

**SWIC RUNNING START
FAQs
DUPO HIGH SCHOOL 2022-2023**

1. What is Running Start?

Running Start is a two year program for highly qualified high school juniors. High school juniors in the program will attend SWIC full-time their junior and senior year, completing the requirements for their high school diploma while earning either an Associates of Arts or an Associates of Science from Southwestern Illinois College. Both degrees are earned simultaneously.

2. Will credits earned at SWIC transfer to a four-year institution?

While it is recognized that any four-year institution retains the right to determine which credit hours it will accept, by virtue of its accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, SWIC is not aware of any difficulties in the transferability of the credits earned pursuing an Associates of Arts or Science degree.

3. What is an Associate of Arts Degree and what is an Associate of Science degree?

The Associate of Arts (AA Degree) and the Associate of Science (AS Degree) are both two-year degrees designed to transfer to a four-year institution. The AA degree is usually earned when the student wants to study in areas such as the arts, humanities, social or behavioral sciences, or a professional field with those disciplines as a base. The AS degree is usually earned when a student wants to study in areas such as business, science, math or engineering.

4. What are the eligibility requirements for the program?

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale at the end of the first semester of their sophomore year; be in good standing with the school district, including up to date fees; have completed at least Algebra I and Geometry by the end of their sophomore year; and be on track to graduate on time. All students must complete all of the required materials online or in paper form prior to the required deadline. Students must take the college's Accuplacer English and math assessments and score into college level classes in both areas.

5. Will students pay tuition, fees or purchase/rent text books?

Students will pay a \$4148 participation fee to the school district per year for Running Start 1.0 and students are responsible for the rental or purchase of all books and additional supplies needed for the program. The program fee is paid directly to SWIC with their established due dates.

6. Is Running Start eligible for a Pell Grant or State/Federal Financial Aid?

No. To receive a Pell Grant or Financial Aid students must have graduated from high school or have a GED.

7. Can classes be taken at any of SWIC's Campuses?

Yes. Students can attend either the Red Bud, Belleville, or Granite City Campuses.

8. Can I take some classes at the high school and one of the three SWIC campuses?

No. Students who participate in the Running Start Program will take all of their classes at either the Belleville, Red Bud or Sam Wolf Granite City SWIC Campus and will not be allowed on the high school property until 2:55 p.m. each day to participate in after-school activities, or earlier if dictated by scheduled early dismissal times or pre-approved activities.

9. If I participate in Running Start, will I be eligible for scholarships when I enroll at a four-year college or university?

Most four-year institutions consider a student a high school graduate and new college student if they attend the four-year institution after graduation and do not attend any other college/university after graduation. In this case, Running Start students would be eligible for "new student" scholarships at those four-year institutions.

Running Start students are eligible for other scholarships and financial aid at four-year institutions if they qualify.

As always, students should confer with the four-year institution they are considering attending.

10. Can I participate in Running Start and high school athletics and activities at the same time?

Because Running Start students are high school students, they may maintain athletic eligibility while in the program. However, students will **not** be dismissed from class for athletic events and college attendance policies will apply.

Running Start students may participate in high school activities such as homecoming, prom, and clubs and organizations that meet outside of the typical high school day, again as college course schedule allows.

Running Start students may not participate in ROTC at Dupoué as ROTC requires a day time class at the high school.

11. As a Running Start student, may I participate in college activities and programs?

Yes. You will be enrolled in college courses and will receive a SWIC student ID. You may attend college events, join clubs and organizations, and access all college services.

12. What will students do for lunch?

The Belleville and Granite City Campus cafeterias have both hot and cold items for purchase. Students may bring lunch from home, or leave the college campus for lunch.

13. Is transportation provided?

It is expected that students will provide their own transportation to the college campus. Free parking stickers are required; there is no charge to park on campus. Students will receive a St. Clair County bus and MetroLink pass when they enroll at SWIC.

14. Will I be able to take online classes in Running Start?

Not at this time.

15. Will my grades at SWIC be considered weighted grades by the high school?

Courses taken as part of the Running Start Program are not eligible for accelerated high school credit.

16. Will I be eligible for high school graduation honors if I participate in Running Start?

Grades earned in college courses will be used to compute GPA and class rank. Running Start students will be considered for graduation recognition and honors.

17. Will Running Start students be required to participate in high school testing?

Running Start students must participate in all state mandated testing at the high school and will be excused from SWIC classes on those dates, however, all college assignments must be completed.

18. Will Running Start students be subject to the college's rules and regulations?

Yes. The *Student Rights and Conduct Code* and all college rules and regulations apply to Running Start students.

19. Who will see the students' grades and how can they be monitored?

Students will sign a release that will enable the college to release their grades to the high school and parents. Unlike the Teacherease system at the high school, there is no central place where parents and students can review the status of the student in each class every day. While some college faculty members may post students' grades as they are earned, giving students an opportunity to track their progress online, not all faculty members do so. However, one of the requirements for participation in the program is the completion of the **Permission and Release of Information Form** which allows for the sharing of student information (attendance, academic progress, grades, enrollment status, etc.) among parents, the school district and the college.

20. Can I change my mind?

At this time, once it is determined that you meet the requirements, you may start the program only with a required orientation course in the summer between the junior and senior year of high school and attend class full-time (minimum of 15 credit hours) starting with the fall of the high school senior year.

Running Start students who wish to return to the high school after the program begins are encouraged to wait until the end of the semester. However, Running Start students who wish to return to the high school after the completion of the orientation course may be eligible for a refund after the cost for the orientation course is fulfilled. Once the student begins the semester, there is no refund and families will be obligated for the cost of the full semester. Students are encouraged to wait until the end of the semester for academic and financial reasons.

21. What if I get behind in class or think I need help with my class?

Always talk with your instructor first. He or she may offer on-line resources or may lead a study group outside of class. The SWIC Success Center offers tutorial resources and study groups at no charge.

22. If I fail a class at SWIC, will that grade appear on my high school transcript?

Yes. If you fail a class at SWIC, that grade will appear on your high school transcript as a F.

23. If a student drops a class at SWIC, how will it impact their high school transcript and high school GPA?

If a class is dropped at SWIC, the high school will record the grade as a W on the high school transcript. The W will not be calculated into your high school GPA. If a class is dropped at SWIC, the W is not included in the college GPA, but it will appear on the transcript. Students are advised to check with their high school when dropping a class to confirm continued athletic eligibility. Students may be removed from the program for withdrawing or being dropped from more than one class per semester.

24. If I want to tour any of the SWIC campuses as I consider this opportunity, how can I make arrangements to do that?

Visit <https://www.swic.edu/students/services/enrollment-services/visit-a-campus/>

25. Where can students find out general information about SWIC?

www.swic.edu

26. Who should I speak with at the high school for more information about this opportunity?

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618-286-3812 x 2133

Ms. Megan Cunningham, School Counselor

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