The Minnesota Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Act provides for two distinct types of dual-credit opportunities for high school students.

**1 College in the Schools (CIS)**

*Students take college courses at their high school (often referred to as Concurrent Enrollment)*.

- Free to students
- Schools contract directly with post-secondary institutions
- Courses are taught by qualified high school instructors who have been approved by University faculty
- Credit transfers to most other post-secondary institutions

**2 Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)**

*Students take college courses on the college campus or online.*

- Free to students
- Percentage of schools’ per-pupil state formula pays post-secondary institutions
- Classes taught by University faculty
- Credit transfers to most other post-secondary institutions

The PSEO Act allows advanced high school juniors and seniors to enroll in college courses for dual college and high school credit. The law mandates that post-secondary institutions allow selected high school students to enroll in their on-campus courses, as space allows. The law also allows schools and districts to contract with post-secondary institutions to provide college courses on site at high schools. See Minnesota Statute 124d.09 for the complete PSEO Act.
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and all Minnesota K–12 schools transitioned to remote learning on March 18, 2020, which continued through the end of the academic year. All CIS and PSEO program staff transitioned to working from home. The disruption led to adaptations at schools and universities across the country. Here is a brief summary of how Pre-College Programs responded.

- High schools and the University of Minnesota transitioned to various remote learning and meeting platforms. CIS instructors, students, and PSEO students also had access to U of M technology resources.
- All assigned grades followed the U of M grading policy, which gave students the option to select an S/N (pass/fail) grade basis on their U of M transcript and allowed them to use these credits toward degree requirements. Additionally, students had the option to drop their classes past the normal drop deadline.
- CIS students took fewer than 3% of courses for S/N grades.
- PSEO students took 11% of their spring 2020 classes for S/N grades, normally fewer than 1%.
- Like on-campus U of M faculty, CIS instructors adapted curricula and assessments to the distanced teaching and testing methods, in collaboration with CIS faculty coordinators.
- Scheduled CIS student field days were cancelled and CIS professional development workshops and site visits were postponed or modified to be conducted online only.
- PSEO academic advisors transitioned to virtual advising appointments to support students.
- PSEO extended their 2020–21 academic year admission application deadline by a month and successfully lobbied the Minnesota Department of Education to allow electronic signatures on the PSEO Notice of Student Registration form.

Meet Your Pre-College Programs Team

**Pre-College Programs (CIS & PSEO):**
Scott Coenen, Director, Pre-College Programs
Ashley Cruz, Office Manager and Events Coordinator, Pre-College Programs
Molly Olson, Operations Manager, Pre-College Programs

**CIS Program:**
Stephanie Davison, Communications and Events Coordinator, CIS
Jan M. Erickson, Associate Director, CIS
Emily Hanson, Program Director, CIS
Koleen Knudson, Administrative Services Coordinator, CIS

**CIS Enrollment Services:**
Kaitlyn Carlson, Student Services Systems Coordinator, CIS
Jennifer Koontz, Director of Student Services, CIS
Bonnie Samletzka, Enrollment Services Coordinator, CIS
Coral Thacker, Enrollment Services Operations

**PSEO Program:**
Anja Hovde, Academic Advisor, PSEO
Andrew Kopelman, Academic Advisor, PSEO Support, CIS
College in the Schools

Program Overview

College in the Schools at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities is a nationally accredited dual-credit program serving high school students, instructors, and schools by:

- expanding access to college rigor for students from diverse backgrounds.
- supporting excellence in teaching.
- strengthening and educating our communities throughout the state.

Program by the Numbers

In the 2019–20 academic year

9,070 participating students
Students earned 50,620 credits
27% students of color
(6% not reported; 67% white)
3.35 = average U of M GPA in CIS courses

133 high school partners
393 CIS instructors
492 hours of professional development offered

17% of enrolled fall 2020 freshman previously participated in CIS at UMTC

39 Courses
- 17 courses in World and Classical Languages
- 8 courses in Social Sciences
- 5 courses in Sciences
- 4 courses in English and Communication Studies
- 3 courses in Mathematics
- 2 courses in Education

CIS partners with five colleges
- College of Biological Sciences
- College of Education and Human Development
- College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resources
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Science and Engineering
**Scholarly Community for CIS Instructors**

A CIS partnership ensures faculty-led professional development occurs at least three times annually to offer the space and opportunity for CIS instructors to continue their discipline-specific study and make contributions to their field and communities.

“Meeting with our CIS mentor and the other CIS teachers is the greatest professional development that I participate in... this is one of my only opportunities to collaborate with others teaching the same courses I am teaching.”

“I feel more challenged and stimulated in my work. I am always pushing myself to learn more and be a better teacher because of my affiliation with the U of M.”

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**Academic Advancement for Students**

Students earn valuable high school credit that transfers to most colleges across the nation.

87% of students surveyed were successful in transferring some or all of the U of M credits earned*

Courses give students more confidence in their college and career trajectory.

