



### Highpoint Virtual Early Middle College Information and FAQs

#### Application Due Dates

Spring Enrollment – Applications due by Friday, May 21, 2021

\*Recommended for on-time course start in Fall.

Fall Enrollment – Friday, September 10, 2021

\*Latest deadline to be considered for the program. Students may have a delayed course start.

Link to Online Application – <https://forms.gle/hCbrWx32D1tCYtiA6>

Link to Counselor Recommendation for New HVAM Students - <https://forms.gle/LHoajP6ovW6EecnP9>

#### Contact Information:

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#### What is Early College?

- Highpoint Virtual Early Middle College (Highpoint Virtual EMC) is a public, tuition-free, three-year program serving students who attend Highpoint Virtual Academy of Michigan (HVAM). Students participate in an integrated sequence of high school and college courses during grades 10–13. There is no out-of-pocket cost to students and their families for tuition, books, and fees during the three-year program. Students can earn up to an associate degree.

#### Programs and Degree Pathways

- **Baker College:**
  - Associates of Business Administration
  - General Associates with a Technology Focus
  - Associates in Criminal Justice
  - Associates in Health Science Technology/Medical Assisting
  - Pre- Nursing (Not a Degree-Bearing Program)
- **Davenport University:**
  - Associate of Applied Science - Computer Information Systems
  - Various “Stackable” Certificates that lead to Associates Degree
    - Finance, Accounting, Business, Medical Coding/Billing, Computer Information Systems, Cyber Defense, Network Technology
- **Program descriptions:**
  - See the HVAM Dual Enrollment Program Description Packet

#### In this Packet:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Impacts of Enrollment
- General Acknowledgements
- Program Milestones



### Early Middle College Program Information and FAQ's

#### Participant Costs

- Highpoint Virtual EMC is a three-year tuition-**free** program. Students are **not** required to pay for tuition, fees, or books during the three-year program, funding **does not** extend beyond the third year.
- Highpoint Virtual EMC **does not** pay for courses that are not completed by the end of the third year OR courses that must be repeated for any reason.

#### Eligibility Requirements To Be Considered

- Students in grade 11 who are enrolled in HVAM.
  - Students may start classes prior to grade 11 before officially applying for EMC.
- Students who have minimum PSAT scores of: Reading/Writing – 400 and Math – 400.
- Students who have a minimum GPA of 2.50.
- Students who have fewer than 10 absences per academic year.
- Students who are on track for graduation and not in need of remedial coursework.
- Students who have approval of their counselor or head of school.

#### How do I apply?

- Students can apply to Highpoint Virtual EMC in the spring of their 10th grade year. Students who meet eligibility criteria should meet with their high school guidance counselor for application materials.
- Applications can be accessed online here: <https://forms.gle/hCbrWx32D1tCYtjA6>
  - See *Application Packet for review prior to online submission.*
- Students will be notified by email of acceptance decisions.

#### New Student Orientation

- Students accepted into Highpoint Virtual EMC are required to attend, with a parent/guardian, the mandatory New Student Orientation. Meeting information will be included in the acceptance notification.

#### What classes will I take?

- Courses are outlined separately in the EMC Program Description packet.

#### Where do I take the classes?

- Highpoint Virtual EMC students spend part of their day taking classes with HVAM and part of their day taking classes with the Partner College program during the grades 11 and 12. Courses are taken online unless there is the need or desire to take an on-campus course.
- During the 13th year, students only attend courses through the college program but must take any required seminars through Highpoint Virtual EMC as well. Students are still considered Highpoint Virtual Academy students.

### Do I still have to complete the state-required Michigan Merit Curriculum?

- Yes. Highpoint Virtual EMC students are required to meet both the State of Michigan and HVAM's graduation requirements.
- The Michigan Merit Curriculum requires that all students take a math-related course in their final year of high school.
  - Early College students are required to take and pass a math-related course in the 13th year to earn their high school diploma. This course is delivered by the postsecondary partner and counted as both a high school and college course.
- Students designated as Early College participants are placed in a five-year graduation cohort making their final year of high school the 13th year.

