



Bellevue College High School Completion FAQs

I have a question!

Please read these frequently asked questions about the High School Completion Program at Bellevue College **before** you come to your appointment with a Case Manager.

What are the High School Completion Programs at Bellevue College?

The High School Program are three different programs that students can complete classes or competency-based work for a high school diploma that meets the minimum requirements for the State of Washington. The diploma is granted by Bellevue College and is recognized just like a diploma issued by any accredited, (official), high school in Washington.

- [High School Completion \(HSC\)](#)
- [High School Completion 21+](#)
- [Career Education Options \(CEO\) Youth Re-engagement Program](#)

How do I apply for the High School Completion Program?

1. Contact any high schools you have attended and request an official, sealed copy of your transcripts (the records of the classes you took and your grades). All high schools in the United States are required by Federal Law to keep your transcripts on file for 75 years. Once you have the transcripts in hand, then...
2. Complete the [online application](#).
3. Turn in your official high school transcript/s to the Center for High School Programs Office.
4. Request an appointment with one of our High School Completion Case Managers at chsprograms@bellevuecollege.edu.
5. Fully complete the "Youth High School Completion Program Packet" located [here](#).

Classes completed in grades nine through twelve may count toward the credits needed for a high school diploma. State test results and a High School and Beyond Plan are required if you would have graduated in the class of 2008 or after and are under the age of 21. When you request your transcripts, be sure to ask for your transcripts to include results from those tests (example: HSPE/EOC or Smarter Balance for Washington State Students) and your High School and Beyond Plan. If you are under the age of 21, you should ask to make sure all state tests are listed on your transcript, along with the High School and Beyond Plan. If they are not, ask the high school to include those test results and a copy of your HSBP when you receive your transcripts. If you have completed a Washington State History class any time from grade seven to twelve, ask to make sure your transcript shows that completion.

What are the requirements for a high school diploma through Bellevue College?

The High School Completion Program at Bellevue College follows the minimum requirements for obtaining your diploma set by The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

- Earn high school credit

- Number of credits required is set by state law and are dependent on your graduation class year.
- If you are under the age of 21, you will also be required to complete any state testing requirements and the High School and Beyond Plan.

Credits and requirements vary by graduating class year. A Case Manager will discuss this with you at your first appointment.

During your attendance in high school completion, you will be required to meet with your case manager 2 hours per month. During these meetings, you and your case manager will work together on your college and career pathways, your quarterly education plan so that you will know exactly how long it will take you to earn your diploma.

During your final quarter in the High School Completion Program, you will work with your case manager to complete a diploma application. At that meeting, you and your case manager will review all classes you have taken to ensure that you have fulfilled all requirements to graduate.

Am I too old to earn a high school diploma? Isn't my only option a GED?

No, if you are 16 or older you are eligible for the High School Completion Program or High School Completion 21+. The average age of students in HSC classes is 22, but there are students in their thirties, forties, and older in our program too.

If you are 21 or older, you may qualify for the competency-based High School 21+ program. Be sure to read the information about each of these programs and make an appointment to talk to one of our High School Completion Advisors to decide which one is best for you.

How many classes do I have to take to get my diploma?

It depends on how many credits you have already earned at your previous high school/s as well as what class year you would have been. We cannot tell you for sure until you come in, speak with one of our case managers, and have your high school transcripts evaluated. For example, if you completed grade nine, it may take about five to six quarters to finish your high school diploma. If you completed grade ten or eleven, it could take three to five quarters, and if you completed most of the twelfth grade, you might be able to finish in one or two quarters.

If you qualify for the High School 21+ program, the amount of time it will take for you to earn your diploma will depend on how well you can show proof of competency in the subject areas required. HS21+ students must also meet the Washington State History requirement.

How do I know what classes to take?

That's part of what you'll decide when you meet with a High School Completion Case Manager. They will evaluate your transcripts, help you decide which program is right for you, and determine which classes you will need to complete your diploma.

What are some of the benefits of the High School Completion program?

You might take classes that apply toward your high school diploma **and** college classes at the same time! For example, if you take computer classes, some of them may apply towards the math, science, or elective requirements for a high school diploma **and** towards an Electronics degree. Another example: if you need a United States History credit, you can take one of the college level U.S. History class that would count toward both your High School Diploma and your college degree as well.

Which is better, a High School Diploma or the GED?

There is no right answer to this question. Things to consider when making that choice are your academic skills, how much time you have to complete a high school diploma or a GED, and what your goals are in life. Either option can be the right one. This is a good question to discuss with a High School Completion Case Manager.

Do I have to take the ACCUPLACER to be in the High School Completion Program?

ACCUPLACER has replaced the COMPASS Test. The ACCUPLACER test is the placement exam used for college level classes. If you plan to take college level courses while in our program, then you most likely will be required to take this college placement test before you can enter into those courses. For information on the college [placement tests](#) and options or contact the Testing Center at 425/564-2243.

What is CASAS?

CASAS stands for **Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems**. You may be asked to take a CASAS test while in our program. The CASAS test is designed to figure out what level you need to start within basic skills. It shows your reading, writing, and math skills at pre-college levels. Students in the HS21+ program are required to take the CASAS test.

Can I start in one program and then switch to another?

In general, it is good to finish the program you start so you don't have to go through a second evaluation process. If you qualify for and start in the HS21+ program, you will need to finish in that program.

Do I need to be a citizen to be in the High School Completion program?

No, you don't need to be a citizen. However, if you are in the United States with an F, M, H, J, L, TD, TN or B visa, you need to contact the International Student Services office at 425-564-3185 for information about admissions to Bellevue College.

International Students

[Find more information for high school completion for international students.](#)