

Middle College High School Southwest Tennessee Community College EXCEL/Early College Program

Overview

Immersed in a collegiate and academically rigorous environment, Middle College High School students will have an opportunity to earn both an associate degree or certificate- and a high school diploma. Excel/Early College is an accelerated path where students can be awarded two degrees – a high school diploma and an associate degree. This new initiative, EXCEL/Early College, is supported by highly qualified college and secondary faculty who provide a challenging, yet personalized learning community. With a portfolio of student academic success, the Middle College Early College Program will enhance college graduation rates by providing students an early start. With a strong support system, EXCEL students will have access to college computers and science labs, college library, Southwest tutors and mentors, academic coaches, and other student support services. EXCEL faculty and staff are looking for students who are willing to challenge themselves and to work harder to accomplish their career goals.

Imagine making your college dreams come true while in high school. To qualify for the EXCEL Program, students will participate in the application and interview process. The admission team comprised of teachers, counselors, and alumni help applicants determine if the EXCEL Program is an appropriate choice. Prospective students must be enthusiastic about enrolling the program. Middle College High School's EXCEL/Early College admission committee will be looking for students who have untapped potential and are underrepresented in the college and professional world. Transportation through MATA is provided for students accepted into the program. Students are expected to have good attendance and conduct. Interested students are encouraged to apply. For additional information, please call Middle College High School at 333-5360.

Michelle Brantley-Patterson, Principal
Rhonda W. Black, Assistant Principal
Julia E. Howard, EXCEL/Early College Program Director
Erma Carter, Assistant Program Director
Shayla Guy, EXCEL Academic Coach

The Middle College High School Excel/Early College Program

- ❑ Middle College High School @ Southwest is a small, personalized secondary school with an enrollment of students from a variety of communities in the Memphis metropolitan area.
- ❑ [MCHS@Southwest](#) students may earn a substantial number of college credits or an associate degree concurrently with their high school diploma.
- ❑ [MCHS@Southwest](#) students are immersed in a stimulating and supportive collegiate environment found on the Union Avenue campus of Southwest Tennessee Community College.
- ❑ Academic support and college advisement provided by Middle College and Southwest Tennessee Community College faculty.
- ❑ College tuitions are paid through scholarships offered by Southwest and/or funds from the Middle College High School budget.
- ❑ The EXCEL/Early College Program reduces some of the financial barriers that may exist thus increases the likelihood that larger numbers of young people will be able to earn college degrees.

Program Overview

9 th Grade Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Partnership with junior high schools and Upward Bound
10 th Grade Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ College readiness and college preparatory high school courses and one or more college courses ❑ Summer college courses
11 th Grade Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ College preparatory high school courses and college courses ❑ Summer college courses
12 th Grade Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Individual college program leading to Associates Degree ❑ Summer college courses
13 th Grade Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ At least one high school course and completion of the A.A., A.A. S. or A.S. Degree program

Southwest Tennessee Community College

The General Education Program

The following description identifies the number of hours needed in each of the six general education subject categories for the A.A.S., A.A. and A.S. Degrees. Before making any decision about which general education courses to take, be sure to see your program requirements first.

1. **Definition of General Education:** transferable courses that cover a breadth of knowledge
2. **Two cores:** [A.A.S. Degree](#); [A.A. or A.S. Degree](#)
3. **Number of core hours** includes additional Southwest hours and/or requirements.
4. **Number of core groups:** A.A.S. requires 6 groups; A.A. or A.S. degree requires 8 group

