



# Youth Options Program

## Information for Students and Parents

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
Tony Evers, State Superintendent

### Program Overview

The Youth Options program allows public high school juniors and seniors who meet certain requirements to take postsecondary courses at a Wisconsin technical college, a UW System college or university, a Wisconsin tribally controlled college, or a Wisconsin private, nonprofit college or university.

The program provides opportunities for high school students to get a head start on a technical certificate or an associate or bachelor's degree, to learn more about a field or career of interest, and/or to develop specific skills for entering the workforce immediately after high school graduation.

Through the Youth Options Program, a school board will determine if a desired college course can be taken for high school credit and is not comparable to a current course offered by the district. In such cases, and unless the student fails to complete or get a passing grade in the course, the district will pay the cost of tuition and fees and the student will receive both high school and college credit. This high school credit will then count toward the student meeting high school graduation requirements needed to earn a high school diploma.

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### Eligibility

The Youth Options Program is available to Wisconsin public school juniors and seniors who meet the following requirements:

- Have completed the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- To attend a technical college, are in good academic standing and have an acceptable disciplinary record.
- Apply to the postsecondary institution in the school semester prior to the one in which the student plans to attend the postsecondary course.
- No later than March 1 for a course to be taken in the fall semester or October 1 for a course to be taken in the spring semester, submit form PI-8700-A notifying the school board of the student's intention of enrolling in a postsecondary institution.
- Maintain satisfactory attendance and comply with the compulsory school attendance law under §118.15(1)(a), Wis. Stats.

### Students with a Disability

Students with a disability are encouraged to participate in the Youth Options program. The school board may, however, refuse to permit a student with a disability to attend a technical college if the cost would impose an undue financial burden on the school district.

### College Responsibilities

Colleges participating in the Youth Options Program must:

- Notify the school board if the student is admitted to the postsecondary institution.
- Notify the school board if the student is registered to attend a postsecondary course.

### Applying for Youth Options

Students need to complete a Youth Options Program Plan and Report form PI-8700-A and submit it to their current district school board following all instructions on

the form. The form is available from the district or the DPI Youth Options website.

Students can find the Youth Options forms under “Resources” and their school district Youth Options Coordinator under “Contacts” at the DPI Youth Options website.

## Applying at the College

After getting district approval on their PI-8700-A, students will need to complete admissions forms for their selected college. These forms can be acquired from the selected college or may be available from the high school counseling office.

## Determining High School Credit and Comparability

The school board determines whether a postsecondary course is eligible for high school credit, how much high school credit may be awarded, and whether the course is comparable to a course offered at the school district.

## Payment of Tuition and Fees

**The school board must pay** for any course that is taken for high school credit and that is *not comparable* to a course offered in the school district.

**A student must pay** for any postsecondary course taken that is comparable to a course offered at the school district.

**A student must pay** for a postsecondary course that is not used for high school credit.

**A student must pay** for incidental college fees (such as a parking permit) and for equipment, tools, supplies and consumables (notebooks, workbooks, uniforms) which will become the property of the student.

**The school board must pay** for the cost of any books and fees for all approved courses and materials for students attending an IHE. The school board may require the return of books and materials in a useable form.

**The school board cannot** expect the student to pay the cost of tuition, books, and fees then reimburse the student if the student passes the course.

**The student** may be required to reimburse the school district for tuition and fees if the student drops or fails the course.

## Appeals

A student may appeal the school board’s decision about awarding high school credit or comparability of a postsecondary course to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction within 30 days of receiving notification from the school district.

## Transportation

Parents or students are responsible for transportation between the school and the postsecondary institution.

Transportation assistance is available from the DPI for low-income families (eligible for free/reduced lunch under the federal school lunch program). Transportation costs may only be reimbursed if the student is taking a postsecondary course for high school credit.

A claim for transportation reimbursement form (PI-8701) must be submitted to the DPI no later than 30 days after the end of the college semester to which the claim pertains. Students are to use the least expensive, safe means of transportation possible.

The PI-8701 is available from your school or from the DPI Youth Options webpage.

## Additional information

Youth Options Program information and materials, including forms, answers to common questions, timelines, contact persons, the Youth Options State Statute, and administrative rules, are available at:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/youthoptions>

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q.** Can a high school refuse to participate in the Youth Options Program?

**A.** No. The law requires all Wisconsin public high schools to participate.

**Q.** Does the program apply to courses offered during evenings or weekends?

**A.** Yes. A student may take a postsecondary course during or after regular school hours as long as the course is offered *during the high school’s regular academic year* (i.e., not during the summer session).

**Q.** Can a student attend a postsecondary institution in lieu of high school?

**A.** Yes. If the postsecondary institution offers all of the courses a student needs in order to meet his or her high school graduation requirements, he or she could attend the postsecondary school full time.

**Q.** How many postsecondary semester credits equal one high school credit?

**A.** Four. One semester credit offered for a postsecondary course is equivalent to ¼ high school credit.

## For more information contact:

Your high school counselor, local college admissions representative, or call:

Kevin Miller, 608-267-3161 or 800-441-4563

[Kevin.miller@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:Kevin.miller@dpi.wi.gov)

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