



INFORMATION SESSIONS

2024-2025



POLK STATE
Chain of Lakes
Collegiate High School



Who We Are

- A fully accredited public charter collegiate high school operated by Polk State College under a 15-year contract agreement with the Polk County Public Schools
- Cognia School of Distinction
- Florida High-Performing Charter School
- Consistent school grade of "A"

Traditional Dual Enrollment

- Student remains at zoned high school and works with their school to add college courses on the high school campus, Polk State's campus, and/or online.
- Subject to schedule coordination with high school classes and time slots.
- Limited to site-based courses during school day.

COL Collegiate

- Student leaves zoned school and enrolls full-time at COL Collegiate. All HS and college-level courses are taken on Polk State's campus with wide flexibility.
- Full-time COL Collegiate faculty and staff with expert knowledge and support.
- Mature environment that best suits serious-minded, focused students.
- Offer wide range of college-level courses during school day.

Students who are the best fit for COL Collegiate

- Able to handle flexible schedule and less structure
- Willing to work with COL Collegiate staff in course and course and degree planning
- Eager to engage in the culture of the school and build leadership skills
 - Join Clubs & Organizations participation
 - Engage in Community Service
 - Attend all required meetings and events
- Plan for postsecondary transition
 - ACT/SAT
 - College admissions process / post-high school plan

Parents Who are The Best Fit for COL

- Engage in school culture
- Participate in two-way communication with COL faculty, staff, and administration
- Commit to frequently monitor and support their student's academic progress
- Ensure consistent attendance and minimal tardiness for their student
- Agreeable to participating in school improvement initiatives such as surveys, focus groups, and committees
- Support the staff in encouraging students to comply with school policies and procedures

New this year!

10th Grade

COL Pre-Collegiate

10th Grade

- Engage in a rigorous high school curriculum with good attendance and grades
- Complete all state testing requirements (B.E.S.T., EOC, etc.) with passing scores
- Become fully college-ready by the end of the school year (PERT, GPA, skills, maturity, etc.).
- Participate in the school's culture and build leadership skills

COL Collegiate 11th & 12th

11th & 12th Grade

- Complete requirements for two-year college degree/career pathway
- Participate in the school's culture and build leadership skills
- Attend monthly class meetings and college planning workshops
- Actively seek to qualify and apply for various scholarships
- Graduate with Florida high school diploma and two-year college degree
- Follow postsecondary transition plan
- Fully supported by COL staff

Program Cost

All tuition, fees, and textbooks are provided **FREE OF CHARGE** to all COL Collegiate students.

- Excludes required uniforms, art supplies, cameras, and miscellaneous items for specialty courses

Possible additional costs to student/family:

- Student activity dues (suggested \$50 per student annually)
- Club dues (required for some clubs)
- School events (prom, homecoming, Grad Bash, etc.)
- Graduation items (cap and gown, invitations, etc.)
- Yearbook purchase
- School pictures and senior portraits (including sitting fee)

Associate Degree Programs

Associate in Arts Degree

- First two years of a four-year degree
- Transferrable to any university or college in Florida
- Transferrable outside of Florida in most cases
- Students should work to choose a degree program as soon as possible to ensure they are taking the appropriate courses
- Students should use personalized degree audits to track degree progress

Associate Degree Programs

Associate in Science Degree

- Career-focused in areas such as health sciences, public safety, or business programs
- Not designed for transfer to all institutions
- Some degrees are transferrable to bachelor degree programs
- Some program courses are only available after high school graduation

Polk State Bachelor Degree Programs...

- Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management
 - Business Administration
 - Business Information Technology
 - Healthcare Administration
 - Public Administration
 - Public Safety Management
- Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Sciences
- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
- Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education

Clubs & Organizations

- Student Government
- Senior Ambassadors
- National Honor Society
- Academic Team
- Yearbook
- Knit Wits
- Key Club
- HOSA
- College Clubs and Organizations

*Clubs may vary based on student interest

Common Questions

Can I play sports?

- Yes – at a district or private school with approval

Can I participate in marching band?

- No. Only programs that are extracurricular, not co-curricular

Is bus transportation available?

- No school bus transportation is available
- Winter Haven Area Transit is free for all students

What if I am eligible for free/reduced lunch?

- COL High School provides a free/reduced lunch program through Polk State's food service and on-campus food service options for all students

Common Questions

Will my credits transfer?

- Yes. In Florida, transfer rules apply to the state's 2+2 program
- Polk State is fully accredited; most credits are transferrable anywhere

Will most universities and colleges accept COL Collegiate High School graduates?

- Yes. Universities and colleges are looking for students who succeed in an academically rigorous program and achieve competitive ACT/SAT scores.

Will I be required to graduate as soon as I complete my high school requirements?

- No. Students are permitted to complete their senior year even if taking all dual enrollment (college) courses.

Admissions Information

- **10th Grade Pre-Collegiate Admissions Criteria:**

- Unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Minimum PERT scores of:
 - 92 in Reading
 - 92 in Writing
 - 100 in Mathematics

- **11th and 12th Grade Collegiate Program Admissions Requirements:**

- Unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Minimum PERT scores of:
 - 106 in Reading
 - 103 in Writing
 - 114 in Mathematics

- Please refer to www.polk.edu for detailed admissions information and requirements.

How to Apply

- **STEP 1: Apply to Polk State College**

- Student Status: Dual-Enrollment
- Start Term – Fall 2024
- Allow 3-5 days to receive your Welcome Email from Polk State College.
 - **CLICK HERE TO APPLY TO POLK STATE COLLEGE**

- **STEP 2: Schedule and take the PERT test:**

- You will need to provide your Polk State College student ID number provided in your Welcome Email to take the PERT. Use the link below to schedule your PERT at Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School. (Click here for help accessing your Polk State email account.)
 - **CLICK HERE TO SCHEDULE THE PERT TEST**

- **STEP 3: Apply to Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School:**

- You must use your Polk State College email to access the high school application. (handout)
- Click the link below and select “S” for student application.
 - **CLICK HERE TO APPLY TO CHAIN OF LAKES COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL IN WINTER HAVEN**

Acceptance Process...

1. All students who complete the application and submit by the deadline will be considered.
2. Acceptance priority is based on meeting minimum dual enrollment eligibility requirements: a 3.0 grade-point average and meeting minimum PERT testing requirements.
3. If there are more eligible students than available spots, a lottery list will be created by the Polk County Public Schools of all eligible students.
4. Acceptance letters will be sent out in March.
5. Students must accept the offer of admission within two weeks.

Acceptance Process...

6. Students not accepted will be placed on a waiting list by lottery number.
7. Late applications will be accepted but will not be included in the initial lottery.
8. Provisions are in place for siblings of current COL Collegiate students, students of active military parents, and students of employees of Polk State College.
9. Orientation meetings for all newly accepted students will be held in the spring.
10. Initial course planning is based on remaining graduation requirements

COL Collegiate Contact Information...

- **COL Collegiate Main Office**

Monday-Friday 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

863-298-6800

- **Admissions Email**

COLForms@polk.edu

- **Website**

www.polk.edu/col

- **Follow us on Facebook**

@ Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School

COL Information Night Survey





Thank You For Joining Us



POLK STATE
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