Core Area/Discipline Groups	A.A.S.	A.A.	A.S.
Group I: Composition	3.0	6.0	6.0
<i>Literature (literature courses do not have to be sequential)</i>			
Group 2: Oral Communications		3.0	3.0
Group 3: Mathematics			
Note: Students in an A.A.S. program requiring two or more math courses may take a second math rather than a natural/physical science course. Note: This option does not apply to students in A.A. or A.S. programs	3.0*	3.0	3.0
Group 4: Natural Sciences			
Note: Students in an A.A.S. program requiring two or more math courses may take a second math rather than a natural/physical science course. Note: This option does not apply to students in A.A. or A.S. programs.	4.0*	8.0	8.0
Group 5: Fine Arts and Humanities			
Art, Music, Theatre. Note: Students in an A.A.S. program may choose specified philosophy literature courses to satisfy this requirement. Note: This option does not apply to students in A.A. or A.S. programs.	3.0	9.0, one course may be ENGL2000 or higher	9.0, one course may be ENGL2000 or higher
Group 6: Social Sciences			
Note: Students in A.A.S. programs may select a course from the following disciplines listed in the A.A.S. core: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology. Note: Students in A.A. or A.S. programs may select a listed philosophy course, but not a history course, to fulfill this requirement.	3.0	6.0	6.0
Group 7: History	0	6.0	6.0
Group 8: Physical Education	0	2.0	2.0
Foreign Language	0	6.0	0
Additionally One course from Communication, Humanities, and/or Fine Arts, Social/Behavioral Sciences, Natural Sciences, or Mathematics	3.0-4.0		
Totals	15 +	41 +	41 +

Prospective Students

Students most likely to benefit from the EXCEL/Early College program are selected by the Middle College High School and Southwest Admissions Committee. While the selection of students is non-competitive, preference will be given to students who are underrepresented and can demonstrate commitment to maximizing their opportunities. This program seeks to expose students to the college experience while providing academic and personal/social support.

Selection criteria for applying to the EXCEL/Early College Program

- ❑ Students must be promoted to or currently enrolled in grades 9-12.
- ❑ Student records should reflect acceptable grades with satisfactory attendance and conduct.
- ❑ Students are expected to exhibit and maintain average to above average school attendance, academics and conduct.
- ❑ Students must be recommended by two teachers and/or one teacher and a counselor or two non relatives who are knowledgeable of the student's strengths or weaknesses.
- ❑ Students must demonstrate responsibility and a willingness to be a positive member of the Middle College and Southwest community.
- ❑ Students, with parental consent, must agree to take coursework required for a diploma and/or an associate degree.
- ❑ Students and parents must be dedicated to the demands of the program that include taking challenging course work, longer school days, summer school sessions for college course work, and mentoring and tutorial opportunities.

The Application Process

- Student completes this application and submits a 1-2 page essay that answers the following question: *"Why do you want to participate in the EXCEL/Early College program and how will EXCEL help you fulfill your dreams?"*
- Student asks two faculty members or one faculty member and a counselor or community representative to complete reference forms.
- Student/parent schedules interview with the Excel Planning Committee.
- The EXCEL/Early College Committee will review Gateway and other standardized test scores.

**Middle College High School
Southwest Tennessee Community College**

EXCEL/Early College Program Application

Student Application

Date of Application: _____

Name: _____ SSN: _____

Sex: M ____ F ____ Birth Date: _____ Race: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Last School Attended: _____

Parent/Guardian 1: _____ Home Phone: _____

Employment: _____ Work Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian 2: _____ Home Phone: _____

Employment: _____ Work Phone: _____

Emergency 1: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Emergency 2: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Whom do you know at Middle College? _____

Whom do you know at Southwest Tennessee? _____

As an Early College High School, students are expected to prepare themselves for college by enrolling in high school course work that is challenging and rigorous. All students are expected to participate in the dual enrollment program and to seek activities that will provide them with the tools needed to be successful in their college level classes.

I have read and understand the statement written above. I am prepared to enroll in the courses necessary to prepare me for college, which may include courses offered through Southwest. I pledge to take the ACT or SAT college entrance exam in preparation to college.

Student's Signature:

I have read the statement above and am prepared to support my child by maintaining contact with the school to help ensure my child's success at Middle College and at Southwest TN.

