



College 101: what does my transcript say about me?

As transcripts are updated after every term, now is the perfect time to review this document. **Transcripts are the first thing colleges consider when trying to determine if an applicant will likely be successful at their institution.**

So where do they begin? **Here...** as it tells them how you've done overall.

Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists Official Transcript
Tel: (651)290-2225 Fax: (651)290-9000
16 W 5th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102-1403

Next, they look for **trends** (how the GPA has changed over time) and evidence of **rigor...**

Student Information	#010 Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists Course	Mark Weight Credit	#010 Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists Course	Mark Weight Credit
Student Number: Birthdate: State ID: Diploma Date: GPA Summary Cumulative GPA (Weighted): 3.559 Class Rank: Cumulative GPA (Unweighted): 3.540 Class Rank:	2015-2016 Grade 10 Term 3 2602 Acting 2 2130 Algebra II E2671 Comedy 2627 Dance Tech 2 2502 French II 2346 H Economics 2425 H English 10 2265 H AnatomyandPhys E2621 HealthWellness 2100 Struct Study 2632 TheatreStudies2 2617 Thre Singing 2 Credit: 4.500 GPA: 3.482 U/W GPA: 3.440	0.4000 0.4 0.5000 0.5 0.2000 0.2 0.4000 0.4 0.5000 0.5 0.5000 0.5 0.5000 0.5 0.2000 0.2 0.4000 0.4 0.0000 0.0 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4	2017-2018 Grade 12 Term 5 2600T Acting TA 2445 AP English Literature 2605 Comp 2605 Capstone 2615 Dance Technique 2670 Lab 2610 Movement 2020 Senior Study 2020 Senior Study 2625 Singing 2790 Vocal Arts Elective A Credit: 2.500 GPA: 3.893 U/W GPA: 3.725	0.0000 0 0.5000 0.5 0.2000 0.2 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.2000 0.2 0.5000 0.5 0.5000 0.5 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.2000 0.2
2014-2015 Grade 09 Term 1 1601 Acting 1 E1634 Artistry 1220 Biology 1626 Dance Tech 1 1501 French I 1120 Geometry 1110 Geometry Skills 1415 H English 9 1315 H World History E1672 Improv 1100 Struct Study 1631 TheatreStudies1 1616 Thre Singing 1 Credit: 4.500 GPA: 3.667 U/W GPA: 3.667	2016-2017 Grade 11 Term 1 E1432 Adv. Jazzy 1205 Chemistry Adv 1605 French 3 1503 French 3 1100 Conservatory Hall 1606 MTActingStudio 1170 ProbandStats E1006 Tap 1633 TheatreStudies3 1619 Thre Singing 4 1330 US History Credit: 4.000 GPA: 3.575 U/W GPA: 3.575	0.4000 0.4 0.2000 0.2 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.5000 0.5 0.5000 0.5 0.5000 0.5 0.5000 0.5 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.5000 0.5	2016-2017 Grade 11 Term 1 T8400 PSEO English Credit: 1.000 GPA: 2.000	0.0000 0 0.5000 0.5 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.5000 0.5 0.5000 0.5 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.5000 0.5
2014-2015 Grade 09 Term 3 2601 Acting 1 2120 Geometry 2225 H Biology 2415 H English 9 2315 H World History 2621 Movement 1 E2840 Music Theory 2100 Struct Study E2632 Text Analysis 2631 TheatreStudies1 2611 Voice 1 Credit: 4.500 GPA: 3.778 U/W GPA: 3.778	2016-2017 Grade 11 Term 3 2245 Chemistry Adv E2606 Film Making 2503 French 3 2100 GuidedStudyHall 2661 MTAct E2662 MTStudentDirect 2662 MTStudentDirect 2171 ProbandStatsAdv 2633 TheatreStudies3 2630 US History E2663 VocalRehearsal Credit: 4.000 GPA: 3.375 U/W GPA: 3.375	0.4000 0.4 0.5000 0.5 0.2000 0.2 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.5000 0.5 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4	2017-2018 Grade 12 Term 2 1445AP AP English Literature 1615 Dance 1640 Directing 1341 Geography 1690 Musical Theatre Elec 1693 Musical Theatre Elec 1020 Senior Study 1020 Senior Study 1625 Singing Credit: 3.000 GPA: 3.878 U/W GPA: 3.778	0.4000 0.4 0.5000 0.5 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4
2015-2016 Grade 10 Term 1 1602 Acting 2 1130 Algebra II 1502 French II 1425 H English 10 1345 H Government 1265 H AnatomyandPhys E1602 Masks Elective 1622 Movement 2 E1636 Playwriting 1100 Struct Study 1632 TheatreStudies2 1612 Voice 2 Credit: 4.500 GPA: 3.231 U/W GPA: 3.239	2016-2017 Grade 11 Term 3 1615 Dance 1640 Directing 1341 Geography 1690 Musical Theatre Elec 1693 Musical Theatre Elec 1020 Senior Study 1020 Senior Study 1625 Singing Credit: 3.000 GPA: 3.878 U/W GPA: 3.778	0.4000 0.4 0.5000 0.5 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4	2016-2017 Grade 11 Term 1 T8400 PSEO English Credit: 1.000 GPA: 2.000	0.4000 0.4 0.5000 0.5 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4 0.4000 0.4
	Credit Summary High School Credits Attempted Earned ALG2 1,000 1,000 ART 17,000 20,000 BIO 1,000 1,000 CHEM / PHY 1,000 1,000 ELECTIVE 0,400 0,000 ENGLISH 4,750 4,750 MATH 2,000 2,000 SCIENCE 1,000 1,000 SOCIAL STUDIES 3,500 3,500 WORLD LANG 3,000 3,000 Total 34,650 37,250		Credit Summary No Credit Name Assigned (System) Attempted Earned Credits 0,000 0,000 Total 0,000 0,000 Total Credits 34,650 37,250	
	Official's Signature _____			

