Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program for Ohio High School Students

What is the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program?

The Postsecondary 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 students in Grades 9-12 who are enrolled in the state's public, community and nonpublic high schools. The program promotes rigorous academic pursuits and exposes students to options beyond the high school classroom. 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.

Ohio lawmakers originally created the PSEOP in 1989 for students in Grades 11 and 12; it was expanded in 1997 to include students in Grades 9 and 10. 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.

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

- Option A allows the public, community or nonpublic high school student to choose, upon enrollment, college credit or both high school and college credit. Under Option A, the student's family pays the entire cost of the program.
- Option B allows the student to receive both high school and college credit. Under Option B, the student's family is not required to pay for tuition, books, materials, or fees that are directly related to a course. However, parents should ask to be sure that they are fully informed about any general fees for which they may be responsible. For public and community school students, the cost of the college courses are paid by funds set aside by the Ohio General Assembly each biennium.

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 who elect this option are not required to pay for tuition, books, materials or fees that are directly related to a course. Parents should ask, however, to be sure that they are fully informed about any general fees for which they may be responsible.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for the PSEOP, a student must:

· Be an Ohio resident; and

- Be enrolled in Grades 9-12 in a public, community or nonpublic high school;
- Have a 3.0 grade-point average in the subject he or she wishes to study at the postsecondary institution.

Students who are in Grade 9 may enroll for up to eight semesters, or the equivalent of four academic years. Students in Grade 10 may enroll for up to six semesters, or the equivalent of three academic years. Students in Grade 11 may enroll for up to four semesters, or the equivalent of two academic years. Students in Grade 12 may enroll for up to two semesters, or the equivalent of one academic year. Enrollment for students who are in the middle of a year will have their eligibility prorated.

How do I apply?

Students considering the PSEOP 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 denial 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 that they understand all of the responsibilities for participation.

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 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 Office for Quality School Choice and Funding.

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 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 addition 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 Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program.

March 30 All students must notify high school administrators of their intent to participate in the program. Students who do not meet the program requirements will not receive written permission to participate.

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) Office for Quality School Choice and Funding. 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 20: 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 five weeks of application receipt:

If financial support is available, ODE will notify each nonpublic high school applicant within five 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 *Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program*, talk to your high school guidance counselor. You may also visit ODE's Web page at http://www.education.ohio.gov/ and search keyword PSEOP.

Office for Quality School Choice and Funding 25 S. Front St., Mail Stop 308 Columbus, Ohio 43215

(877) OHIO EDU (toll-free)

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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 website at $\underline{\text{education.ohio.gov}}$ and click "School Options" for more information.