80% of students surveyed agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “I was more confident about my ability to succeed in college.”*

Success in early rigorous coursework builds momentum toward college graduation.

CIS students attempted on average 6 credits in 2019–20 while in the program

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**Outreach for the U of M**

Excerpt from U of M Board of Regents Policy Mission Statement on Outreach and Public Service

“To extend, apply, and exchange knowledge between the University and society by applying scholarly expertise to community problems, by helping organizations and individuals respond to their changing environments, and by making the knowledge and resources created and preserved at the University accessible to the citizens of the state, the nation, and the world.”

College in the Schools shares:

- knowledge from the University with 133 high school partners, connecting Minnesota communities throughout the state.
- partnerships with 21 departments across five colleges at the U of M, providing Minnesota schools with current pedagogy from a top research university.

*Statistics taken from the 2018-19 Annual Student Survey. For complete survey results, visit the CIS website at ccaps.umn.edu/college-in-the-schools/accreditation*
Post-Secondary Enrollment Options

Program Overview

Overview
- Both part- and full-time students who enhance their high school experience by being immersed into a college environment
- Driven students who commute to campus or take classes online
- 50% of PSEO students remain at the U of M after high school graduation

PSEO Admissions
PSEO admission is highly competitive. Our students come from a variety of educational backgrounds in the public, private, or homeschooled sectors. Applications are accepted February-April. Admissions application review spans April-May for the upcoming academic year, which includes a holistic review of over 1,000 applications.

Prospective Students
Information sessions prepare families for the PSEO admission process

- 11 high schools were visited in AY 2019-20
- 600+ prospective PSEO students and families attended one of two on-campus information sessions

For the 2019-20 academic year admissions cycle:
- 1,290 completed applications
- 599 (46%) admitted students

Of the admits:
- 3.93 average unweighted high school GPA
- 94% average class rank
- 23% had PSEO credits from another institution
- 4% home school
- 5% private
- 92% public
- 139 high schools represented

452 (75%) of new fall admits* were enrolled during the academic year

29% of admits were from the following schools:
- Blaine
- Champlin Park
- Chanhassen
- Eden Prairie
- Homeschool
- Hopkins
- Maple Grove
- Mounds View
- Saint Anthony Village
- South
- Washburn
- Wayzata

PSEO Student Support includes:
- Summer orientation covering essential topics like commuting to campus and class registration
- Assigned full-time academic advisor
- Access to U of M resources

* Due to rounding, the percentages of admits by school type do not add up to 100%.
Enrolled Students

639 total enrolled students
(452 new fall admits + 187 continuing students)

44% students of color
(Asian 24%; Black 7%; Hispanic 5%; two or more races 8%
(not included in other counts); 5% did not report ethnicity)

31% juniors
69% seniors

127 high schools represented

4% homeschool students

47% of students took greater than 11 credits (full-time)

53% of students took fewer than 12 credits (part-time)

12,188 credits taken
(3,534 courses)

10 credits average per semester

3.74 average U of M GPA in PSEO courses

Most popular courses:

- CSCL 1101 – Literature
- ECON 1101 – Principles of Microeconomics
- ENGL 1001W – Introduction to Literature
- MATH 1151 – Precalculus I
- MATH 1271 – Calculus I
- MATH 1272 – Calculus II
- PHYS 1301W – Introductory Physics for Science and Engineering
- POL 1001 – American Democracy in a Changing World
- PSY 1001 – Introduction to Psychology
- WRIT 1301 – University Writing

Fall 2020 PSEO Students Admitted as Freshman

The PSEO office tracks the number of PSEO students that continue at the U of M Twin Cities for their undergraduate degree.

Of the 468 PSEO 2020 high school graduates:

- 458 (98%) applied for freshman admission
- 447 (98%) of those who applied were admitted
- 236 (50%) of those who were admitted were enrolled by the 10th day of the fall term

PSEO students consistently report a positive experience.
Here’s some feedback from recent students:

“I became more independent and confident, since I had to learn how to do things myself, like talk to the faculty. I also became better at time management and studying.”

“PSEO allowed me to take interesting and challenging courses which I did not have access to through my high school. I was also able to participate with different cultural groups on campus, which allowed me to meet new people (and was overall a great experience).”

“Having to balance my PSEO coursework with my extracurricular activities forced me to become better at time management and develop my study skills. My PSEO advisor and professors helped me develop a better understanding of what was expected of me as a student at the U of M.”

“PSEO has taught much, much more about myself, and what I want to do with my life, than I had ever anticipated. I made lifelong friends, became acquainted with professors, and earned college credits in appropriately challenging courses.”
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Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to the Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, University of Minnesota, 274 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455, 612-624-9547, eoaa@umn.edu. Website at eoaa.umn.edu.

This material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Stephanie Davison, College in the Schools, University of Minnesota, 107 Armory, 15 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455, 612-625-1855.