- **Unofficial transcripts are unsigned** and available on Infinite Campus (document option) once transcripts are finalized at the end of every semester.
- **Official transcripts** are available via the [transcript request form](#). (Note: Official transcripts lose that designation if the stamped and sealed envelope is opened.)
- **Mailed transcripts** and those picked up from the main office are \$5 each.
- **Transcripts uploaded** onto one of the college application aggregators (Common Application, Common Black College Application, Coalition Application, SendEDU, Slate.org, etc) **by the College Counselor** are \$10-15 for the first upload depending on what additional documents may also be required.
- Colleges that require a **self-reported transcript** expect the student to enter all the information from their transcript into the application system. **Double checking grades and credits is critical to ensuring that the actual transcript (which colleges require after acceptance) matches what was self-reported.**

Transcript Terms

- **Cumulative GPA** = the total number of grade points earned/total number of credits.
- Total number of grade points earned = grade values * course credits.

Grade value scale:	Course credits:
A = 4.0	Academic = .5
A- = 3.667	Arts =
B+ = 3.333	.4 (M/W & T/Th)
B = 3.0	.2 (F)
B- = 2.667	.8 (M-Th)
C+ = 2.333	
C = 2.0	
C- = 1.667	
D+ = 1.333	
D = 1.0	
D- = .667	

Simplified example:
 Student has: 1 A, 1 B- and 1 C+ in 3 academic classes (1.5 course credits) or (4*.5) + (2.667*.5) + (2.333*.5) = 4.5 grade pts/1.5 credits = 3.0 GPA

- AP courses have a 1.2 multiplier. **Students with AP credits will have weighted grades.**
- **Class rank** (see strike out) is available to students but not reported to colleges except where required (ie. community college PSEO applications).
- Academic **trends** appear between semesters. Colleges are interested in students who become more confident/successful in their studies over time (as courses become more challenging). **Colleges do not expect perfection.** Some colleges eliminate 9th grade from their evaluation criteria simply because everything is so new. Students may be given optional essay questions that allow them to explain what they learned from challenging class or term or while distance learning during the pandemic.
- Academic **rigor** appears in the choices the student makes at registration. Selecting Advanced, AP, PSEO, World Language, and optional math, science and social studies courses are positive signs that the student has prepared for advanced college level work.



College 101: what should I know about PSEO?

