



INTRODUCTION & STUDENT PROFILES



FAST FORWARD PROGRAM

When participating in Advanced Opportunities, it is likely that students will accrue costs related to these activities. The Fast Forward program gives public school students in grades 7-12 an allocation of **\$4,125** to use toward the cost of: Overload Courses, Dual Credit tuition, and Exams.

Overload courses are high school classes that are taken in excess of 12 credits and outside the regular school day. Students can use up to **\$225** per course.

Dual credit courses are transcribed on students' high school and college transcripts. Through the Fast Forward program, students can request funding for up to **\$75** per credit.

Exams related to Advanced Opportunities coursework can be paid for with Fast Forward funds. These include: Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), and Professional Certifications.



PARTICIPATION FORM

Students and parents must fill out a participation form outlining program risks and regulations prior to using Fast Forward funds. This form is turned in to your school and kept on file with other student records. It can be found online at the www.sde.idaho.gov or at your school.

SIGN UP FOR AN ACCOUNT

Students can create a Fast Forward account at advancedops.sde.idaho.gov to request Fast Forward funds and track their account balance. Accounts must be approved by the school's Advanced Opportunities designee. In some cases, schools require that students request funding through the Advanced Opportunities portal, while other districts handle this process internally. Please follow local policies and procedures, as these vary by school. Please contact the school's Advanced Opportunities designee to learn about local processes and deadlines.

STUDENT PROFILES

In the pages that follow, several students are highlighted that have used the A.O. Program. Maybe their example can give you idea.

WHO SHOULD GO TO COLLEGE?

Not everyone should go to college and get a degree.

There are two criteria that should be met before dedicating four or five years of life to obtaining a college degree.

1. A person should know why they are going to college. They should know what degree they want to earn before they start.
2. The degree should lead to a job. One of the purposes of an education is to gain knowledge and skills that allow a person to generate an income. Many students have gone to the university hoping to figure out what they want to do and end up dropping out of college without a degree and lots of debt. Don't let this happen to you.

If I don't go to college, what should I do?

A traditional high school education does not sufficiently prepare a person to earn a livable wage. There needs to be training beyond a traditional high school education. Vocational education or Career Technical Education is a great pathway. Tradesmen often earn as much as a person with a college education and their skills are needed in today's economy. An added bonus is that trades can be learned while still in high school.

The best of both worlds is to learn a trade by qualifying for an industry recognized certificate; then, later if a person wants to they can go to college to earn a degree. One erroneous assumption young people make is they must decide in high school what they are going to do for the rest of their lives. This is not necessary. During the course of a lifetime, most people change careers several times. It is more important to start gaining a skill as soon as possible and see where it takes you. It is a great adventure.

Some industry certificates include:

- Microsoft office
- Solid Works
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- H-VAC
- Welding
- CNA
- Several different computer certifications
- Etc. Etc.

KATELYN HALL - ACADEMIC PATHWAY

GRADUATED WITH 33 COLLEGE CREDITS

I graduated from Emmett High School. My career plan is to major in Sociology with an emphasis in criminology and plan on going to University Idaho Law upon graduation from college in May 2020.

When did you develop your plan to use A.O. funds?

- My mom worked in the schools with the GEARUP grant, so when the opportunity arose for me to take college credits, it was immediately acted upon. It was not until freshmen-sophomore summer of high school I was able to take my first advanced opportunity course.

How did you decide on your career if you have?

- I do not think graduating from high school really prepares you for a lifetime career choice; that is what college is for. I switched my major three times while I was in high school. I went from going into Agricultural Education to Ecology Conservation and Biology to finally Sociology. However, even with my degree picked; I am not sure what my future career will be. Picking a major is one thing but deciding what to do with it is another. That is something I have discovered amongst my college peers. Something that I benefitted from my involvement with Advanced Opportunities was the ability to change my major without the repercussions of being behind in a four-year program. I had wiggle room, the ability to try classes and time to pick out my major.

What obstacles did you face which may include but not limited to?

Time

Transferability of credit – did all your credits transfer?

