

Smart Start

Fall 2019
Missouri Western's
Newsletter for the
Early College Academy



Dual Credit Program is now the Early College Academy

Many years ago, back when Missouri Western was still just a college, the only college course options for high school students were dual credit classes taught by a high school teacher.

Fast forward to today, and high school students have many more options available to them, including dual credit, online, team-taught, and on-campus courses, all available at the discounted tuition rate of \$95 per credit hour.

With all of the options that are now available, the name “dual credit program” has become obsolete. We are now officially known as the Missouri Western State University Early College Academy.

Along with the name change have come added benefits.

Starting in Fall 2019, all Early College Academy students are assigned an Early College Academy academic advisor. The advisors are available to help each student take the right courses, depending on their career and/or college goals.

And, if a student is struggling in an Early College Academy class, an advisor will contact the student to offer guidance and options, including free tutoring sessions.

In addition to those benefits, a student can contact his/her advisor to request assistance or direction.

Also, beginning in Spring 2020, graduating high school seniors may be awarded Early College Academy Certificates of Completion (with recognition for successfully completing 15 hours, 30 hours or 42 hours of general studies coursework) or a Career Exploration Certificate, which is a combination of general studies and pre-major coursework.

More information is available at our website: missouriwestern.edu/eca.

Above: Aliza Grooms meets with her academic advisor to make sure she's on track with her Early College Academy courses.

Stay connected!



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Don't forget!

Late Fee Deadline

NOVEMBER 1 Accounts not paid in full by 11/1 will result in a hold placed on the account. A hold will prevent a student from enrolling in additional courses or ordering a transcript until the account is paid in full.

BIG NEWS!

Beginning in second semester, Early College Academy students will enroll in their spring coursework online! Watch for more details about this exciting change!

Student Spotlight: Aliza Grooms

This December, Aliza Grooms will graduate early from Benton High School in St. Joseph and start full-time at Missouri Western in the Spring 2020 semester. But taking college classes won't really be a new experience for her. She'll start next semester with 28 college credit hours, well on her way to journalism and public relations degrees, thanks to Missouri Western's Early College Academy.

Aliza took her first college class – American History to 1865 – as a junior at Benton and just kept going from there. Now in her last semester of high school, she is taking 13 credit hours from Missouri Western.

“My college courses challenge me a lot more than my high school classes,” she said. “I like that the professors tell you what you will have to do right in the beginning.” She said she also appreciated that her advisors in the Early College Academy were responsive to her emails and questions.

Aliza has taken advantage of several Early College Academy options, including courses that are collaboratively taught by a high school teacher and a Missouri Western professor. Many of her courses have been online through the Early College Academy university flex program, which she says worked great with her busy schedule. She hopes to enroll in more online courses next semester.

Aliza said when she began looking at tuition costs at colleges, she realized how much money she has saved by taking college classes in high school, and she's happy that it won't take her long before she's ready for graduate school.

She would definitely recommend Missouri Western's Early College Academy to “get ahead of the game.”

And Aliza's advice to high school students considering taking college courses from Missouri Western? “Make sure you manage your time and don't get behind!”



“Missouri Western has helped me so much. My advisors and professors always did what they could to help me,” she said. “I know I'll have the support I need next semester.”



Did you know? As an Early College Academy student, you are entitled to:



A Missouri Western email account



Obtain a Missouri Western parking permit



Obtain a Missouri Western student ID

Having an ID entitles you to discounts at many St. Joseph and Kansas City stores and restaurants and entrance into Missouri Western events at the student rate, which is usually free.



Use the Center for Academic Support



Use the Baker Family Fitness Center



Use the Missouri Western library



Receive a free Missouri Western t-shirt

Missouri Western Welcomes New President

Matt Wilson is the new President of Missouri Western. President Wilson grew up in a home where he was taught from an early age that a degree from a four-year university would challenge him. It would also help him differentiate himself, open up doors to unexpected opportunities, insulate him from economic downturns, and equip him to make a difference at home and in the community. At the same time, his parents reluctantly informed him that he would have to pay for his own higher education.

