

Early College & Career Options (ECCO)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is ECCO?

ECCO stands for Early College and Career Options, a full-service Eugene 4J high school offering a state-accredited diploma.

2. What is an early college?

An early college is a small high school located on a college campus, designed so that students can earn both a high school diploma and significant college credit toward a college certificate or degree.

3. Who are the ECCO students?

ECCO serves students with the desire and potential to succeed in post-secondary education. Typically, these students have not experienced success at the traditional high school and have sought out an alternative environment that better meets their needs. All ECCO students are at least 16 years old, and approximately 50% are 18 or older. Demographically, 60% of ECCO students are economically disadvantaged, 37% are students of color, and 21% are homeless.

4. Why is ECCO moving onto the Lane Community College Campus?

During the spring of 2013, the superintendent of Eugene 4J and the president of Lane Community College agreed to a partnership with the potential not only to help many more students successfully transition from high school to college, but also to develop a model with the potential to set the gold standard for several Oregon educational initiatives. The partnership will support Lane's mission to make college more accessible, help meet enrollment goals, and improve completion rates.

5. Where will ECCO be located?

Initially, ECCO will be located in the Regional Technical & Early College (RTEC) Center in building 10 on the main campus of Lane Community College.

6. Which department at Lane Community College will manage the implementation of this program?

The High School Connections department, which is a part of the Cooperative Education Division, will serve as the community college's managing department for this program.

7. What is the ECCO enrollment?

ECCO is currently a ½ day program. Approximately 160-180 students will be taking classes in the RTEC Center, with 80-90 of those students attending school in the morning and 80-90 attending school in the afternoon.

8. Is ECCO only for Eugene 4J students?

Initially, yes. However, both parties support future development of the model to include opportunities for students from across Lane County. A steering committee made up of leaders of Lane County educational institutions will direct the development of a regional early college model.

9. What courses will ECCO students take?

In their initial terms, ECCO students will be enrolled in high school courses taught by their high school instructors. Upon completion of course requirements for high school graduation and demonstration of readiness to succeed in college coursework, ECCO students will enroll in regular Lane Community College courses. This element of the program is not new, as these students have been enrolling in Lane Community College courses for several years.

10. Who advises the ECCO students?

Trained advisors in the High School Connections Office will continue to provide high quality college academic advising to ECCO students.

11. How does a student get enrolled at ECCO?

Currently, students are referred to ECCO by their home high school. Interested students who are Eugene 4J residents may also contact the school directly.

12. How is this program funded?

ECCO is a state funded Eugene 4J high school. The Eugene 4J school district pays all college tuition and fees connected to ECCO student enrollment in Lane Community College courses.