Gateway to College High School Completion Program

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions for Gateway to College Applicants

How does the Gateway to College program work?

Once you have been admitted, you will be enrolled in a Gateway to College learning community at Spokane Falls Community College (SFCC).

- A learning community is a group of 20-25 students who take all of their first term courses together in preparation for becoming college students on the college campus.
- Learning community first-term courses are reading, writing, math, communications, college survival and success.
- Students will earn both high school and college credits starting in their first term.
- Students spend 3-4 hours per day outside of class working on homework.

After successfully completing the learning community first term, students transition into college courses with other college students.

- Students enroll in Spokane Falls Community College courses and continue to earn both high school and college credit, as they work towards earning a high school diploma.
- All courses after the learning community first term are selected with the assistance of an Academic Success Coach based upon each student's high school and beyond plan and educational goals.

What can I achieve in this program?

Students can earn their high school diploma and earn SFCC credit toward a certificate or a degree.

How long would it take me to earn my high school diploma?

Most students are in Gateway to College for 2-3 years. The exact length of time to earn a diploma varies based on a student’s course load and credit needs. Students remain in Gateway to College until they earn a diploma or turn 21. We encourage graduates of the program to continue their college studies to meet their academic goals.

Who are Gateway to College students?

Gateway to College is for students who:

- are 16 to 20 years old.
- are behind in high school credits (for age and grade), with a history of absenteeism and/or low GPA, or already dropped out of school.
- live in one of the following school districts: Spokane Public Schools; West Valley; Central Valley; Cheney; Mead; Nine Mile Falls; or East Valley, Freeman School Districts.
- read at an eighth grade level or higher (English proficiency).
- are able to complete their high school diploma by age 21.
- are willing to make a long term commitment (two or more years) to work hard to complete high school and progress toward a college degree.
Gateway to College does not serve students who are doing well in high school and want to make an early transition to college. Gateway to College works exclusively with students who have not experienced success in a traditional high school. They are either no longer attending or are significantly behind in credits and are unable to graduate with their peers.

What is expected of me?

- Students are expected to attend 100% of their classes.
- Students are expected to come to class on time, be prepared with class materials, and to complete all class and homework assignments.
- **Students are expected to spend 3-4 hours a day working on their homework** (outside of class time). We strongly encourage students who have a job to consider the time demands of the program.
- Students are expected to adhere to all Spokane Falls Community College policies and procedures.

What is the cost of the program?

Gateway to College is a scholarship program. The scholarship pays for college tuition, books, and academic fees. Gateway students are expected to pay any other school-related expenses such as supplies and parking permits.

What kind of support will help me be successful in a college setting?

Students who are accepted into the program are assigned an Academic Success Coach, who will provide support and access to resources to help all students in the program to be successful, including the following services:

- Transcript reviews and academic advising.
- Assistance with completing enrollment and registration.
- Referrals to resources, such as tutoring, counseling, student activities, health services, and more.
- Guidance including assistance with problem solving, time management and stress management.

If I have been on an Individual Education Plan (IEP) at my high school, will I still receive the same services and support at SFCC?

Applicants who have received Special Education Services and who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in place are required to submit a copy of their IEP during the application process. This will allow the Gateway to College staff to review the necessary services in the IEP to assist the student and determine if appropriate services will be available at Spokane Falls Community College via the Disability Support Services office.

I am enrolled in high school and do not want to withdraw until I know if I have been accepted. Can I be considered for the Gateway to College program if I am still enrolled in high school?

Yes. If you are currently attending high school, please consider staying in school until the end of the term prior to starting Gateway to College. Once you have been accepted into the Gateway program, the program will notify the school district that you will be attending Gateway to College at Spokane Falls Community College. You will follow the SFCC academic year schedule and will only attend classes on the SFCC campus.

How do I apply?

Please review the [How to Apply for the Gateway to College program](#) page.