Determined to succeed while minimizing the costs associated with a university degree, President Wilson took as many college courses that he could during his high school career. Although the road was neither easy nor straight, he discovered the benefit of maximizing his high school experience by simultaneously taking college courses. This enabled him to complete two bachelor's degrees in

two years total time. It also opened up many unexpected doors and exciting opportunities.

In fact, President Wilson has spent over 15 years of his life overseas including Japan, Saipan, and South Korea. He is fluent in Japanese. He has also lived in various places across the United States (Missouri, Ohio, Wyoming, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Utah).

President Wilson brings an array of educational, business, and legal experience to this position. Not only has he previously served as a professor, dean, and university president, but he has also worked as an international lawyer, translator, businessman, and entrepreneur.

More than anything, he prioritizes student success and enjoys interacting with students in the classroom, around campus, on stage, in the community, and the basketball court.

President Wilson was attracted to

Missouri Western because it is a special place where students can plan, dream, interact, excel, and acquire the tools necessary to succeed in the work place. Due to its intimate size and commitment to practical learning, Missouri Western provides a quality educational experience taught by exceptional professors at an affordable price."

At Missouri Western, he notes that "students are always treated as family." As a father of four, Professor Wilson strives to ensure that Missouri Western students have the best chance for success. He also invites high school students to take advantage of the opportunities offered through Missouri Western to take college courses while they are in high school.

More at missouriwestern.edu/wilson.



Dr. Matthew Wilson



Left (clockwise from top): Meeting with students on his first day on the job; President Wilson and his wife Noriko; Giving students a ride to class in his "presidential limousine." Above: Getting ready to conduct the Golden Griffon Marching Band.

Events Calendar

Juried Art Student Exhibition

November 4-29 - Potter Gallery

Football vs. Univ. of NE-Kearney

November 9 - Spratt Stadium

Percussion eXtravaganza

November 11 - Potter Theater

Basketball vs. Missouri S&T

November 17 - MWSU Fieldhouse

International Fair

November 20 - Fulkerson Center

Basketball vs. Nebraska Christian

November 17 - MWSU Fieldhouse

48 Hour Film Festival

November 21 - Potter Theater

President's Holiday Gala

December 3 - Spratt 214

Short and Sweet

December 5-8 - Kemper Recital Hall, Spratt Hall

Basketball vs. Avila

December 31 - MWSU Fieldhouse

Event times and more details at missouriwestern.edu/student-life

New Initiatives at Missouri Western

GOLD Fridays: Starting fall of 2020, Missouri Western will move to a four-day schedule for classes, freeing Fridays for students to "GO, Learn and Do": so they have time to study, work, research and meet with professors.

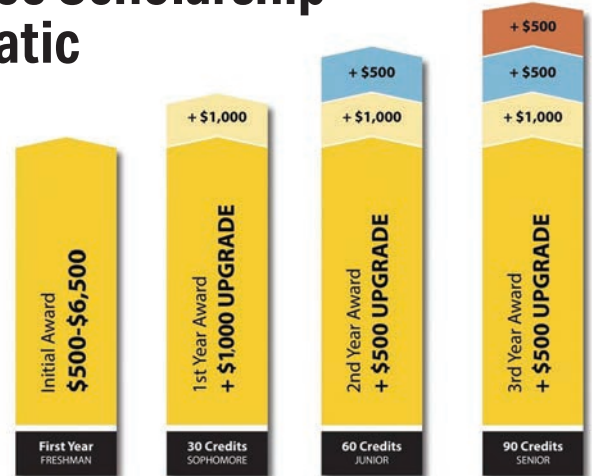
Credit for Community Service: Through the Center for Service, students can now earn one credit toward their degree for every 40 hours of community service they engage in, up to a maximum of three credits, free of charge.

Learn more at missouriwestern.edu.

Griffon Guarantee Scholarship Provides Automatic Upgrades

Introducing a new scholarship available for new incoming freshmen and transfer students beginning next fall. The Griffon Guarantee Scholarship automatically renews and grows each year!

missouriwestern.edu/finaid



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