- The University of Idaho was amazing at accepting my credits and commitment in high school to do college coursework was not a challenge for me. However, there is two challenges that became apparent. First, the grade that was given in high school is the one that will be on a college transcript. For my peers who did not receive a B or an A, they were walking into college with perhaps a D or a C on their academic transcript. If one wants to take dual credits, they need to be aware achieving good grades is essential. Secondly, I felt pressured to choose a degree much more quickly. After 120 credits, I am at risk for losing my financial aid through the university. This means I need to be graduated before I lose that funding. Coming in with extra credits meant that I had to pick my courses wisely for my degree. I am graduating with my bachelors in three years. In a way, it feels rushed. However, I am stepping into a graduate program much quicker than my peers and thus stepping into a competitive job market much faster.

Extracurricular activities you participated in while in high school:

1. National FFA Organization
2. National BPA Organization
3. National Honors Society

How many college credit did you earn in high school?

- 33

How much time and money did you save by participating in Advance Opportunities? Why?

- Participating in Advanced Opportunities I accumulated 33 college credits; this equals one year of college tuition. According to the University of Idaho's website, the undergraduate 2019-2020 resident tuition for one year is \$21,820. Participating in Advanced Opportunities resulted in saving me one year of schooling.



KATELYN HALL - ACADEMIC PATHWAY

GRADUATED WITH 33 COLLEGE CREDITS

Did you earn any scholarships?

- Yes, because of my academic success and dedication to school, much of my schooling has been paid for. Something that appealed to scholarship committees was my commitment to taking college classes in high school. It showed I was dedicated to my education and looking into my future education early on.

If you have already gone to college, entered the military, or gone to a CTE program, how did taking extra classes in high school through Advanced Opportunities make your post-high school experience easier or enrich it?

- Going to college after having 33 college credits meant I got access to smaller class sizes sooner. It was an easier transition from high school to college. Freshmen year I only had one class that had 200 students in it. The rest had under thirty. It was a familiar experience for me and some of the classes I had taken in high school for college credit were what I call 'weeder' classes at the university. Some freshmen classes are intended to be more difficult for new students, to sort out those who will stick with a college education. Lucky for me, I never had to face this 'weeder' class because of my participation with dual credits.

Did taking dual credit or AP classes in high school prepare you for college or career?

- Yes and no. Nothing really prepares you for college until your first day of classes. Being away from your folks, stepping onto a new campus not knowing anyone, and entering a whole new world is a life changing experience. I remember my first day very well. What really helped my ability in college was the IDLA dual credit course I had taken that used Blackboard, which is the same platform the University of Idaho uses for all of its courses. I was familiar navigating how to turn in assignments. If I had to suggest something for prospective students is to take an IDLA dual credit course from the university they are wishing to attend. It would give them a head start on how to turn in assignments, because most of the college work I do is turned in online.

Advice to younger students

- My advice to younger students would be to take every single dual credit course that is available to them in high school. None of my credits were turned into electives, all of them benefitted me in some way. If they are planning to attend a university, talk to a student that is already attending so they can inform you on the 'weeder' classes and perhaps guide you to avoid them. If they do take dual credits, be damn sure to get good grades because it will haunt their academic transcript!

Strategies you would recommend to other students

- Go in state for college. Tuition is much cheaper and going out of state still will get you a four-year degree as your in state would. Plus, your credits transfer much nicer! Also realize being ahead in high school means you will be ahead in college too. Take internship opportunities early and be involved. One of the best things that I did was join a sorority. Find a support system to be your family going into college, whether it be Greek life or a dorm friend. Don't be scared to go, just be ready to grow!

