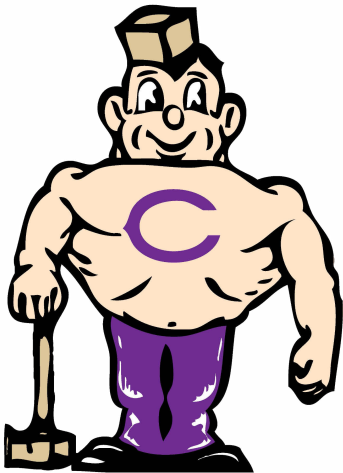


*Running Start*

*A Partnership*

*Between*



## Preamble

Each decade, as technology evolves, work becomes more intricate - requiring more cognitive thought and problem solving aptitude. Within the past 100 years our society has evolved from an agrarian-based economy to an information-based one – and still has maintained the highest standard of living in the world. This transition was accomplished through compulsory school legislation which made 2-12 education mandatory and helped young people develop skills for a rapidly changing economy. However, the globalization of trade and technology is flattening the world and shifting economic opportunity away from people with little education and few skills, thus making a 2-12 education antiquated and inferior. However, most alarming, our country is lacking an imagination and is floundering in search ways to provide contemporary skills for students as we did during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. How do we ensure that all students are properly trained and provided with economic opportunity? In short, our county needs to shift educational paradigms and develop a system where all youth have an opportunity for a post secondary education. Today, now more than ever, due to economic globalization and competition, post secondary education has become critical for all students. To remain globally competitive, everyone should have a chance to be educated beyond high school. Just as President John F. Kennedy had a vision to put a man on the moon in the early 1960's, the Canton Learning Community has a vision to put every high school student on a college campus. That is what Running Start is all about.

## What is Running Start?

*Running Start* is a partnership between Canton High School and Spoon River College that provides an opportunity for academically qualified seniors to enroll in college classes through the SRC as part of their high school coursework. This unique partnership between the Canton #66 and SRC allows high school students to attend college classes during the fall, spring, and summer while earning both high school and college credits.

## Who's Eligible?

Any student enrolled in grade 12 at Canton High School:

- Is under the age of 21 as of September 1st of the school year in which the college course is taken.
- Fulfills and complies with college campus and high school requirements such as:
  - Admission forms
  - Strong academic standing in high school to guarantee high school graduation at completion of program.
  - A minimum of 3.0 GPA cumulative in high school at the time of application.
  - Completed 1 year of Algebra, 1 year of Geometry, and 2 years of English and earned grades of "B" or higher before starting the program.
  - Maintenance of acceptable academic standing
  - Waive all Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act rights (FERPA).
  - Completes a required college orientation session

- Agrees to meet with SRC and Canton Academic Counselors 1 time per semester
- Provides Canton, SRC, and Parents with access to the student's academic records.
- Maintains a 3.0 average while in the program(out of a 4.0)
- Agree to enroll in and complete at least 12 credit hours per semester.
- Draft a two year educational plan.
- Complete a 300 word essay describing your professional and intellectual aspirations and prior personal experiences, your passions, and special interests.
- Complete a selection interview process.
- Attendance and discipline records will be reviewed during the application process.
- Complete appropriate SRC placement exams.

## Admission Requirements

Attending college during your senior year is a privilege in the State of Illinois. As a result, the Running Start Program is coveted by Canton Students. There shall be a cap of 25 students allowed to participate within the Running Start Program. Accordingly, to ensure student success in the Running Start Program, Canton High School has implemented an application process. The process will include the following:

- Complete the fromal Running Start application
- Complete the SRC online application, if you have not enrolled in a dual-credit course before
- 300 word essay describing the professional and intellectual aspirations and prior personal experiences, passions, and special interests of the candidate
- The candidate will be expected to draft a two-year educational plan. The educational plan will include educational goals, vision, anticipated course work, and post-baccalaureate professional plans.
- Attendance and discipline records will be reviewed during the application process.
- Candidates will complete an interview process. The interview team will include the principal, guidance counselor, and an SRC representative.
- A minimum 3.0 GPA cumulative in high school at the time of application,
- Completed 1 year of Algebra, 1 year of Geometry, 2 years of English and earned grades of "B" or higher before starting the program

## Goals

*Running Start* has numerous goals, including but not limited to:

- Accelerating student educational progress
- Saving taxpayer educational dollars
- Saving family college expenses
- Enriching/expanding educational options for talented and motivated high school students
- Improving articulation linking high school and college curricula
- Providing an alternative educational environment for talented high school students
- Providing a transition into college
- Providing access to coursework not offered at Canton High School

## Beginning College Early

The decision to begin college early is an important one. It is important to consider each student's maturity level in making choices about educational options. Although a student may be academically prepared for college level coursework, he/she may find the demands of college extremely overwhelming. Student success requires motivated individuals who work independently, take initiative, have good study skills, and are able to responsibly complete assignments throughout the semester.

Parents and students should give careful consideration to the appropriateness of this program before enrolling. Students are starting a permanent college transcript when they take any college classes. High school and college advisors are available to discuss the many options available. Each option has strengths and limitations.

