

Opportunity Middle College

STUDENT HANDBOOK



Fayette County Public Schools
470 Cooper Drive, Lexington, KY

OPPORTUNITY MIDDLE COLLEGE

Mission Statement

To provide all students, especially lower income, first generation college and minority students, an opportunity to achieve high school and college academic success. Through our dual-credit program, we encourage students to explore, pursue, and prepare themselves for various career and/or college options. In a joint effort between Fayette County Public Schools and Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Opportunity Middle College will empower students to complete a high school diploma and earn college credits in a supportive and rigorous environment.

Program Components

Opportunity Middle College is a dual credit, collaborative partnership between Fayette County Public Schools and Bluegrass Community and Technical College. We accept students from the six public high schools located in Fayette County.

- Students will:
 - Be eligible to apply for their junior or senior year.
 - Be interviewed as a part of the application process.
 - Complete credit requirements for high school diploma.
 - Receive diploma from home high school.
 - Earn college credit hours with a reduced or free tuition (based on Meal Assistance Program application).
 - Interact and participate in college classes with professors.
 - Have the opportunity to participate in college activities (i.e. intramural sports, clubs, and student government).
 - Learn more about their career interests.
 - Get college and career ready.

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OMC Program Format:

JUNIORS: Juniors are allowed to take two college classes during the fall semester at BCTC. If they maintain a B average in the college classes, they are allowed to add an additional class for the spring.

SENIORS: Seniors who are new to OMC will be enrolled in two classes first semester at BCTC. If they maintain a B average in the college classes they are allowed to add an additional class for the spring.

Seniors who are returning for the second year and have maintained a B average in the college classes may take four classes for the fall and with a B average can enroll in five for the spring semester.

Returning to the Home High School:

Students who do not pass all the high school classes or have poor attendance will be returned to the home high school at the end of the semester. Due to the fact that we receive funding based on students' performance they must earn the right to stay in the program by achieving excellent attendance and grades in the high school classes.

BCTC Academic Probation and Academic Suspension:

Academic Probation: A student earning a cumulative grade point average below a 2.0 at the end of the term in the college classes shall be placed on academic probation. A student shall be removed from academic probation by earning at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) the following semester.

Academic Suspension: If a student is placed on academic probation for two consecutive terms and does not earn either a cumulative GPA or a term GPA of at least a 2.0 the student shall be academically suspended. A student on academic suspension may not enroll in courses which count toward a KCTCS degree and therefore will be returned to the home high school at the end of the semester.

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WE BELIEVE:

- 1. All people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.**
- 2. Students need to experience success.**
- 3. Our primary responsibility is to provide quality instruction.**
- 4. A cooperative effort by family, students, community and school is critical to meet the needs of the individual.**
- 5. Our program should focus on students' individual academic, social, and emotional strengths.**
- 6. Education prepares students for life.**
- 7. People excel in an environment in which they are valued and challenged.**
- 8. All students have a right to a safe, nurturing environment.**
- 9. Valuing differences is essential to success.**
- 10. Teamwork requires trust.**

“Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you will help them to become what they are capable of being”

Goethe

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Program Rules

Academic Integrity

OMC students are expected to maintain high levels of integrity in all their academic pursuits. Cheating of any kind (on any exam, quiz, lab, test, homework, or any other assignment), as well as plagiarism of thoughts, words or ideas are prohibited. It is prohibited to complete an online assessment/final exam outside of the classroom that is used by the teacher/proctor.

The term “cheating” includes but is not limited to:

- Use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests or exams
- Dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out assignments
- Acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic materials belonging to a faculty member
- Providing unauthorized aid to another student, such as previously completed assignments or tests, sections of code or data

Recommendations for Academic Success

College courses are intense, move at a fast pace, and can require immediate recall of prior knowledge, it is imperative that students adopt a much more rigorous study patterns than what was required at their home high school. College grades for most courses are based on three or four exams and most college courses require a comprehensive final exam. Homework is assigned by professors to ensure understanding but it may not necessarily be collected or graded.

In order to be successful, it is imperative that OMC students:

- Attend all classes;
- Do all assigned work and study ahead
- Prepare homework the same day it is assigned
- Form study groups and participate actively in study sessions
- Make use of the professor’s office hours and other tutorial services provided
- Do not hesitate to ask for help and do not wait until the last minute
- Prepare for exams in advance
- Rewrite call notes and outline text material
- Be disciplined and responsible for your learning
- Enjoy school
- Get plenty of rest, exercise and eat healthy food

Attendance and Conduct

Every student is required to be in class every day, on time and prepared. Students with excessive (6 or more unexcused absences) may be returned to his/her home high school at the end of the semester. In the even that a student is unable to attend classes students are required to follow these procedures:

- Immediately notify college professors via email or Blackboard
- Students are responsible for getting missed work from college and high school teachers
- Students are required to bring an official note from a doctor, dentist or parent upon return to school. *Board policy requires that all written absence excuses be received within three (3) school days of a student's return to school. If notes are not received within three days, the absence will be UNEXCUSED and teachers will not be required to assign make-up work.

Disruptive behavior in the classroom (any behavior which distracts the teacher, professor or other students or shows lack of respect for the learning environment) is subject to disciplinary actions. Additionally students must behave as mature young adults when on the BCTC campus. Students who require disciplinary action will have his/her placement in the OMC program re-evaluated. We cannot have students with behaviors that may jeopardize our being on the BCTC campus.

OMC Academic Probation

A student will be placed on **Academic Probation** if:

- They receive a semester grade of a "D" in any high school course or
- Their college GPA is below 2.0

Students on **Academic Probation** will have one semester to improve his/her GPA above a 2.5 in order to remain enrolled in OMC.

Any student who receives an "F" in a high school class will be returned to their home high school at the end of the semester.

Withdrawal Process

Students may find themselves in courses which are beyond their level of preparation or in which they have determined they cannot pass. Students must fill out a withdrawal paper with the course information and student signature. Additionally the form requires a parent and professor's signature. During the first week of school students may drop without a monetary penalty. After the first week there will be a monetary fee that will need to be paid to FCPS. Students and families will be responsible to pay the fee (if applicable) at the time of withdrawal regardless if he/she receives free or reduced lunch.

Requirements for Graduation

Students who graduate from Opportunity Middle College must complete a minimum of 22 credits in the following classes:

- English - 4 credits
- Math - 3 credits to include Algebra, Geometry and Algebra 2 or higher
- Science - 3 credits to include Biology
- Social Studies - 3 credits (World, US and Citizenship)
- Physical Education - .5 credits
- Health - .5 credits
- Humanities - 1 credit
- Electives - 7 credits

All students will receive their diploma from their home high school.

Public Display of Affection (PDA)

We expect you to conduct yourself in a manner that a reasonable adult would find acceptable. Hand holding, brief kiss, or friendly hug is appropriate. You are expected to be respectful of others and to comply promptly and politely with any person's request that you cease a public display of affection. Noncompliance of ceasing PDA upon request may result in a disciplinary conference.

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Student Handbook
2020-2021

The signatures on this page signify that you have read and understand the policies, procedures and expectations of Opportunity Middle College.

Print Parent Name

Parent Signature

Print Student Name

Student Signature