KATELYN HALL - ACADEMIC PATHWAY

GRADUATED WITH 33 COLLEGE CREDITS

List of classes taken with Advanced Opportunities funds include academic and/or CTE

	Class taken	Provider (IDLA other)	Class taken	Provider	
7 th grade					
Summer/overload					
8 th grade					
Summer/overload					
9 th grade					
Summer/overload	HIST. 112	IDLA			(3 credits)
10 th grade					
Summer/overload					
11 th grade	POLS 101	In class	Chem. 101 with lab	In Class	(16 credits)
	Comm. 101	In class	Math 143	In Class	
	Engl. 101	In class			
Summer/overload					
12 th grade	BIOL 102 with Lab	In Class	Psyc. 101	In Class	(14 credits)
	Engl. 175	In Class	Math 170	In Class	

JASON CARIGNAN - ACADEMIC/COMPUTERSCIENCE PATHWAY

GRADUATED WITH AA

I graduated from Idaho City High School in spring 2019. My career plan is to major in Software Engineering.

When did you develop your plan to use A.O. funds?

Shortly after I started attending Idaho City in 7th grade when I realized that I needed to take advanced classes in order for my schedule to fit due to being in advanced classes since I was ahead academically as a result of being home schooled. We decided that I should be placed in more advanced classes using A.O. funds by taking 10th grade history online.

How did you decide on your career if you have?

I decided on Software Engineering because I've always been obsessed with how computers operate and all the amazing things that you can make them do if you have the skills and know-how to do so. I think it is a perfect fit for me as someone who is curious and driven to create something that might help others through the use of software.

What obstacles did you face which may include but not limited to?

Time

Especially with the first few years of this program when I was still figuring things out and learning to schedule myself, time management was difficult. With sports, normal high school classes, and just being a person in general, I found myself needing more time than I had. Once I started figuring out how to stay focused and on task, I was able to get things done faster which freed up a lot more time for other things and also relieved a lot of stress. The end of the semester was always difficult, though, since I was doing sports. Tournaments that took up two or three days of my time really bottlenecked the amount of time I could spend on academics which challenged me greatly because this usually happened during college finals week when I had a lot of projects due.

Transferability of credit – did all your credits transfer?

All my credits transferred. Some won't count towards my major but they will count as electives which will either give me more flexibility on what I can take, less classes I need to take during each quarter, or allow me to get a double major more easily depending on what I choose to do.

Other

Another obstacle I had to face was figuring out things on my own when I got stuck on a concept. While my instructors were able to help me, I was not always running into the issues when they were available, so I had to be independent and resourceful. Luckily, I am good friends with the internet and was able to find help on forums, YouTube, and Google searches.

Extracurricular activities you participated in while in high school:

1. Track and Field - 4 years
2. Basketball - 4 years
3. Football - 2 years

How many college credits did you earn?

63 credits. 60 of these were accepted by University of California, Irvine. I enrolled with Junior status.

How much time and money did you save by participating in Advance Opportunities? Why?

I will have saved at least a year in college and, at the college I am attending, equates to about \$55,000.



JASON CARIGNAN - ACADEMIC/COMPUTERSCIENCE PATHWAY

GRADUATED WITH AA

Did you earn any scholarships?

I have earned around \$400,000 in scholarships overall from local scholarships, different universities for both academics and athletics, as well as other businesses. While a good portion of that money is directly from colleges I won't be attending, and therefore I am unable to use those scholarships, I am very proud of the fact that I earned the highest academic scholarship at nearly every college that I applied to.

Did taking dual credit or AP classes in high school prepare you for college or career?

I am yet to be tested on this, but I can say that I feel much more prepared for college and my career. I learned a lot from being able to take dual credit classes such as how to manage time, be committed, work and study hard, write well, communicate well, work with other people, and stay on task and focused as well as feeling generally more confident, well rounded, and ready for whatever comes next.

Advice to younger students –

If you are at all unsure of committing to this program, just try a class or two. A lot of what I was unsure about was the difficulty of the classes and I can say that, yes, they are generally harder than high school classes and require more time and effort, but they are definitely manageable. When I say they are harder, it's not leagues and leagues above a normal high school class. Mostly what it comes down to is that college level classes have more content that you have to learn in a shorter period of time. It's not about feeling smart enough to be able to do college work, it just comes down to having the grit to put in the work required.

