

POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS PROGRAM FOR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



**Center for School Options
and Finance**
25 S. Front Street,
Mail Stop 710
Columbus, Ohio 43215

(877) OHIO EDU

Jeffrey M. Jordan, Director
Office of Finance Program Services
Jeff.jordan@ode.state.oh.us

Wendy Cantrell, Consultant
Office of Finance Program Services
Wendy.cantrell@ode.state.oh.us

For information regarding nonpublic PSEO, please contact Wendy Cantrell. For PSEO in traditional public schools, please contact your area coordinator. Search for Area Coordinator Directory on the ODE Web for your district's area office.

Visit the ODE Web site at education.ohio.gov and click "School Options" for more information.

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What is the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program?

The Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEOP) allows Ohio high school students to earn college credit and/or high school graduation credit through the successful completion of college courses. The PSEOP is open to 9th through 12th grade students enrolled in the state's public, community and nonpublic high schools. The purpose of the program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and expose students to options beyond the high school classroom. Ohio lawmakers originally enacted the PSEOP in 1989 for 11th and 12th grade students; it was expanded in 1997 to include students in 9th and 10th grades. In 1999, additional legislation restricted eligibility to students carrying at least a 3.0 grade-point average in the subject they wish to pursue at the postsecondary level. Public and nonpublic high school students may enroll in nonsectarian, college-level courses and receive college credit and/or credit toward graduation from high school.

Students who participate in the program may choose from the following two options:

- **Option A** allows the public, community or nonpublic high school student to choose, upon enrollment, college credit or both high school and college credit. In this case, the cost of the program is funded entirely by the student's family.
- **Option B** allows the student to receive both high school and college credit. For public high school and community school students, there is no transfer of tuition between student and college. The high school's state foundation will pay the college directly. If the student is enrolled in a nonpublic high school, the cost is subsidized by funds set aside by the Ohio General Assembly in each biennium and awarded on a grade-level rotation. Public, community and nonpublic high school students electing this option will not be required to pay for tuition, books, materials or fees that are directly related to a course. However, parents should inquire to ensure that they are fully informed about any general fees that may be charged by the college or university that would be the responsibility of the family.

Who is Eligible?

If you are a resident of Ohio, a student in the 9th through 12th grade, and enrolled in a public, community or nonpublic high school, you may be eligible. Students must have a 3.0 high school grade point average in the subject they wish to study at the post-secondary institution. If you are a 9th-grader, you may enroll for up to 12 quarters, eight semesters or the equivalent of four academic years. If you are a 10th-grader, you may enroll for up to nine quarters, six semesters or the equivalent of three academic years. If you are an 11th-grader, you may enroll for up to six quarters, four semesters or the equivalent of two academic years. If you are a 12th-grader, you may enroll for up to three quarters, two semesters or the equivalent of one academic year. If you are in the middle of a year, your eligibility will be prorated.

How do I apply?

Students considering this program should check with their high school guidance counselors. The program requires that schools provide counseling to students and parents to inform them of possible risks and consequences of taking part in the program, such as:

- Limited funding that may result in the rejection of some students from the program;
- Possible inability to complete the public, community or nonpublic school's graduation requirements;
- Obligation of the student's family to reimburse the state for the amount of funds paid to the college for any uncompleted or failed course.

Students and parents must sign a form indicating that appropriate counseling was provided and all responsibilities for participation are understood.

Note to Nonpublic High School Students

For nonpublic students, the cost of the program is covered by a specified amount determined by the Ohio Legislature. Once accepted by an Ohio college or university, each year the nonpublic student must submit an application form (*Formerly known as SF-PS-140NPP*), along with a copy of the college's letter of acceptance and signatures from the student, parent, guidance counselor and college administrator. This must be done before submitting the application for approval by the Ohio Department of Education's Center for School Options and Finance.

The application form will not be processed without the required signatures and letter of acceptance. (The requirement to attach the letter of acceptance will be waived if the official seal or stamp of the post-secondary institution is affixed to the application.)

Student applicants will be awarded one allocation unit based on a grade-level rotation, starting with the seniors, and continuing with juniors, sophomores and freshman, respectively, until all the allocation units have been allotted. An allocation unit equals either 6 quarter hours or 4 semester hours in the student's chosen college. This process will continue until there is not sufficient appropriation to award all applicants in a grade level with one additional allocation unit. If there is not sufficient appropriation to award all applicants in a grade level with one additional allocation unit, the department will conduct a lottery to determine which students within the affected grade level receive the additional allocation units remaining.

The application window occurs from May 15 to June 15. All student applications submitted to the ODE will be equally considered for funding.

What are the Important Deadlines for Participation?

TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS

March 1 All public and community high school administrators must notify 8th- through 11th-grade students and their parents of the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program.

March 30 All students must notify high school administrators of their intent to participate in the program. Students who are denied written permission from their school administrator will be ineligible.

April 30 The public and community high school guidance counselor returns the completed SF-PS-140A to the area office.

No timeframe – An eligible student enrolled in a public and community school may apply and enroll in a college anytime during the student's 9th- through 12-grade school year.

NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 1: All nonpublic high school administrators must notify 8th- through 11th-grade students and their parents of the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program.

March 30: All students must notify high school administrators of their intent to participate in the program. Students who are denied written permission from their school administrator will be ineligible.

April 1: Chief administrators of high schools must notify ODE if the schools wish to participate the following school year.

April 1: The ODE area office sends Form SF-PS-140 A to the student's high school guidance counselor.

April 30: The high school guidance counselor returns the completed SF-PS-140A to the area office.

May 15-June 15: Nonpublic students must submit an application to participate in PSEO for the following school year to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Center for School Options and Finance. All applications must be mailed to ODE and postmarked no later than June 15. No application will be accepted in person, at an area office, or at the ODE office in Columbus. Applications must be fully completed to be considered for funding in this program. Applications not fully completed will be denied participation in the program. The application form must include signatures by the student, parent, high school guidance counselor and college official before the application is processed.

The application form will not be accepted by ODE if postmarked prior to May 15 or after June 15.

July 7: Award notifications will be mailed to the nonpublic students, nonpublic school administrators and college administrators.

Within one week of application receipt:

If financial support is not available, ODE will notify the nonpublic high school applicant, the applicant's high school and the college accepting the applicant's participation.

Within three weeks of application receipt:

If financial support is available, ODE will notify each nonpublic high school applicant within three weeks of receiving the student's application.

Who should I contact for Further Information?

If you or your child is interested in participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program, talk to your high school guidance counselor. You may also visit ODE's Web page at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/> and search keyword PSEOP.