

EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

Case for Support



COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

THE *EARLY COLLEGE* VISION

At Commonwealth University, we believe in creating opportunities that shape the future of our students. **The *Early College Program*, our flagship early admissions initiative**, offers students an exceptional college-level experience, fostering a smooth transition to full-time matriculated status and paving the way for their academic and professional success. By providing high school students with early access to college coursework, paired with comprehensive engagement, advisement, and support, the ***Early College Program*** creates a pathway for students to thrive at any Commonwealth University location as they work toward their post-secondary goals.

WHY SUPPORT THE *EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM* AT CU?

While the ***Early College Program*** opens doors to countless opportunities for ambitious high school students, it comes with **financial barriers that not all families can overcome**. The current tuition of \$115 per credit hour (\$345 for a 3-credit course) represents a fraction of traditional college costs, yet for many students from low- and middle-income families, this reduced rate is still a burden. Additionally, Early College students are *not* eligible for federal or state financial aid. Educational Income Tax Credit (EITC) funding is available, but covers less than 15% of students. That's why philanthropic support is essential to make this important program accessible to all students, regardless of their financial situation.

WHY INVEST NOW?

Supporting the ***Early College Program*** is **an investment in the future of higher education**. By contributing, you are:

Enabling Access: Your gift can **break down financial barriers** for high-achieving students, allowing them to start their college careers early and with confidence.

Supporting Recruitment and Retention: Your generosity helps us **build a strong pipeline of dedicated, motivated students** who are well-prepared for college and committed to Commonwealth University.

Fostering Student Success: With donor support, ***Early College*** participants can focus on their studies, take advantage of unique academic opportunities, and **graduate early or on time with less debt**, positioning them for success in their chosen careers.

*Your support will enhance the essential programs, **Early Start, Dual Enrollment, ACE, and STEM**, now unified under the **Early College** banner.*

The ***Early College Program*** encompasses and builds upon the legacy of several important initiatives, including **Early Start, Dual Enrollment, ACE, and STEM**, now unified under the Early College banner.

These programs have long provided talented high school students with access to college-level coursework, and today, CU's ***Early College Program*** continues that legacy, growing into **the largest such program in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE)**, with over 500 students enrolled in Fall 2024.



CALIANNE MURRAY
Early College Student

*"I've had a wonderful time and experience being in the *Early College Program*. The program has not only taught me to be resilient, but also to be adaptable."*

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YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

Your gift can enhance the lives of **Early College Program** students by:

Expanding Access to Higher Education: Your support will enable more students to participate in the **Early College Program**, offering them advanced exposure to college coursework without financial burden. **With over 500 students enrolled in Fall 2024, the demand is clear.** With your support, however, we can ensure more students—especially those from underserved communities—can take advantage of this life-changing opportunity.

Increasing Matriculation and Success: The data speaks for itself—**41% of students enrolled in Early College in Fall 2024 went on to matriculate into a Commonwealth University campus.** This is a powerful testament to the program's ability to recruit, retain, and prepare students for success in higher education. Your contribution will directly support this growing pipeline of future Commonwealth University students, and help them graduate.

Accelerating Degree Completion: By allowing students to earn up to 12 credits during the academic year and additional credits during winter and summer sessions, **the Early College Program significantly reduces the time needed for degree completion, saving students money and accelerating their academic and professional journeys.** With access to major-specific courses, Honors College options, and exclusive events, these students are set up for immediate success.

Developing Well-Rounded Leaders: The **Early College Program** isn't just about academics. This initiative offers students an immersive college experience, complete with personalized advisement and major-specific coursework to help them easily acclimate to the demands of college life. **These opportunities equip students with the tools they need to thrive**—personally, socially, academically, and professionally.

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



Donate today: Every contribution helps provide opportunities for deserving **Early College** students, **ensuring that no talented student is held back by financial limitations.**



Establish a legacy: Consider creating an **endowed scholarship** fund to support **Early College** students for generations to come.



Be an advocate: Spread the word about the transformative impact of the **Early College Program** and **encourage others to invest in the future of these bright young minds.**

*Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of countless students. By supporting the **Early College Program** at Commonwealth University, you are empowering the next generation of leaders, innovators, and change-makers.*

Thank you for your belief in the power of education and your commitment to CU student success.

For information on how you can support the **Early College Program** at Commonwealth University through gifting vehicles such as cash gifts, pledge periods, matching gifts, estate gifts, trusts, property and other assets, contact Jerome Manley at jmanley@commonwealthu.edu or 570-389-4806