

COL Structure

1. Physical Security

COL is located on a college campus. A dedicated building is used for all high school classes and the dual enrollment classes taken by 10th graders. Students begin interacting with college resources as sophomores and are totally immersed in the college environment by the time they are seniors. However, even as seniors, students have the COL building as their home base. Both the college and COL collaborate to ensure that all students and staff are notified and know how to respond in the event of an emergency. COL students participate in fire, active shooter/lockdown, and weather drills throughout the year..

2. Accelerated Academics

High school academic courses are designed to meet Florida's high school standards and also to prepare students for success in Polk State College's dual enrollment courses. Students are guided and coached in the development of agency and voice as they take an active, intentional role in their learning. They develop critical and creative thinking skills through both individual and group projects. Each student's program of study leads to a high school diploma and the attainment of a significant number of college credits toward an AA, AS, or BAS/BS degree by the time of high school graduation.

Purpose: Preparing all students with the academic skills, confidence, and excitement for success in college and careers

3. Career Awareness

From the time they enter COL, students are part of the E³ Program. Through the series of E³ courses, students transition into the COL environment, explore and research colleges and careers, develop workplace skills, complete a 20-hour work-based learning experience, make a presentation to a panel of stakeholders, and complete the college/scholarship application process.

4. Support and Nurturing

COL students are formally mentored by two adults throughout their enrollment at COL. The school is small (approximately 1 adult for every 20 students), and students select additional mentors from the COL leadership, faculty, and staff as they take courses and participate in school organizations and activities. Additionally, the two school counselors work closely with faculty and with students and parents/guardians to ensure that individual student needs are identified and addressed in a timely manner. Counselors encourage students to demonstrate voice as they make choices and develop individual programs of study.