

Running Start

Making the Most of Free College Credit
YOU CAN DO THIS!

Updated 4/8/2026



RENTON
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE ®

STUDENTS SUCCEED AT RTC



Campus at a Glance

- State's Highest Completion Rate at 63%
- 60+ Career Training Programs
- Average age of students: 32
- Multiple Educational Pathways

<p>ADVANCED</p>  <p>MANUFACTURING</p>	<p>BUSINESS</p>  <p>MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>COLLEGE AND</p>  <p>CAREER PATHWAYS</p>	<p>CULINARY</p>  <p>ARTS</p>	<p>HEALTH AND</p>  <p>HUMAN SERVICES</p>	<p>INFORMATION</p>  <p>TECHNOLOGY</p>	<p>TRANSPORTATION</p>  <p>TECHNOLOGY</p>
--	---	---	---	---	--	---

Programs at a Glance

- Career Training Certificates
- Career Training Associate of Applied Science Degrees
- Transferrable Associates of Arts Degrees (Business, Pre-Nursing, Computer Science)
- General Education Courses (English, math, science, history, etc.)

RTC Support Services

- Disability Resources Services (Set up accommodations, IEP, 504)
- Behavioral Health/Mental Health Counseling
- Library
- Learning Resource & Career Center
 - Free Food Pantry
 - Free Tutoring (in-person and virtual)
 - CHIPS-Computer Repair & Help
 - Career Exploration & Resume support
- Financial Aid
- Benefits HUB
- Cafeteria & Bakery



What is Running Start?

- Dual-Credit Program
- Earn high school and college credit at same time
- High School Juniors and Seniors
- Free or Reduced Cost tuition, up to 19 credits per quarter
- College-Level Courses

Benefits of Running Start

- Save \$665 for one college class!
- Earn associate degree or certificate while finishing high school
- Prepare for university experience or career after high school
- Gain experience on college campus
- Stay involved with high school (sports, clubs, student leadership, dances, etc.)
- Take classes at more than one college!

Who are Running Start Students?

- Students ready for college environment and increased responsibility
- Good time-management skills
- Seek challenging courses
- Prefer college campus and culture
- Prepared for independence (attendance, coursework, dates & deadlines)
- Running Start headcount at RTC: 175 Students

Differences Between High School & College

High School	College
Work on homework and reading in class	Homework and reading happens outside of class
Attendance office tracks student's daily attendance	RTC does NOT track student absences. Some instructors give points for attendance, others do not.
Grades during term available to student and family through online portal, teachers, and high school counselor	Grades during term are only available to students through Canvas or direct instructor communication
Access to student's records available to parent/guardian through high school counselor, teachers, etc.	Access to student's records (grades, attendance, etc.) only provided with FERPA release-must be signed by student. Running Start advisor does not have access to grades during quarter

Differences Between High School & College

High School	College
High school counselor changes student's class schedule	Student is responsible to make changes to class schedule (with permission), including withdrawing from classes. Running Start advisor cannot change class schedule.
Teachers check-in with students if homework/testing is not complete	Instructors have access to student's participation in Canvas but does not necessarily tell them to complete assignments.
Students are similar ages	Diverse classroom experiences- different ages, backgrounds, work experience, Veterans, International Students, etc.
Visitors must check-in at Main Office	Open Campus-community members access campus, including re-entry students
IEP or 504 plan set up with student, teachers, family, support staff	Students must be proactive about setting up their own accommodations EVERY quarter with Disability Resources Services. This does NOT happen automatically.



Calendar, Dates & Deadlines

- Quarter System: Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer
- Quarter: 11 weeks (Summer 6 weeks)
- College breaks do NOT align with High School breaks
- Student must attend college classes during high school breaks
- Join Running Start any quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring or Summer)

Class Options & Credits

Classes

- Part-time or Full-time
- Explore new subjects & complete high school graduation requirements
- Running Start pays for classes 100 and 200 level
- If taking classes at high school and college, must coordinate schedules

Credits

- 5 College Credits (1 quarter) = 1 High School Credit (1 year)
- Example: 5 credit English 101 class = 1 High School Language Arts class

Timing & Modality

- Class Modality: In-person, online, or hybrid (in-person/online), class options change each quarter
- Most general education (English, history, science, etc.) courses are completely online or meet 1x per week in-person

Full-time or Part-time Schedule Examples

Full-Time:

Monday & Wednesday 12:00pm-1:30pm **English 101**

Tuesday & Thursday 12:00pm-1:30pm **US History**

Online – **Public Speaking**

Part-Time:

Monday & Wednesday 12:00pm-1:30pm **English 101**

Online – **Public Speaking**

Periods 4, 5, 6 at High School

Technical/Career Training Programs: Most career training programs (welding, auto tech, professional cooking, etc.) are full-time programs.