Also, whatever you do, don't let yourself get behind. Quite a few of my teachers accepted late work because they were trying to be flexible with students but don't let that tempt you to be lazy. If you get behind it is super stressful and difficult to catch back up and is just a bad habit to get into. Only get behind if you have something happen that prevents you from working and getting things done. For instance, I got a concussion during my sophomore year and got behind in my classes but there was nothing I could do about it. However, it was really unfortunate and a lot of work when I had to catch back up.

Strategies you would recommend to other students

I recommend choosing classes that you find interesting because it will keep you excited and wanting to learn. It makes all the work easier when it's something you have a passion about so when you're given the opportunity to take something that sounds interesting, take it. I took a higher-level philosophy class my senior year that wasn't mandatory for anything. I had all my credits scheduled and was on track to graduate, but I chose to take it because it interested me, and I am super glad I chose to go through with it. It was a good challenge and the material was really interesting and I feel a lot more rounded as a person as well as an academic from it. Learn to learn. If you have fun learning, it makes everything a whole lot easier.

JASON CARIGNAN - ACADEMIC/COMPUTERSCIENCE PATHWAY

GRADUATED WITH AA

List of classes taken with Advanced Opportunities funds include academic and/or CTE

	Class taken	Provider (IDLA other)	Class taken	Provider	
7 th grade					
Summer/overload	US History 10A	IDLA			
8 th grade	US History B	IDLA			
Summer/overload					
9 th grade	DC Spanish 101	CWI	DC Spanish 102	CWI	
	DC Health 155	CWI			
Summer/overload					
10 th grade	DC Cultural Geography 102	CWI	DC US History 111	CWI	
	DC US History 112	CWI	DC Cultural Anthropology 102	CWI	
Summer/overload					
11 th grade	DC Calculus 170	CWI	DC English 101	CWI	
	DC Philosophy 101	CWI	DC Physical Geography 100 + Lab 100L	CWI	
	DC Global Food Perspectives 120	CWI	DC Communications 101	CWI	
	DC Idaho Science & Aerospace Scholars – Engineering 115	BSU			
Summer/overload	Engineering 294	BSU			
12 th grade	DC Political Science 101	CWI	DC Macroeconomics 201	CWI	
	Exploring Computer Science	IDLA	DC Chemistry 100	IDLA	
	DC English 102	CWI	DC Philosophy 209	CWI	

TEAGUE GREGORY - HOME SCHOOLER

SOLID WORKS TRAINING

Attended PRRTA (a CTE charter school in Emmett, Idaho) and home schooled

Career plan:
Currently working as a CNC lathe operator; eventually want to start my own business

Advice to younger students –
Try new classes and put effort into the harder classes that require skills.

Jobs:
I have job at AMFEC in Nampa using the skills I learned in the PRRTA engineering class; specifically Solid Works.



Strategies you would recommend to other students
Home schooling gives you more time. Use your time wisely. Set a schedule and follow it. Get the best grades you can get. Don't slack off.

Classes Taken

10 th grade	Beginning Engineering (PRRTA)	Spanish (Emmett HS)			
11 th grade	Engineering Solid works (PRRTA)	Spanish (Emmett HS)			
Summer/overload					
12 th grade					

VISION CHARTER SCHOOL

50% OF GRADUATING SENIORS EARN AA

Every student's specific pathway is different based on the individual and their desired academic progression, priorities, interests, and college/career goals. We do not have a one size fits all High School. We are consistently working to remove barriers for students to achieve their dreams.

50% of our seniors graduated from High School with a two year Liberal Arts Degree. Two students graduated with an Educational Certificate from CWI (one year degree covering all Core classes). 8 vocational certificates were earned by four students including Basic and Intermediate AutoBody Technology Certificates, Certified Nurses Assistant, and Welding.

Vision Charter School students could follow a pathway to graduate from Vision Charter School with a Liberal Arts AA from CWI without leaving Vision Charter School and having only three of their courses for the Liberal Arts AA through CWI have to be taken online or in person at CWI. Those three courses not offered by Vision Charter High School students for Dual Credit include English 102 (3 credits), Communications 101 (3 credits), and the Language Arts Capstone(1 credit).

