

Frequently Asked Questions: How to Access Courses Not Available in Your School District

Students attending public schools in North Carolina may participate in two online programs providing high quality courses. The North Carolina Virtual Public School offers high school courses and Learn and Earn Online offers college-level, dual-credit courses. Students earn both high school credit and college credit simultaneously. Both programs provide courses free of charge to students.

NORTH CAROLINA VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

What is the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS)?

- NCVPS is a supplement to public schools. Grades are reported to the students' schools and the courses appear on students' high school transcripts.
- Courses are developed following the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.
- Courses at NCVPS are taught by certified, highly-qualified teachers.

Who can enroll in NCVPS courses?

- Students enroll through their local public school. Students attending non-public schools may enroll through their local public school systems' Visiting Student policy at the discretion of the LEA and local schools.
- Enrollment is available to middle school students following the North Carolina State Board of Education's policy on courses for credit.
- Students should contact their school counselor and distance learning advisor to register for courses.

How is credit awarded?

- Credit for courses taken through NCVPS is reported to the students' local school. The school uses the NCVPS grade and other course requirements such as the End of Course Test results to calculate the final grade. Course credit appears on students' high school transcripts.

What Courses are available from NCVPS?

- Approximately 70 high school level courses are available from NCVPS including Advanced Placement, English language arts, math, science, second languages, and credit recovery. Core mathematics courses available are Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. Courses accepted by the UNC General Administration for admission to UNC institutions are Advanced Functions and Modeling and AP Calculus. For a complete course list visit the NCVPS Web site at www.ncvps.org.

How can I find out if my local public school participates in the NCVPS?

- Contact your school counselor, distance learning advisor, or principal.

Do students pay a fee to participate in NCVPS courses?

- Students and their families do not pay tuition for NCVPS courses. Local schools provide textbooks free of charge under the State textbook system.

What is an NCVPS course like?

- Online students log onto their course at any time during the day or night. They view assignments and participate in ongoing online discussions. Students communicate with their instructor through email, Blackboard messages, telephone calls, and secure voice tools. Students complete research assignments, project work, readings, and collaborate with other students in planned activities then submit their work to their online teacher. Since the teacher sets deadlines for assignments, students check the course schedule to find out what other course-related activities are due. Students participate in scheduled discussion sessions or phone conferences with the instructor and other students. Assignments may include viewing a video or listening to audio recordings. Just as classrooms differ slightly, so does the virtual classroom experience. Different courses incorporate different types of course materials and Internet technologies.

If I am taking a graduation requirement course online through NCVPS or Learn and Earn Online, is my school required to give me time during the school day to take the course?

- NCVPS and Learn and Earn Online courses are available 24 hours a day. The time of day that students take their courses is a local decision. State Board Policy HSP-M-001 states, *“LEAs are instructed to be purposeful in establishing processes and procedures to enroll and manage such e-learning students in an environment where they can be successful.”* Students, parents, and school administrators should work together to establish a schedule for students that supports successful participation in online courses.

How do I contact NCVPS for more information?

- Call NCVPS at 919-513-8550 or email ncvps@dpi.state.nc.us.

LEARN AND EARN ONLINE

What is Learn and Earn Online? www.nclearnandearn.gov

- Learn and Earn Online is an online, dual-credit program through which NC public school students earn high school and college credit.

Who can enroll in Learn and Earn Online?

- Students enrolled in public high schools in North Carolina are eligible to enroll in Learn and Earn Online.
- Students enroll through their public high school.
- Students need broadband access to the Internet to participate. A period during the school day for students to work on their courses and an adult distance learning facilitator who is present as students take their online courses may be required for some university courses. The North Carolina Community College System has waived the requirement for an onsite facilitator and

dedicated computer lab for their Learn and Earn Online courses. Students may access these courses online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- Students in home schools may enroll in Learn and Earn Online courses through a participating public high school if the school system offers a Visiting Student policy. Private school students are not eligible.

How can I find out if my public school participates in Learn and Earn Online?