*If doing Running Start part-time, recommended to take morning classes at RTC and afternoon classes at high school

Technical Program Example Schedules

Full-Time Culinary Program:

Monday-Thursday, 7:00am-1:30pm, Friday online or make up day

Full-Time Welding Program:

Monday-Friday, 8:00am-12:00pm OR 3:00pm-8:00pm

Full-Time Automotive Tech Program:

Monday-Wednesday, 7:00am-1:30pm, Thursday Hybrid

Part-Time Certified Nursing Assistant Program:

5 week course, Monday-Friday, 8:00am-2:30pm

Technical Program Options

Option A – Earn college credits at RTC and high school diploma through home high school

- Students must complete all home high school graduation requirements and classes including passing all district and state testing requirements and completing a High School and Beyond plan/senior project.
- HS graduation requirements may be taken at the college or high school.
- The student's home high school listed on their high school diploma and they would be eligible to walk in their high school graduation ceremony.
- Students may participate in Running Start part-time or full-time and start in 11th grade or 12th grade.

Technical Program Options

Option B – Earn Associate Degree AND High School Diploma at RTC

- High School diploma granted through Renton Technical College
- Students focus on associate degree requirements and receive the high school diploma from Renton Technical College upon completion of the associate degree.
- Students are eligible to walk in the Renton Technical College graduation ceremony, NOT high school graduation ceremony.
- If students choose this option and want Running Start to pay for the associate degree, they must begin in 11th grade and attend full-time.



Running Start to 4-Year University

- Apply as Freshman
- SAT or ACT test (if required)
- Order and pay for RTC transcript to send to university
- Check with out-of-state schools for credit acceptance
- Associate degree may be completed with HS diploma
- Not required to finish AA degree before transferring to university
- RTC offers transferrable AA-DTA degrees in following areas: Business, Computer Science, Pre-Nursing



What does the program cost?

- Quarterly Class Fees (\$40-\$600, depending on program)
- Additional Tuition (Running Start pays for 19 credits per quarter)
- Textbooks & Class Supplies
- Transportation (Gas, Bus Pass/ORCA card, Taxi Service)

Fee Waiver Available

- Class fees waived
- Support for Career/Technical programs may be available (textbooks, supplies, uniforms, etc.)

Meet one of the following to qualify:

- Student qualifies for Free/Reduced Lunch within past 5 years through school district
- Family receives State or Federal Public Assistance (TANF, Basic Food, Apple Health, etc.)
- Foster Youth or qualify for McKinney-Vento services
- Family income equal to or less than 200% of the annual U.S. Federal Poverty

(Student must provide documentation to qualify for fee waiver)

Summer Running Start Funding

- Rising Juniors (summer before 11th grade) or Seniors (summer between 11th and 12th grade) may be eligible to enroll in up to 10 credits summer quarter.
- Rising Seniors will need to work with high school counselor to determine eligible summer credits, may be less than 10 credits.
- Students responsible for transportation to campus if taking in-person classes
- Summer quarter is only 6 weeks, much faster paced!
- Fees, textbooks, supplies not covered (fee waiver may be available for eligible students)

High School Counselor & Running Start Counselor Support

High School Counselor	Running Start Counselor
Completes new Enrollment Verification Form EVERY Quarter	Helps with Running Start application process
Keeps track of high school graduation requirements	Assist student with class choices based on High School Counselor recommendations, program requirements and educational goals
Tracks High School and Beyond plan and required State testing	Provide resources for career exploration
Great resource for scholarships, letters of recommendation, Financial Aid assistance	Connect student to campus resources
Resource for high school announcements (SAT/ACT testing, graduation activities, dances, extracurricular activities, etc.)	Monitor student academic progress

