

**PSEO Program**  
**(Post Secondary Enrollment Options)**  
**Bethany Academy's General Policy Regarding PSEO**

The PSEO program is an opportunity for students to do two things simultaneously: earn credits to fulfill Bethany Academy graduation requirements and earn college credits. The purpose of this document is to inform Bethany Academy students and parents about the opportunity and implications of enrolling in PSEO classes through qualifying colleges and universities. This document should not be interpreted as recruitment by any particular college or university or endorsement by Bethany Academy. It is provided as information only to Bethany Academy students and parents of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders so an informed decision can be made about participation.

College enrollment while still in high school is possible for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school students. Students must apply and be accepted by the college or university. This program allows high school students to earn college credits and, with the high school's permission, to use those credits toward the completion of their high school graduation requirements. Bethany Academy allows college courses to count as credits toward high school graduation if the courses satisfy Bethany's subject requirements. Students are encouraged to select courses that are consistent with the values and mission of Bethany Academy. The Academic Dean at Bethany Academy can provide you with additional guidance in course selection.

Students are allowed to take up to 16 credits of PSEO classes per semester. PSEO classes taught by Bethany Academy teachers (referred to as College in the School or 'CIS' classes) do not count toward this maximum. Students who take 1-8 PSEO credits in a semester (not including CIS classes) will have a \$200 per PSEO credit discount applied to their account at the end of the semester after successful completion of the course(s). Students who take 9-16 PSEO credits in a semester will be billed based on the classes they are taking from Bethany instructors. The fee structure is as follows: \$600 per semester for classes that meet 4-5 days per week, \$300 per semester for classes that meet 2-3 days per week classes, and \$100 per semester for each study period in the PSEO Resource Room. All PSEO students will be billed at the traditional rate for the months of June, July and August. After students' enrollment in PSEO classes is confirmed by the college or university in September, first semester tuition will be adjusted for students taking 9-16 online PSEO credits.

**Current Bethany Academy Courses that Offer College Credit:**

Bethany Academy currently offers two College in the Schools courses (CIS, or on-site PSEO) to juniors and seniors, giving students the opportunity to earn a total of 7 college credits. These classes are History of Western Civilization (4 credits, elective for juniors and seniors) and Principles of Geography (3 credits, required as either a junior or senior).

In addition to the two CIS classes, Bethany Academy also offers three Advanced Placement (AP) classes to juniors and seniors. Students taking AP classes have the opportunity to earn college credits (or be exempted from certain college courses) if they achieve a score of 3 or higher on the Spring AP Test. The specifics of how colleges consider AP Test scores for college credit are dependent on the policies set by each college. The three elective AP classes currently offered by

Bethany Academy are AP Language & Composition, AP Literature & Composition, and AP Calculus.

### **Implications for Bethany Academy Students and Parents:**

The decision to participate in this program needs to be well thought out and made well in advance of any deadlines as there are many steps to the process.

The amount of study time required for a college course should be considered prior to registering for classes. Each credit represents one hour per week in the classroom. For example, a 3-credit college course will meet 3 hours per week in the classroom. Students need on average 2 hours of study time for every 1-hour in the classroom. A 3-credit class will require 6 hours of study time per week on the student's own time. Therefore, students are making a 9-hour commitment to that one college course each week. College students are not given classroom time to complete assignments.

The term "online" means that students complete the whole course over the internet. Perhaps the most important thing to understand about taking an online course is that students do not have the built-in structure offered in a more traditional class. The teacher will not remind students to do their homework. Students generally will not have the ability to ask questions and get immediate answers. Therefore, while earning PSEO credits can significantly decrease the cost of college and the time required to earn a degree, online courses are not conducive to all students' learning styles.

Once a class has begun, "withdrawing" by the college's deadline is an option but could result in a grade of "W" on your college transcript. While it does not hurt the GPA, it may raise questions.

Courses taken through Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU) will transfer to other colleges and universities accredited by the same organization. There is no guarantee these courses will transfer elsewhere or that students won't still be required to take similar courses at their chosen college or university.

Parents know their child best and should consider their student's level of maturity, social skills, self-motivation, and chance of success in a college environment. Be aware that, because of the PSEO program, it is possible to graduate from college at a young age and be too young to get a job. For example, in the field of law enforcement you must be 21 before you can be employed.

The curriculum at secular colleges and universities may be contrary to accepted Christian teaching. The instructors may not reflect Christian perspective and may even take an opposing viewpoint towards Christian truths. Bethany Academy does not endorse any instructor or courses for this very reason. The Bethany administration encourages parents to carefully consider if their son/daughter has the maturity, discernment, and stability to handle the academic and social environment at any secular institution of learning.

Expanding the maximum allowed PSEO credits and allowing students to substitute PSEO classes for core Bethany Academy courses has several significant benefits for Bethany Academy families. The new policy greatly expands class options for students, allows students to earn 'free' college credits, could decrease the time required to earn a college degree by two years or more, and reduces the cost of Bethany tuition. However, the Bethany Academy staff believes

that the most significant aspect of the new PSEO Policy is that it allows juniors and seniors to continue to be a part of the Bethany Academy Community and experience all aspects of high school life. Students can continue to socialize with friends, attend chapel, lead others in worship, play sports, enjoy events such as Junior Banquet and Homecoming, act in the play, serve others with NHS, and grow as leaders by serving on the Student Council. Finally, students will receive their Bethany Academy diploma at a celebratory ceremony that perfectly culminates their years at Bethany Academy.

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