

RMU College in High School FAQs

The following are frequently asked questions from meetings over the past three years with RMU officials regarding the First Semester College in High School Program (FSCHS).

1. Will OLSH parents have access to financial aid such as Pell Grants?

No; however, it is possible that parents who take part in the PA 529 College Savings Program may be able to use this fund to pay for their child's RMU tuition.

2. Does being part of the cohort guarantee a student's acceptance to RMU, or will the student still have to apply?

All students taking part in the FSCHS must go through the RMU application process and qualify for the school/major to which they are applying. (For example, a student applying to the RMU School of Nursing should have a minimum SAT of 1000 (Verbal and Math combined) or an ACT score of 22).

3. Does a program like the FSCHS rush/push students through the educational system too quickly, causing them to "get in over their heads"?

Parents are the best judges of their child's abilities, and they should only apply for this program if they believe that their child is ready/prepared to handle the challenges of college level courses while they are still in high school. Also, a student who completes the FSCHS can use the Gen. Ed. credits to reduce their course-loads during the first year or two in college.

4. Many OLSH students are involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities. Will they be able to take part in the FSCHS program and maintain their involvement in extracurricular activities?

Once a cohort is selected, every effort will be made to have the classes meet at a time that will allow as many students as possible to be involved in both the FSCHS program and the extra-curricular activities in which the students participate. It is possible, however, that the student/family will have to make a choice between the FSCHS program and continued involvement in extracurricular activities.

5. Can a student opt out of one or more of the courses in the FSCHS program?

By committing to the FSCHS program a student becomes part of a cohort and is expected to take and complete the five Gen. Ed. courses. Therefore, once a student opts out of a course they may not re-enter the FSCHS program.

6. If student drops out of the FSCHS program, will they lose credits for any courses that have already been completed?

No. Students who drop out of the FSCHS program will receive RMU credits for all courses completed prior to dropping out of the FSCHS program.

7. Will the RMU courses factor in to a student's OLSH GPA?

Dual enrollment, i.e. being enrolled in college courses that are taught by college faculty, provides qualified OLSH high school students the opportunity to access college level courses, earning both high school and college credit simultaneously. Dual Enrollment is one way in which we endeavor to enhance academic opportunities available to our students, but does not replace OLSH courses within the Academic Course Catalog. While the dual enrollment credit can be included in a student's transcript, grades students earn through dual enrollment are not included in the calculation of the OLSH grade point average.

8. Will students have the opportunity to tour the RMU campus prior to starting the FSCHS program?

Yes, a tour for students and their parents can be set up upon request.

9. Will participation in the FSCHS program, and earning the 15 Gen. Ed. credits, affect a student's ability to receive the financial aid and scholarships that are typically awarded to incoming college freshmen?

No. Students graduating from high school and applying to colleges are viewed as freshmen regardless of the number of college credits they may have attained while in high school.

10. What is the expected workload of a college-level class?

A ratio of 3:1 is expected – 3 hours of work per 1 hour of class

11. Has there been an assembly with students in the sophomore class to inform them of the RMU FSCHS program?

The administration is planning to meet with the sophomore class soon, in order to inform them about the RMU FSCHS program, as well as other opportunities that may impact their scheduling of courses for the 2015-2016 school year.

12. How long is the summer course taken between the student's junior and senior year?

The summer course, which is typically an online course, is completed in 8 weeks. This summer a non-OLSH student will complete his 8-week online course while traveling in Europe.

13. Are online course credits transferable?

Yes, RMU online credits are accepted at other colleges and universities.

14. How do colleges view a student's transcript regarding an Honors/AP course versus a dual-enrollment college course?

RMU looks at the overall picture when accepting a student. They did note that earning college level credits is an indicator of a student's ability to succeed at the college level.

15. Do the grades a student earns in the RMU program transfer to other colleges?

No. While colleges accept the credits an incoming student has earned, it will not include the grade(s) earned in their GPA or on the student's transcript. However, if a student from the program enrolls at RMU, all grades earned in the FSCHS program will be included in the RMU transcript.

Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions.

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