1. For starters, [what is PSEO?](#)
2. Why do rising juniors and seniors consider PSEO?
 - a. **Increased rigor/better preparation for college.** PSEO and AP courses both add rigor to your transcript/academic experience.
 - b. **Improved chances of being accepted at a highly selective college or university** (accepting less than a third of their applicants). AP test scores may be preferred over PSEO credits as the uniformity of that assessment makes evaluating level of preparation easier. (Note: AP course grades are also weighted. Students with AP credits may graduate with higher than a 4.0 GPA.) PSEO credits in subjects not taught at SPCPA also carry more weight with these schools.
 - c. **College credit?** Depending on the college you ultimately attend, PSEO and AP courses may qualify for academic credit. How much credit and the likelihood that those credits will fulfill graduation requirements may not be determined until after acceptance at your ultimate school of choice.
3. **Successful PSEO students challenged themselves with advanced options while at SPCPA.** They tend to be independent, flexible, disciplined learners, who are comfortable with adults, able to self-advocate/problem solve/handle new situations and are willing to access college support services (Writing Centers/Math Labs/Tutors). (Note: SPCPA faculty and staff do NOT have the authority to intervene if a problem with a PSEO course arises – this is college.)
4. **Colleges hold PSEO students to the same standards as their college-age students.** Courses move quickly; may be taught in large lecture halls and have few assessments making it difficult to recover from a single poor grade. It is the student's responsibility to keep up.
5. **Failing to do well in a PSEO course damages both high school and college transcripts and may negatively impact future college options.** If you are unable to give these classes your fullest attention, PSEO may not be the best option for you.
6. Consider logistics. How will you travel between SPCPA and your PSEO location? How will differences in school calendars impact J-Term options and vacation plans? Working your PSEO schedule around your Arts schedule at SPCPA can be frustrating. **PSEO courses do not excuse you from SPCPA requirements.** (Note: PSEO students register for SPCPA courses as if they will be attending fulltime then work with Ms. Johnson to adjust their SPCPA schedule once they have completed the PSEO registration process.)
7. **PSEO requirements differ by institution.** Search "(school name) PSEO admissions" to learn more. Deadlines and application steps are provided by each school. As with every other college application, it is the student's responsibility to complete and submit all required components prior to the deadline. (Note: the average GPA for PSEO students admitted by the University of Minnesota is 3.9. Community colleges require rising seniors to be in the top 50% of their graduating class and rising juniors to be in the top third.)
Contact Ms. Green (greena@spcpa.org) to learn more.

College 101: Things to consider if you chose the EC/N option during the 2020-2021 academic year....

- Who cares whether you chose grades or ECs last academic year? [Colleges for starters.](#) It's a natural assumption that an EC is comparable to a D- (the lowest grade to earn credit in a course). The question is, in your case, is that an appropriate assumption?
- Chosen ECs (vs the required ECs in the spring of 2020) have the least impact when associated with 9th grade and the greatest impact when associated with 11th grade. Why? [For colleges, junior year performance is most predictive of college readiness.](#) ECs create questions rather than confidence.
- One semester of chosen ECs has less impact on college perceptions than two.
- Considering revisiting your grading decision for last academic year? [Start with the semester one and two GPAs on your 2020-2021 grade report.](#) Are these figures higher than your current cumulative GPA? [If yes, you'd be better off with grades than EC/Ns.](#) Why? Your overall GPA will go up.
- If no, were these term GPAs relatively close to your current cumulative GPA (ie. 3.4 /3.3 vs 3/5)? If yes, it still may make sense to take the grades even though they will impact your cumulative GPA. Why? [Colleges expect dips in student performance during Covid.](#) These were less than ideal learning situations. Colleges will be less worried about slight downward trends than the unknown black hole of a chosen EC.
- Next, look at the individual grades on your report card. Do you see a pattern? [Are there more A's, B's and C's than D's?](#) Choosing ECs to hide one or two disappointments may not be the best strategy. [If there's mostly good news on your 2020-21 grade report, than bad, it may be in your best interest to let the college world know it!](#)
- Interested in going from ECs to grades? Contact Ms. Green (greena@spcpa.org) for your next steps. (Note: this is a semester-wide decision not a pick and choose between classes option.)