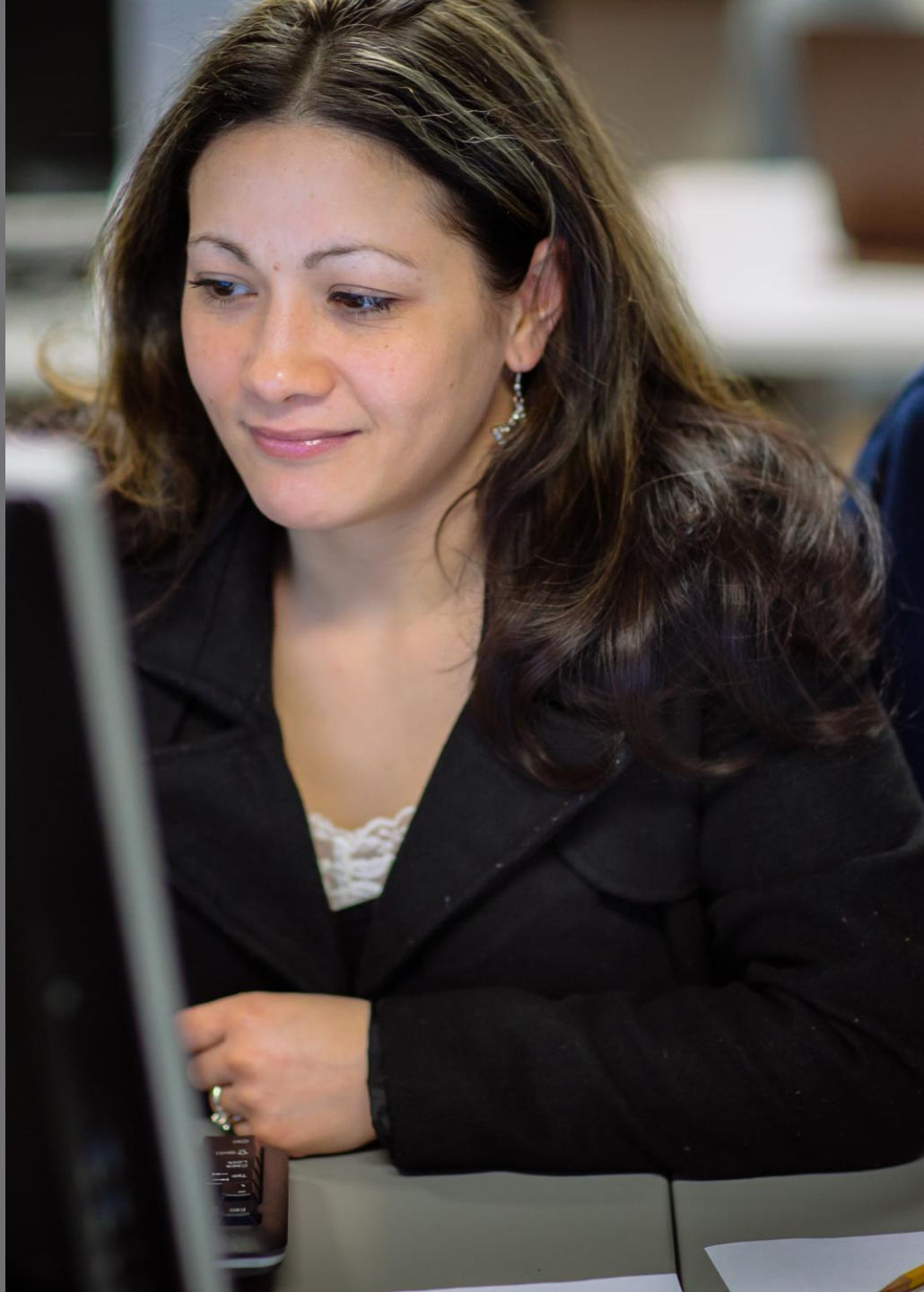
Parent and Family Rights & Responsibilities

- Access RTC grades at end of each quarter via high school transcript
- Alternative grade access: Student may look at grades during quarter in their online Canvas account
- FERPA (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act)– Student records/information cannot be shared with anyone, including a parent/guardian (even if student is under 18)
- Consent to Release Confidential Information form signed by student is required to release info to parent/guardian (even if student is a minor), form included in the Running Start intent & agreement form.

Running Start Application Process

Steps to Apply

1. Apply online to Renton Technical College to get a ctcLink student ID number, be sure to select that you are a Running Start student. Application takes 3-5 business days to process. You will receive an email once your application has been processed.
2. Once you receive your ctcLink ID number, [Activate ctcLink account](#)
3. Once you have you have your ctcLink ID number, complete the FREE [English Directed Self-Placement](#) assessment online. If you need accommodations for the assessment, please contact our [Disability Resource Services](#) office at drs@rtc.edu or call 425-235-2352 ext. 5540
4. Meet with your High School Counselor to complete the [Enrollment Verification Form](#) (this form must be completed every quarter), once complete, email form to: cgood@rtc.edu
5. The Running Start office will email you with next steps once all documents are reviewed.



Dates & Deadlines- Summer

- **Summer Quarter Timeline**
 - **Start the application process as early as February**
 - **Class registration for new students begins: May 18th**
 - **Orientation: June 16th**
 - **Last Day to Submit Application (class options limited): July 13th**
 - **Quarter begins: July 13th**



Dates & Deadlines- Fall

- **Fall Quarter Timeline**
 - **Start the application process as early as February**
 - **Class registration for new students begins: May 18th**
 - **Orientation: September 17th**
 - **Last Day to Submit Application (class options limited): September 21st**
 - **Quarter begins: September 21st**

Questions?

Chelsea Good
cgood@rtc.edu
425-235-6631

Want a campus tour?

Visit the [Outreach & Recruitment website](#)

Running Start



RENTON
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE®

STUDENTS SUCCEED AT RTC

www.rtc.edu