### When do I get my high school diploma and graduate?

- Students participate in commencement exercises and all other graduation-related activities for which they are eligible with their classmates, however, students do NOT receive their high school diploma until the end of the 13th year. The diploma of the Early College student will reflect the 13th year graduation date.

### What if I change my mind and want to opt out of the program?

- **Students should not apply to the Highpoint Virtual EMC program unless they are committed to the degree pathway they have chosen and it aligns with their future plans.** However, students are able to exit the Early College program and revert back to a four-year graduation cohort. Students exiting the Early College program after June 15 of the summer following the senior year will be required to complete a math-related course during the 13th year to earn their high school diploma.

### What if I do not finish all the classes for my degree by the end of the 13th year?

- Students who do not finish all their required degree coursework by the end of the 13th year can continue to pursue their chosen degree at their own cost. The Early College program does not cover the cost of courses that are not completed by the end of the 13th year OR courses that must be repeated for any reason.
- Every effort is made to schedule students into all required degree courses during the three-year program; however, graduation requirements, dual enrollment options, direct credit options, student achievement, student extracurricular activities, and student employment are all factors in course scheduling. Students continuing on after the 13th year can apply for financial aid through the postsecondary partner.

### Is transportation provided?

- In general, no. Students attending on-campus courses are responsible for their own transportation. Students identified through the McKinney-Vento program (experiencing housing transition or loss) may be eligible for transportation support.

### Under what conditions could a student be removed from the program?

- Students not meeting the program milestones.
- Students not passing all of their course taken simultaneously at Highpoint Virtual Academy of Michigan.
- Students found to be truant or chronically absent.
- Students engaging in illegal or unethical behavior.

### Impacts of Enrollment

Students who enroll in an Early/Middle College program, such as Highpoint Virtual EMC, are making a three-year commitment to a postsecondary credential that alters their enrollment status at the local high school, graduation requirements, and high school diploma.

#### Cohort Placement

- ✓ Students enrolled in Highpoint Virtual EMC are moved from the typical four-year graduation cohort into a five-year graduation cohort.
- ✓ Student enrollment data, including graduation cohort, is reported to the State of Michigan by the local high school at three different times during the school year, known as Pupil Count dates.
- ✓ Fall Pupil Count, Spring Pupil Count, End of Year Collection – June 30
- ✓ Students who exit Highpoint Virtual EMC program before the End of Year Collection report made during the 12th year of high school can be moved back to a four-year graduation cohort.
- ✓ Students who exit Highpoint Virtual EMC program after the End of Year Collection report made during the 12th year of high school are permanent members of a five-year graduation cohort and must complete a math related course in the 5th year to earn a high school diploma.

#### Graduation Requirements

- ✓ The State of Michigan high school graduation requirements, known as the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC), require all students to have four (4) math courses in high school and one (1) of those courses must be in the final year of high school.
- ✓ Students in a five-year graduation cohort are not eligible for graduation after the 4th year of high school, as they must take a math related course in the final year of high school.
- ✓ The final year of high school for a student in a five-year graduation cohort is the 5th year.
- ✓ Students must complete a math-related course in the final year, regardless of how many math credits the student has previously earned.

#### High School Diploma

- ✓ The final math-related course needed to meet the MMC requirements is delivered by the postsecondary partner as part of the 13th year and counts for both high school and postsecondary credit.
- ✓ Students may have other outstanding state and/or local graduation requirements to complete in the 13th year, regardless, the math-related course in the 13th year is required of all students.
- ✓ Students who exit the Highpoint Virtual EMC program must coordinate with their counselor concerning the completion of a math-related course and any other requirements.
- ✓ The high school diploma will list the 13th year graduation date.



## Highpoint Virtual Early Middle College

### Acknowledgments (Will Approve in Application Process)

#### New Student Orientation

- ✓ I understand that if my student is accepted in Highpoint Virtual EMC, we are required to attend a mandatory, online New Student Orientation.

