

Option 1: Part-time Attendance

Students may choose to earn a minimum number of high school credits and attend high school on a part-time basis during their senior year. Students must be scheduled to potentially earn at least 4 credits for the academic school year.

Extraordinary Circumstance-The personal or family situation, social adjustment, or physical circumstance of the student is so extraordinary that typical, full school day attendance is not in his/her best interest.

Financial Circumstance- The financial need of the student/family is such that employment for the student is required.

Employment-The student clearly demonstrates employment readiness.

NOTE: Students enrolling at Harford Community College during the regular school year must choose Option 2: Early College Admission

Option 2: Early College Admission

Students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.4 (unweighted) and be on-track to complete all graduation requirements.

Students not meeting the GPA requirement **must** consult with their school counselor before applying to Early College Admission, and are not eligible for a tuition waiver.

The following conditions and procedures apply to all Early College Admission options:

- Students must complete enrollment procedures as determined by the college. This may include an academic skills assessment and/or other prerequisite requirements. Remedial college courses cannot be

submitted for high school graduation requirements.

- Students are responsible for providing their high school with final post-secondary transcripts prior to graduation.
- For the Early College Admission (part-time) options, students must be enrolled in an HCPS school and be scheduled to potentially earn at least 4 credits for the academic school year.

a. Early College Admission for College Credit Only

If the student chooses post-secondary education under this option, college credits **are not** used for high school transfer credit.

b. Early College Admission for Dual Credit

This option allows students to be enrolled in a public high school and college at the same time and take credit-bearing courses that count toward earning both a high school diploma and a college degree.

Typically, two three-credit college courses are equivalent to one high school credit; however, there are exceptions. Please consult with your school counselor for more information. The final grades in the courses transferred to meet graduation requirements will be recorded on the high school transcript and will be calculated as part of the official high school GPA.

c. Early College Admission – Full-time Waiver of Senior Year*

Students choose to become full-time students at an accredited college or approved vocational, technical, or other post-secondary school rather than attend a fourth year of high school.

Students receive their high school diploma upon successful completion of **non-remedial** college credits which fulfill high school graduation requirements (or their equivalent) from an approved post-secondary program.

***IMPORTANT:** A student who chooses this option is not eligible for the reduced college tuition available to students who are dually enrolled, as defined by Senate Bill 740.

As a result of this process, students are officially **withdrawn** from Harford County Public Schools while enrolled at a post-secondary institution. It is the student's responsibility to maintain contact with the school concerning graduation information.

College credits used to meet graduation requirements **will be** recorded on the HCPS transcript. Grades earned for these courses **will not** be included in high school GPA or Class Rank computations.

Once all conditions are met for awarding of the high school diploma, the student will receive the C70 – Early College Admission completion code, which completes the HCPS academic record. Failure to complete the requirements of the program will result in a withdrawal code of W-33 – Drop Out.

The student must develop an academic plan, approved by the school counselor that assures high school graduation credit requirements will be fulfilled in the first year of post-secondary study.

Option 3: Accelerated Graduation

a. Early Graduation (Juniors only)

Students may receive a high school diploma at the end of Grade 11 through Early Graduation.

Students completing graduation requirements and leaving school at the conclusion of their third year of high school will be coded with a completion code of C-60 Graduate.

Students approved for Early Graduation will be promoted to 12th grade when he/she has met the requirements to be a 12th grader (18 credits, 2 of which must be in English). Their final GPA and class rank will be included with that year's senior class.

Students approved for Early Graduation, but who ultimately do not complete the requirements of the program, will have the Early Graduation designation removed from their transcript history.

Students must meet all state and local credit, testing, and service learning requirements to be eligible for graduation.

Students must apply before the end of Grade 10.

English classes may be taken concurrently.

b. Waiver of the Second Semester (Seniors only)

Students may choose to fulfill all graduation requirements by the end of the first semester of their senior year and waive the second semester. The diploma will be awarded when the student's graduating class receives their diplomas.

The student will be given a final GPA and class rank in January and will not be included in the final class rank in June. As a result of this process, students are officially **withdrawn** from high school upon meeting graduation requirements in January.



Alternatives to Four-Year Enrollment in a Public High School

In recognition of the fact that four-year enrollment in a public high school may not serve the best interest of some students, the following options are available. (Granted under the authority of COMAR 13A.03.02.03)

Additional administrative regulations and procedures may be deemed necessary by the Executive Director of Middle and High School Performance to organize and administer the program effectively

1. Part-time Attendance

- Extraordinary Circumstance
- Financial Circumstance
- Employment

2. Early College Admission

- Early College Admission - College Credit Only
- Early College Admission - Dual Transfer of Credit
- Early College Admission - Full-time Waiver of Senior Year

3. Accelerated Graduation

- Early Graduation
- Waiver of Second Semester

The following conditions and procedures apply to all student enrollment options:

The student must meet all state and local credit, testing, and service learning requirements for graduation.

The student and parent/guardian must complete an online application explaining the reason for requesting the waiver.

It is the student's responsibility to maintain contact with the high school concerning graduation information.

Important points to consider...

Students approved for this program will have an appropriate descriptive entry made to their permanent record card.

Students who choose post-secondary education should be academically and socially ready for the rigors of college.

Transportation is not provided for the Early College Admission options.

Students may be eligible for financial aid or scholarships prior to receiving their high school diploma and should contact the post-secondary institution to determine availability.

Depending upon the enrollment option chosen, students may not be eligible to participate in high school extra-curricular activities or senior class activities.

Parents should contact their financial advisor, tax consultant, or insurance representative to see if reduced student attendance negatively impacts family benefits.

Students who choose to work may have to provide proof of continued employment.

Students should contact the post-secondary institution of their choice for specific enrollment guidelines.

Important: The Harford Community College calendar for the Fall semester may begin classes before Harford County Public Schools. If a Harford County Public School student applies for any Senior Enrollment Option which includes taking courses at HCC, it is expected that they will participate in those classes from their inception, notwithstanding a later start to the school year for HCPS.

For more information:

- Visit your School Counseling Office for specific procedures and deadlines.
- Contact the post-secondary institution of your choice regarding enrollment options and financial aid opportunities.



The Harford County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs. Inquiries related to the policies of the Board of Education of Harford County should be directed to the Director of Public Information, 410-588-5203.



A GUIDE TO HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

Part-time Attendance (Seniors only)	Early College Admission Minimum cumulative GPA 2.4 (unweighted)	Accelerated Graduation (Juniors & Seniors)
Extraordinary Circumstance	College Credit Only	Early Graduation
Financial Circumstance	Dual Transfer of Credit	Waiver of Second Semester
Employment	Full-time Waiver of Senior Year	

IMPORTANT: Senate Bill 740 Notification – Under an agreement between Harford Community College and Harford County Public Schools to effectuate Senate Bill 740, students may be eligible to attend an approved Maryland public institution of higher education at a reduced cost, or tuition free. See your school counselor for more information.