

UW Colleges Associate Degree in the SDNB



Frequently Asked Questions About the SDNB UW Colleges Associate Degree

Identifying candidates who could benefit from this program

Is there a disadvantage to declaring an interest in this program if a student is not sure?

Not really. During the early phase of this program, students will be working on college level general education requirements. The guidance provided will help students better understand how to navigate the world of post-secondary education.

However, it is important to establish some key milestones as part of the planning process so that students can make an informed decision regarding whether to continue with general education requirements or consider starting on some of the professional requirements needed for a future bachelor's degree. Additional milestones are needed to ensure that this program continues to be a good fit as each student revises their post-secondary Academic and Career Plans.

What type of student would benefit the most from completing the associate degree in high school.

Depends on the student's ACP. For example:

- **Student X** does very well on standardized achievement tests, wants to be eligible to attend a selective 4 year school and has started taking AP courses. Student X should likely be advised to complete college level general education requirements and look for opportunities to start on the professional phase of their 4 year program vs. pursuing an Associate Degree.
- **Student Y** is a good student, does ok on standardized tests and pretty well knows he/she is going to stay in-state and attend a UWS institution. **Student Z** could very well benefit from entering the Associate Degree program and work towards earning credits that he/she knows will transfer to any of the UWS institutions (which will pretty much be any credits offered by UW Colleges, UWM, UW Oshkosh etc.).
- **Student Z** comes from a lower socioeconomic first gen high education background, struggles a bit in the classroom, has bachelor degree aspirations but realistically would benefit by first earning an Associate Degree. Student Z should be advised to consider this program provided staff feel they can be successful in college level coursework.

Becoming a candidate for an Associate Degree in High School

When is the ideal time to start planning if a student is interested

9th grade. This ensures that students are able to spread out their more rigorous coursework over 4 years and provides time to adjust course plans as a student's interests change. That said, a student

in obtaining an associate degree in high school?	should not start before they feel they are ready to start taking college level coursework.
Do students need to apply to be formally 'enrolled' in the program?	No. However, students need to speak to their counselors about their interest and get assistance to plan and track progress. Counselors will mark the student's IC account to show that they are pursuing an Associate Degree in High School. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 in all transcribed courses in order to receive their degree.
Does a student (or family) need to pay any extra fees to be enrolled in the Associate's Degree program?	No. Associate degree candidates do not pay any costs above and beyond what they would otherwise pay to take college level coursework and/or transcript any credits earned. Most costs are paid for by the district.
Does coursework that students took before they told their counselor they were pursuing an Associate Degree count?	Yes. Students can use AP courses, CLEP scores, and UW courses as part of the Associate Degree that may have been taken prior to declaration of being a UW Associate's Degree candidate.
Does the student need to know where he or she wants to go for further post-secondary education before he or she starts the Associate's Degree Program?	Not necessarily. However, it is highly advantageous if the student knows where he or she wants to go especially in the latter part of the program. We have found that not all UW campuses treat a UW Colleges Associate Degree the same way. In addition, some campuses have program requirements and/or limitations that you may want to consider when selecting courses to include in your associate degree program. Knowing where a student is planning to attend will minimize any unexpected credit transfer and/or financial aid issues.

Making Progress Toward Degree/Transcripting

If a student wants to get the Associate Degree with an emphasis (ex. Education), is that possible?	Yes. Elective coursework helps to form the emphasis and will provide a greater number of transfer credits into a bachelor's degree if planned in advance. A student would need to work with both a UW advisor and SDBN counselors to make this happen.
If a Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, or Transcribed Credit course offered on site could not be offered due to staffing issues or low enrollment, will students still have the option to take it through YOP/COP on site at the participating provider?	Yes. Students can apply to take a course through Youth or Course Options. Youth Options deadlines are March 1 and October 1. Course Options applications need to be turned in to the post-secondary 6 weeks prior to course's start date. The YOP and COP courses must be taken through an approved institution. Course Options allows students to take courses over the summer.
How does a student sign up for the CLEP test and get information for it?	Students can get more information on the CLEP tests available, how, and where to sign up here: https://clep.collegeboard.org/

Do the UW Waukesha classes offered on site in the SDNB count towards the 12 resident credit requirement?	Yes.
What if the student declares to participate but does not finish? Are any credits earned still transcribed?	Yes. Students can choose finish the Associate degree at UW Waukesha after high school or attempt to transfer the courses individually to another postsecondary institution.
What happens if a student does not do well in their college level courses?	Depends. If a student is in a dual enrollment course, it will become part of their permanent UW transcript. Students should be advised that college level work does require college level effort. Students who do not do well in a dual enrollment course should talk with a UW-Waukesha counselor about their options. If a student is unable to drop the course, it may be beneficial to retake the class; however, some 4 year schools will average (vs. replace) the grade. If a student does poorly on an AP test, they can retake it and submit the higher score to meet the competency requirement.
Are the grading policies the same or different between SDNB and UW-Waukesha? Which one is used?	Different. Dual enrollment and transcribed credit courses will show up on the student's high school and college transcripts based on the college's grading scale. AP courses will show up on the student's high school transcript based on the SDNB's grading scale; however, there is no grade assigned on the UW transcript for AP courses taken. The cumulative GPA requirement to receive an associate degree does not include grades received in AP coursework.
Will this help a student's high school GPA? Are all college courses weighted on the SDNB transcript?	Only AP courses receive a weighted grade on the high school transcript and those do help a student's high school GPA. The weight was initially introduced as an incentive for students to give a college level class a try. However, AP grades are not considered on the college transcript.
If a student has all of the credits and completes all expectations of the Associate's Degree but does not want it, do they have to earn it?	No. UW Waukesha would not grant an Associate Degree without the student's final permission.
Post Secondary Transition/Special Considerations	
Does the UWS Guaranteed Transfer apply to this program?	No. That program is designed specifically for students pursuing an associate degree after high school. The UWS has placed a limit on the number of credits that a high school student can be earn in order to be eligible for the guaranteed transfer program.

<p>Would this program benefit those wishing to complete an associate degree through the WTCS?</p>	<p>Not really. WTCS Associate Degrees are much more specialized. While there is overlap between some of the general education courses, the WTCS Associate Degree has a lot more program specific courses. Students who are not sure which path to take are advised to identify the general education courses that would count toward either degree and start there.</p>
<p>Will pursuing an Associate Degree in high school benefit or complicate admission to selective programs?</p>	<p>Complicate. Those students pursuing a selective school/program should be advised to continue to work towards a competitive admissions portfolio that includes a high ACT/SAT, GPA, and learning experiences that they can draw off of in their admissions essay. They also need to be aware of any credit limitations for program eligibility. For example, getting an associate degree in high school could in fact make a student ineligible for admission to the UW Madison School of Business.</p>
<p>Will this impact my financial aid package if I choose to continue my education?</p>	<p>Unlikely. UW Waukesha will not officially record the associate's degree ("flip the switch") until after a student graduates high school. Students will be a high school student when they apply to colleges and therefore should be considered an 'incoming freshman' vs. a 'transfer student' for the purpose of financial aid. However, when they apply to colleges, they will also have earned (or be in progress of earning) a substantial number of college credits. Students who are concerned these credits may impact their financial aid packages need to check with their desired post-secondary school.</p>
<p>Will this impact room and board in college?</p>	<p>Unlikely. The majority of post-secondary institutions would identify the student as a 1st year student based on their age. Students would need to speak to their post-secondary school of choice to confirm this.</p>

Wisconsin public colleges (4-year) 14 colleges

Compare to Other States

graduation rates

Compare state averages for 4-year public colleges.