- Check with the school counselor or the distance learning advisor.

Who pays for tuition and textbooks?

- State funding covers the costs of tuition and textbooks. Schools can find information on several options available to them to acquire textbooks at:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/learnandearnonline/home/2007-08leotextbookpurchasing.doc>.

Which colleges and universities participate in Learn and Earn Online?

- The University of North Carolina at Greensboro iSchool and most North Carolina Community Colleges offer courses. Check the Web site www.nclearnandearn.gov for an up-to-date list of participating community colleges.
- Students may take courses from any participating community college in the state.

What types of courses are offered?

- Courses are college level and cover a variety of content areas. Community colleges offer over 350 online courses. UNC-G iSchool offers approximately 20 courses. Learn and Earn Online course offerings change frequently. Currently, the following courses offered by Learn and Earn Online are accepted by the UNC General Administration for admission to UNC institutions: MAT 155 (Statistical Analysis), MAT 165 (Finite Math), MAT 171 (Pre-calculus Algebra), MAT 175 (Pre-calculus). For a complete list of courses go to these Learn and Earn Online Web sites:
 - UNCG iSchool course catalog:
http://ischool.uncg.edu/dcl/web/pdf/IS_Step1_2_3_F08_Sp09_revJuly2008.bw.pdf
 - NC Community Colleges course catalog:
<http://vlc.nccommunitycolleges.edu/LaE/LAEform.asp>

How do students enroll in Learn and Earn Online?

Students, parents, and school staff must carefully consider graduation requirements, student's high school graduation plans, and course prerequisites before enrolling in a Learn and Earn Online dual credit course. School counselors provide students help in wisely selecting courses that support both high school requirements and future college plans. Much of the work involved in researching and registering for Learn and Earn Online courses is the responsibility of students under the supervision of their parents and school counselors.

- **UNCG iSchool Enrollment Process** <http://ischool.uncg.edu/dcl/web/ischool/>
As a junior or senior in high school, students may apply to take online classes through UNCG iSchool. UNCG iSchool courses are led by a college instructor, require a time during the school day for students to work on their course, and an on-site, adult school facilitator. For more information, high school staff should contact Beth Baldwin at 336-315-7027 or

866-334-2255 (toll-free) for information on requirements for participation and enrollment processes. A video on the UNCG iSchool Website gives step-by-step instructions for enrolling students at <http://web.uncg.edu/dcl/web/ischool/ischolHowToSIF.mov>. Additional written instructions are available at their Web site:

http://ischool.uncg.edu/dcl/web/ischool/youth_ff_registration.asp.

- **North Carolina Community Colleges** <http://vlc.nccommunitycolleges.edu/LaE/>
Many community colleges offer online college courses to assist students in meeting their educational goals. For a complete list of community colleges participating in Learn and Earn Online, check the Website <http://nclearnandearn.gov/learnEarnOnline.aspx>. Students may begin taking community college classes online in the 9th grade. With their school counselor, students determine which courses they want to take and which community college is the best choice. Many school systems have long-standing relationships with their local community college and may want students to consider that institution as a first choice. However, high school students may take courses from any participating community college. A Learn and Earn Online contact person's email address and telephone number is listed with each course description in the Community Colleges Online Catalog. The contact person listed can help answer questions about enrollment. Once a community college is selected, students complete an admissions application to the community college. The North Carolina Community College System joined with the College Foundation of North Carolina in developing an Online Admissions Application students complete once and send to multiple institutions. The application is online at http://www1.cfnc.org/ExternalScripts/Online_Applications/College_Admission/default.asp. More information about the enrollment process is available at <http://vlc.nccommunitycolleges.edu/LaE/Resources.asp>.

Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

- Public Schools: John Brim, Chief Operating Officer, NCVPS, 919-513-8550, jbrim@dpi.state.nc.us
- UNCG iSchool: Beth Baldwin, Director of School Partnerships, 336-315-7027 or 866-334-2255 (toll-free)
- Community Colleges: Antonio Jordan, Director of High School Partnerships, 919-807-7133