## Program Strengths

- Students have the opportunity to take courses that may not be offered at their local high schools
- Academically prepared students have an opportunity to get a head start on taking college level courses and earning high school and college credits simultaneously
- Students have an opportunity to experience post-secondary education while in high school, easing the transition from high school to college and making future educational and career plans more realistic
- Students who have difficulty fitting into a traditional high school setting may flourish in a different educational setting
- Students and their families can reduce the cost of college
- In college, high school students gain maturity and knowledge from the participation and diversity of other college students and upper level courses

## Program Limitations

- Some academically qualified students may not be ready socially or emotionally for the college environment. They may find the independence and the speed of college classes overwhelming
- High schools provide a social network and social development experiences for teenagers which are not as accessible at the college level
- College schedules may conflict with high school classes or extracurricular activities (sports, drama, clubs, etc.)
- The college academic calendar may operate differently from the high school academic calendar. Holidays and vacation periods are frequently different. Students are expected to attend classes at the college even though their high schools may not be in session. *Careful planning must occur in order to avoid conflicts with family, work, and school activities.*

## What to Expect as a College Student

Once students begin attending college, they will be considered "regular" college students. The faculty will expect the same level of classroom participation and quality of work from all students. Students will be

expected to meet class deadlines, be prepared for class, ask questions, and conduct themselves as responsible adults. If students are having difficulty or need additional assistance, it is their responsibility to seek out the instructor. Instructors keep posted office hours when students can come to see them for help or discussion. Appointments can usually be made outside of office hours if students have schedule conflicts.

**Class Pace** — The academic pace of college classes is faster than in high school. For example, a high school math class that is taught in one year at the high school is taught in one semester at the college. There is little time for faculty to stop and review lessons for students who do not understand the material or were absent from class. However, faculty members encourage students to come to their offices for individual help.

**Homework** — The standard expectation in a traditional face-to-face 16-week course is that students will spend a minimum of 2 hours per week outside of class for every hour in class. For example, a student taking a 3 credit hour class should plan to dedicate at least 6 hours per week outside of class towards coursework. The work might be class preparation and study time, reading, completing assignments, writing papers, group work, and/or other types of experimental learning. An equivalent amount of work is required for all forms of delivery, including online classes, hybrid classes, laboratory work, studio work, and courses meeting on a shortened schedule such as 12-week or 8-week classes.

**Class Size** — Classes can vary in size from 10 to 35 students, with the average class size about 10 students.

**Attendance** — Some faculty take attendance, others do not. It is the student's responsibility to be prepared each day of class and meet all deadlines. Some faculty give pop quizzes and expect all papers to be turned in on time with no possibility for make up work. Students are expected to follow the SRC attendance policies and the policies set by their SRC instructors. Students should be aware of the SRC and CHS academic calendars.

**Class Participation** — This is an integral part of college and many faculty require students to participate in classroom discussions. Faculty will provide a syllabus at the beginning of the semester outlining their expectations. It is the student's responsibility to understand and follow through with these expectations.

**Withdrawing From Class** — Withdrawing from a class at SRC may have a serious impact on a student's high school graduation status, athletic eligibility, college admissions status, and financial aid status. Students will receive a WF on their high school transcript, if they withdraw from a class. Students are required to fill out a withdrawal form from CHS and SRC.

**Grade Reports** — Each high school will receive grade reports for their *Running Start* students and will, in turn, post these credits/grades on each student's high school transcript according to Board of Education guidelines. Grades are posted to Skyward at the end of each term. All SRC classes are weighted classes.

**Academic Records** — Students completing classes through the *Running Start* program will receive both high school and college credit. *Grades received become part of their permanent college transcript.*

**Academic Standards** — Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average each semester. Students whose GPA falls below a 2.5 for any one semester may be dismissed from the Running Start Program and may not receive a high school diploma. Students face dismissal or sanctions from Spoon River College if they are academically deficient. Students should review the Academic standards section in the college catalog.

**Parent's Access to Student Records** — It is the policy of Spoon River College to regard *Running Start* students as "regular college students." The colleges are adult learning communities and students are treated accordingly. All Running Start students are required to complete a FERPA waiver to participate within the program. As a result, all student's records will be available to parents. There is no Skyward system for SRC and SRC does not post grades to the CHS Skyward system. All grade communication will be initiated by the student/parent.

**Transferring to Another College or University** — Some college credits are transferable to other post secondary institutions in the state, according to the guidelines of each institution. It is important for students to consult with college admissions representatives and university advisors as early as possible. Students should contact out-of-state colleges on an individual basis for their policy on accepting *Running Start* credits.

**Scheduling of Classes** - Students will attend an SRC orientation session and meet with an SRC advisor one time per semester to schedule classes. They must complete a concurrent enrollment form for CHS guidance counselors to approve before they officially register for classes or drop a class during the add/drop period. Students are required to enroll in dual-credit courses at Canton High School, if the class is offered. Students can enroll in these classes at Spoon River College/online. Exceptions: 1. if they are taking all classes at Spoon River College/online 2. or a scheduling conflict (must be approved by CHS administration and guidance counselor).

**Costs** — All books and transportation are the responsibility of the student. Tuition, lab fees, and certifications will be paid for by Canton Union School District #66.

**Relationship with CHS** - All Running Start students are still CHS students and required to pay CHS fees, check Google Classroom, CHS email, and announcements.

**Credit Hours** - Students will enroll in a minimum of 12 credit hours and can enroll in a maximum of 18 credit hours per semester. Students can petition CHS and SRC, if they would like to enroll in more classes.