Parent/Guardian's Signature:

**Middle College High School
Southwest Tennessee Community College**

EXCEL/Early College Program Application

Date: _____

Students Name: _____ Address: _____

Home Telephone #: _____ Memphis, TN Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

As part of the application process, we would like the chance to get to know you better. This will help us to determine if this is the right program for you. Therefore, we ask you to do the following:

- Ask your parent or guardian to sign this form, at the bottom, for permission to apply to this program.
- Complete this application and submit a 1-2 page essay that answers the following question: *“Why do you want to participate in the EXCEL/Early College program and how will EXCEL help you fulfill your dreams?”*
- Ask two teachers or a teacher and a counselor or community representative to complete reference forms.
- Schedule an interview with the Excel/Early College Planning Committee.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child would like to apply to the Excel-Early College Program at Middle College at Southwest Tennessee Community College. If accepted, your child will be eligible to graduate with an associate degree from Southwest Tennessee Community College. Students will receive scholarships to cover tuition fees and college textbooks. If accepted, your child commits to participate to his or her best ability in all tasks and assignments to complete the program. You also must commit to give your full support in helping your child to achieve this goal. This dedication is the best way of insuring your child’s success.

Yes, I have read this letter and give permission for my child to apply to the Excel-Early College Program.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) _____

(Sign) _____

Contact #: _____

Middle College High School Southwest Tennessee Community College

EXCEL/Early College Teacher/Counselor Reference Form

Student's Name: _____ Student's ID # : _____
 Current School: _____ Grade Level: _____
 Teacher/Counselor's Name: _____ Years known? _____

Recommendation: Please provide specific examples to describe the following characteristics. Use a separate sheet of paper, if necessary.

1. Describe the student's academic interests and strengths or weaknesses.

2. Describe the student's social and emotional strengths or weaknesses.

3. Describe the student's sense of responsibility and ability when involved in academic tasks and indicate what motivates him or her to do well.

We are most interested in students who have a passion for learning even though they might not be performing at their academic potential in school. Please fill out the chart below by marking the most appropriate response for each characteristic.

Academic Interests:

	Often	Occasionally	Rarely	Can't Evaluate
Accepts responsibility for learning				
Makes decisions independent of peers				
Works well with peers				
Communicates ideas effectively				
Completes tasks				
Works independently				
Accepts personal responsibility				
Accepts academic challenges				
Shows interest beyond classroom				

Social/Emotional Characteristics:

	Excellent	Average	Less than Average	Can't Evaluate
Social Skills				
Judgment and Common Sense				
Maturity				
Patience with others				
Leadership				
Enthusiasm				
Motivation				
Thoughtfulness				

Please use the space below for comments on your recommendation and please tell us how you think this student might benefit for participating in this program.

Middle College High School Southwest Tennessee Community College

EXCEL/Early College Teacher/Counselor Reference Form

Student's Name: _____ Student's ID # : _____
 Current School: _____ Grade Level: _____
 Teacher/Counselor's Name: _____ Years known? _____

Recommendation: Please provide specific examples to describe the following characteristics. Use a separate sheet of paper, if necessary.

4. Describe the student's academic interests and strengths or weaknesses.

5. Describe the student's social and emotional strengths or weaknesses.

6. Describe the student's sense of responsibility and ability when involved in academic tasks and indicate what motivates him or her to do well.

We are most interested in students who have a passion for learning even though they might not be performing at their academic potential in school. Please fill out the chart below by marking the most appropriate response for each characteristic.

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Communicates ideas effectively				
Completes tasks				
Works independently				
Accepts personal responsibility				
Accepts academic challenges				
Shows interest beyond classroom				

Social/Emotional Characteristics:

	Excellent	Average	Less than Average	Can't Evaluate
Social Skills				
Judgment and Common Sense				
Maturity				
Patience with others				
Leadership				
Enthusiasm				
Motivation				
Thoughtfulness				

Please use the space below for comments on your recommendation and please tell us how you think this student might benefit for participating in this program.