the same as Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and do they count for weighted credits?

No, ECP courses are community college courses that provide college credit and transfer to both UC and CSU systems. AP courses are high school courses that may or may not count for college credit. AP courses are weighted on the high school transcript, while ECP courses are not. However, any weighted points earned from ECP courses could be applied directly within the college application process.

What if I want to earn college credits but cannot participate in this program or I am not accepted into the program?

IUSD understands that our students have many unique needs and goals, which is why we offer four ways for students to earn college credit while attending high school. In addition to ECP, students may participate in General Dual Enrollment, College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Dual Enrollment, and the IVC/IUSD Summer College Program. See page 3 of this handout or visit iusd.org/DualEnrollment for more information.

Where can I receive more information about ECP?

Visit ivasecondary.iusd.org/ECP or email ivasecondary@iusd.org.

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