The following courses are offered at Vision Charter School for High School and College Credit in one possible pathway starting in ninth grade. Students ability to take courses at the underclassmen level is based on triangulated data and recommendations from parents, staff, testing data, maturity, and work ethic. Many courses have pre-requisites.

Dual Credit Courses potentially starting in 9th grade and spread out through twelvth grade.
Western Civ Hist 101/102 Typically taken in 9th or tenth grade

Health KINES 140
Biology 100 typically taken in sophomore year
Environmental Science BIOL1040
Chemistry CHEM 101
Physics PHYS100
Intro to Engineering ENG100
PE PHYA104 typically 9th or 10th
Foundations of Fitness & CrossFit 1 KINES1020R
Foundations of Fitness & CrossFit 2 KINES1020V
Weightlifting KINE1030J
Spanish 101
History 190 Typically 12th
English 101 Typically 10th or 11th
English 175 Typically 11th or 12th
US History Hist 111/112
Government POLS 101 typically 11th or 12th
Economics ECON 1050 Typically seniors
Pre Calc 147 juniors or seniors
Math in the Modern World Math123
Geology GEO101
AP Computer Science
AP Engineering equivalent

Adding in 2020-2021 as it is the first year our students will need it to get an AA through CWI:
History 230 & 240

VISION CHARTER SCHOOL

50% OF GRADUATING SENIORS EARN AA

One Possible Pathway

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN THE AA PATHWAY WHO TOOK THEIR FIRST DUAL CREDIT 2017 OR BEYOND				
CWI Liberal Arts AA (2017- beyond) and Accelerated English Pathway (60 DC)				
VCS Class	CWI Equivalent	HS Credits	College Credits	
	9th Grade			
English 9	Summer Class	2		
College Prep Algebra		2		
English 10		2		
Biology		2		
DC Western Civ	HIST101/102	2	6	
DC Health	KINES 140	1	3	
Elective		1		
Elective		2		
Elective		2		
TOTAL CREDITS		16	9	
	10th Grade			
Geometry		2		
English 11	ENGL101	2	3	
DC Biology	BIOL100	2	4	
DC History	HIST111/112	2	6	
DC Elective		1	3	
Elective	(Foreign Lang)	2		
Elective		2		
Elective		1		
TOTAL CREDITS		14	16	
	11th Grade			
Algebra 2		2		
English 12	ENGL175	1	3	
DC: Geology, Physics, or Chemistry		2	4	
English 12/Sr Proj.		1		
DC US Government	POLS101	2	3	
DC History 190	LA Research & Writing Adv Study	1	3	
DC History 230	LA Adv. Study	1	3	
DC Spanish 1	SPAN101	2	4 *	
Internship		1		
Elective		1		
TOTAL CREDITS		14	20	
	12th Grade			
DC Pre-Calculus	MATH147	2	5	
OR Math in Mod Soc.	MATH123	2		3 dual credits
DC Economics	ECON1050	1	3	
	ENGL102	1	3	
DC Environmental St.	BIOL1040	2	3	
DC History 240	LA Adv Study	1	3	
	Liberal Arts Capstone	1	1	
Elective		2		
Open Period	No Credit	0		
TOTAL CREDITS		10	18	
CUMULATIVE TOTALS (Minimum)		54	63	
* Two years of foreign language is recommended, but not required. ONE year of foreign language is required for a VCS Honors Diploma				

CONTACT INFORMATION

The **Advanced Opportunities designee** at your school will be the best point of contact as you navigate the Advanced Opportunities program.

Find us on **Facebook, Twitter, Blogspot:**



<https://facebook.com/advancedops/>



<https://twitter.com/advancedops2015>



<https://advancedopportunitiesupdates.blogspot.com>

Text alerts

School Users: Text **@sdeschool** to **81010**

Students: Text **@sdestudent** to **81010**

Parents: Text **@sdeparent** to **81010**