#### Graduation/High School Diploma

- ✓ Students are allowed to participate in high school graduation ceremonies but do not receive a high school diploma until the end of the 13th year.
- ✓ Students who exit Highpoint Virtual EMC after June 15 of the senior year are required to complete a math-related course, regardless of the number of math credits earned, and any outstanding MMC requirements in the 13th year to earn a high school diploma.
- ✓ Students who receive an associate degree at the end of the 13th year are encouraged to participate in the postsecondary college graduation ceremony or Highpoint ceremony recognizing graduates.

#### Limitations

- ✓ Highpoint Virtual EMC does not pay for courses that are not completed by the end of the 13th year or courses that must be repeated for any reason.
- ✓ Students are required to be responsible for their own College Partner grades and progress (Highpoint has limited access) and attend weekly study halls.
- ✓ Online courses may not include live instructional classes. Students should assume the program is asynchronous.
- ✓ Highpoint Virtual EMC does not pay for housing and transportation. Students must have access to transportation in the 13th year if taking on-campus courses.
- ✓ Highpoint Virtual EMC does not provide internet access but will be eligible for the school's monthly/semester-based stipend reimbursement.

#### Participation

- ✓ Students not meeting the student milestones can be exited from Highpoint Virtual EMC.
- ✓ Students engaging in illegal/unethical behavior will be immediately exited from Highpoint Virtual EMC.
- ✓ Students requiring additional time to complete required coursework can be required to attend seminars, meetings, or courses beyond the seniors' last day of school published by the home high school.



## Program Milestones

The performance and growth of Highpoint Virtual Early Middle College (Highpoint Virtual EMC) students is measured by their progression through key milestones at each level of the program that contain critical components designed to foster independence, self-advocacy, and confidence as well as key academic and college- and career-readiness skills.

### Enrollment Process

- Complete the Highpoint Virtual EMC application and receive acceptance letter
- Complete the postsecondary application
- Create postsecondary student account
- Complete online new student tutorials

### Junior Year – Semester 1

- Maintain Highpoint Virtual Academy of Michigan (HVAM) program grades of C- or better
- Maintain College Partner program grades of C- or better
- Participate in Finding Your Path Career/College Readiness seminar
- Maintain postsecondary email/student account
- Attend required study hall sessions

### Junior Year – Semester 2

- Maintain HVAM program grades of C- or better
- Maintain College Partner program grades of C- or better
- Participate in Finding Your Path Career/College Readiness seminar
- Maintain postsecondary email/student account
- Receive 10 or fewer absences for the school year, including required study hall sessions with Highpoint
- Attend all state and HVAM required testing (SAT, etc.)

### Senior Year – Semester 1

- Maintain HVAM program grades of C- or better
- Maintain College Partner program grades of C- or better
- Participate in Finding Your Path Career/College Readiness seminar
- Maintain postsecondary email/student account
- Attend required study hall sessions
- Arrange and attend on-campus experiences as required

**Program Milestones, Cont.**

**Senior Year – Semester 2**

- Maintain HVAM program grades of C- or better
- Maintain College Partner program grades of C- or better
- Participate in Finding Your Path Career/College Readiness seminar
- Maintain postsecondary email/student account
- Complete course registration for the 13th year
- Receive 10 or fewer absences for the school year, including required study hall sessions with HVAM
- Arrange and attend on-campus experiences as required

**Senior Year – Summer**

- Attend 13th year student orientation – August
- Maintain postsecondary email/student account

**13th Year – Semester 1**

- Pass all courses
- Maintain postsecondary email/student account
- Complete the graduation application
- Complete a work experience application as required
- Complete course registration for upcoming semester

**13th Year – Semester 2**

- Pass all courses
- Maintain postsecondary email/student account
- Participate in graduation ceremony

**Applications for Highpoint Virtual EMC are submitted online here:**

<https://forms.gle/chr2pCuZ1kSxGmdQ8>