



INFORMATION SESSIONS

2024-2025



POLK STATE
Chain of Lakes
Collegiate High School

Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School (COL)

Who We Are

A fully accredited public charter collegiate high school operated by Polk State College under a contract agreement with the Polk County Public Schools serving 10th – 12th grades

Traditional Dual Enrollment vs. COL Collegiate...

Traditional Dual Enrollment

- Student remains at zoned high school (or home school/private 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.
- Subject to minimum dual enrollment requirements (PERT & GPA).

Traditional Dual Enrollment vs. COL Collegiate...

Collegiate High School

- Student leaves zoned school and enrolls full-time at COL Collegiate. A majority of courses are college-level and taken on campus at Polk State with wide flexibility.
- Subject to minimum dual enrollment requirements (PERT & GPA).
- Full-time COL Collegiate faculty and staff are engaged with the student for instruction and support for two to three years.
- Mature environment that best suits serious-minded, focused students.

Students who are the best fit for COL Collegiate

- **Students without behavior or attendance issues**
- **Ready for a challenging academic environment**
- **Mature enough to handle flexible schedule and less structure**
- **Willing to work with COL Collegiate staff in course and degree planning**
- **Eager to engage in the culture of the school and build leadership skills**
 - Clubs & Organizations participation
 - Community service oriented
 - Regular attendance at all required meetings and events
- **Willing to carefully plan for postsecondary transition**
 - ACT/SAT
 - College admissions process / post-high school plan

Parents Who are The Best Fit for COL

- Engaged in school culture
- Willing to participate in two-way communication with COL faculty, staff, and administration
- Committed to frequently monitor and support their student's academic progress
- Willing to 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 Collegiate 3-Year Plan

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 3-Year Plan

11th Grade

- Engage in full-time college course schedule on the Polk State College Campus working towards a two-year college degree or career pathway
- Complete remaining high school graduation credits with dual enrollment college courses
- Participate in the school's culture and build leadership skills
- Fully supported by COL staff
- Summer term encouraged

COL Collegiate 3-Year Plan

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 at NO CHARGE to 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
- Personalized degree audits are available to all students through their online account and should be utilized 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

*Clubs may vary based on 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
- Citrus Connection 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.
- **Can I graduate early?**
 - In most cases, it is advantageous for students to complete the program in its entirety.

Admissions Information

- The best option for students is to enter COL in the 10th grade. Students participating in the entire program have the best chance of success. All students must have a 3.0 Unweighted GPA and meet precollegiate PERT score requirements.
- 11th graders must be fully college-ready (PERT Scores, GPA, etc.) and have a strong academic record.
- A very limited number of 12th graders will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.
- Students from public schools, charter schools, private schools, and home schools are eligible to apply if they meet minimum credit and entrance requirements.

Admissions Information

- **10th Grade Pre-Collegiate Admissions Criteria:**
 - Unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher
 - Currently taking OR successfully passed Algebra I and the End of Course exam by the end of grade 9
 - Minimum PERT scores of:
 - 92 in Reading
 - 92 in Writing
 - 100 in Mathematics
 - Preferred Criteria:
 - Completed P.E. credits

Admissions Information

- **11th 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
 - Successfully passed Algebra I and the End of Course exam
 - Successfully passed Algebra II or Geometry by the end of the grade 10 year
 - Private or home education students are strongly advised to complete state testing before admissions, but provisions can be made for students to take End of Course exam(s) with COL.

PERT Testing...

- PERT testing is offered through COL
- Students MUST have a photo ID
- COL Collegiate Testing Sessions are scheduled through Pick-A-Time
- https://pickatime.com/_ChainofLakes/PERT_Testing_Dates_for_Chain_of_Lakes_Collegiate_High_School

• QR:



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 and students of employees of Polk State College.
9. Orientation meetings for all newly accepted students will be held in the spring.
10. Enrolled students will meet with COL staff to begin educational planning in the summer.

Application

Refer to your handout “How to Apply”

- Polk State Application for Dual Enrollment Admissions
- Welcome Letter will include your Polk State Email Address
- PERT testing
- Obtain high school transcript/Student Scholastic Record
- Complete COL application

COL Collegiate Contact Information...

- **COL Collegiate Main Office**

Monday-Friday 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

863-298-6800

- **Website**

www.polk.edu/col

- **Follow us on Facebook @**

**Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High
School**

COL Information Night Survey



A group of diverse young people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are smiling and posing together. They are dressed in casual clothing. The background is a light, textured wall. The text "Thank You For Joining Us" is overlaid in the center in a large, bold, black font with a red outline.

Thank You For Joining Us



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