VAIL EARLY COLLEGE

MONARCHS

If you have questions, please contact:
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What is the Vail Early College?

- A Vail program offered through the high schools in the Vail School District.
- An opportunity for students to spend their senior year taking all their classes on the East Campus of Pima Community College.

What is the VEC here to do?

- Help students to succeed in the transition from high school to college.
- Help students go on to complete their college degrees and/or certifications.
- Provide students with the supports and develop the skills necessary to successfully meet their academic goals.
- Focus on being the right program for the right students.

What are the benefits of the Vail Early College?

- Free Pima tuition, fees, and most textbooks (a value of nearly $4,000).
- Full time Vail School District staff to help with each student's individual academic journey.
- Students experience what college is really like while receiving daily supports and targeted training for success.
- Students can earn up to 30 transferrable college credits prior to graduating from high school.
- Since credits are earned prior to high school graduation, colleges view VEC students as first year college students. This means that VEC students remain eligible to apply for first year scholarships and financial aid packages.

What is the Vail Early College experience?

- Students spend senior year of high school full time at Pima East Campus.
- School day is Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and at least 1 Friday a month.
- The VEC follows Pima's academic calendar, not the Vail School District's.
- Students take 4 Pima courses per semester, plus American Government, College Success and Senior Exit Project.
- Pima courses are specifically chosen to meet each student's individual educational goals and needs.
- Students take American Government for high school credit on Pima's East Campus, taught by VEC staff.
- Students are provided with specific college success supports throughout the school year in our College Success class.
- Students complete their Senior Exit Project through the Vail Early College!
- Full time Vail School District staff provide daily support to students and parents.
- Students are still able to participate in their Vail high school's sports, afterschool clubs and activities, dances, and also have access to Pima resources, activities, and events.
- Students receive their high school diploma from their Vail high school and walk with their class at graduation.

How can students participate in the Vail Early College?

Step 1

Students complete an application on the VEC website on or before the application deadline.

Step 2

Student applications are evaluated and students are notified via email.

Step 3

If accepted into the VEC program, students then complete a
Pima Community College student application and attend all VEC new student events.

All current high school juniors are eligible to apply, especially if they meet the following:

- Have a personal motivation to transform their high school experience into one that will truly prepare for college.
- Are able to place into WRT 101 and MAT 151 (or higher) at Pima Community College. Placement based on Pima Community College's placement qualifications.
- Are on track for graduation and currently enrolled in Algebra 2 or beyond for math.
- Have overall good grades, good attendance, and no disciplinary concerns.

Current sophomores may apply to begin the VEC program during their junior year, and work towards earning an associate degree. However, they must take Pima's placement tests in writing, reading and math and will have a more rigorous application evaluation.

How will students be selected?

Selection and application scoring will focus on:

- Ability to succeed in college-level courses
- Successful progress towards graduation from high school
- Motivation and commitment to college coursework
- Ability to follow the policies and expectations of the VEC program

Evidence of the above will be scored from:

- Student application essay
- Cumulative unweighted grade point average
- Pima placement test scores, if needed
- Rigor of coursework in high school (e.g., honors, AP, dual-enrollment)
- High school academic record (transcript, attendance, and discipline)
- Recommendations from two core content area teachers
- Interview (for applicants who meet the rubric's initial score threshold)

Are you ready to transform your senior year and apply to the Vail Early College?

Go to the VEC website to complete your application!

https://earlycollege.vailschooldistrict.org