

Get a Running Start at Clark College



High school students can learn how to take the next step in their education by attending one of three optional Virtual Running Start Information Night sessions hosted by Clark College.

The identical sessions will be held 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 8; Wednesday, Feb. 23; and Thursday, March 10. All three events, which are free and open to the public, will be held virtually over Zoom.

Running Start allows eligible juniors and seniors to earn college credit while they fulfill their high school graduation requirements. Running Start students attend Clark classes along with other college students. They can choose from a full range of academic and professional and technical courses.

The program, which can significantly reduce the cost of a college degree, has proven popular in Southwest Washington. Some Running Start students are so motivated that they earn their associate degree from Clark at the same time that they earn their high school diploma. These annual information nights frequently attract hundreds of interested students and parents.

These information sessions are for students and families who want to know more about beginning the program in Fall 2022. While the sessions are completely optional, they are a good opportunity to hear current Running Start students candidly describe their experiences in the program and to learn about the program benefits, eligibility criteria, expectations, timelines, and more.

An American Sign Language interpreter, live captioning, and Spanish/Russian interpreters are available for all event dates. Additionally, sessions will be recorded and made available in March at www.clark.edu/runningstart.

Running Start students pay for books, transportation, and some fees, but do not pay full Clark College tuition. Students can attend part-time or full-time under the Running Start program. Fees are subject to change by the Washington State Legislature. A fee waiver is available for those demonstrating financial need.

Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP) as soon as possible.

For more information on Running Start, visit the Clark College website at www.clark.edu/runningstart. For information about Running Start Information Nights, call 360-992-2078.

Get a Running Start at Clark College



High school students can learn how to take the next step in their education by attending one of four optional Virtual Running Start Information Night sessions hosted by Clark College.

The identical sessions will be held 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 25; Tuesday, Feb. 9; Wednesday, Feb. 24; and Thursday, March 18. All four events, which are free and open to the public, will be held virtually over Zoom.

Running Start allows eligible juniors and seniors to earn college credit while they fulfill their high school graduation requirements. Running Start students attend Clark

classes along with “regular” college students. They can choose from a full range of academic and professional and technical courses.

The program, which can significantly reduce the cost of a college degree, has proven popular in Southwest Washington. Some Running Start students are so motivated that they earn their associate degree from Clark at the same time that they earn their high school diploma. These annual information nights frequently attract hundreds of interested students and parents to the college.

These information sessions are for students and parents who want to know more about beginning the program in Fall 2021. While the sessions are completely optional, they are a good opportunity to hear current Running Start students candidly describe their experiences in the program and to learn about the program benefits, eligibility criteria, expectations, timelines, and more.

An American Sign Language interpreter will be available at each session. Additionally, the first session will be recorded and afterward available with translations into other languages online at www.clark.edu/runningstart.

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Get a Running Start at Clark College



High school students can learn how to take the next step in their education by attending one of four optional Running Start Information Night sessions at Clark College.

The identical sessions will be held 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5; Monday, Feb. 24; Monday, March 9; and Tuesday, March 24. All four events, which are free and open to the public, will be held in the Clark College gymnasium in the O'Connell

Sports Center, located on the southwest side of Clark College's main campus.

Running Start allows eligible juniors and seniors to earn college credit while they fulfill their high school graduation requirements. Running Start students attend Clark classes along with "regular" college students. They can choose from a full range of academic and professional and technical courses.

The program, which can significantly reduce the cost of a college degree, has proven popular in Southwest Washington. Some Running Start students are so motivated that they earn their associate degree from Clark at the same time that they earn their high school diploma. These annual information nights frequently attract hundreds of interested students and parents to the college, which is why the college is hosting four sessions this year. Clark College welcomed 2,428 Running Start students at the beginning of the 2019 fall term.

These information sessions are for students and parents who want to know more about beginning the program in Fall 2020. While the sessions are completely optional, they are a good opportunity to hear current Running Start students candidly describe their experiences in the program and to learn about the eligibility criteria, expectations, timelines, and more. Students and parents who live on the eastern side of the college's

service district can also find out about expanded options available at Clark's East Vancouver location at Columbia Tech Center.

Running Start students pay for books, transportation, and some fees, but do not pay full Clark College tuition.

Students can attend part-time or full-time under the Running Start program. Fees are subject to change by the Washington State Legislature. A fee waiver is available for those demonstrating financial need.

Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way in Vancouver, Wash. Parking will be available in the college's Red lots on the east side of Fort Vancouver Way and in the Purple Lot on the west side of Fort Vancouver Way. Driving directions and parking maps are available at www.clark.edu/maps.

Individuals

who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support

Services Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP), or visit Penguin Union Building (PUB) room 013, as soon as possible.

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CTC location is “open for business” this fall



Business students at Clark College have opportunities to participate in career-oriented activities like the college's Entrepreneur Club.

As Clark County's demographics and economics change, Clark College is ready to adapt to serve its community's needs. Responding to feedback from employers and residents in East Vancouver, the college is transforming its facility at Columbia Tech Center into a hub for business and technical education.



The college has worked to create a series of course offerings this fall that will allow students to pursue career-oriented higher education in subjects that include business, information technology, computer support, and supervisory management—all without having to travel to the college's main campus near downtown Vancouver. Most classes are scheduled to run just two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday), allowing students to plan their studies around work and/or life obligations.

Additionally, Clark College Economic and Community Development, which provides non-credit continuing education and customized training, is relocating to the CTC location. CTC is already the home of the college's popular mechatronics program, which teaches students the skills they need to work in automated manufacturing.

"As more and more employers establish facilities in East Vancouver, they've expressed a need for additional training for their employees," said Associate Vice President of Instruction Genevieve Howard. "We want Clark College at Columbia Tech Center to be the hub for career-oriented education in East Vancouver, while also opening opportunities for students on the eastern side of Clark County to take

advantage of the state's Running Start program."

Clark College at CTC is located at 18700 SE Mill Plain Blvd. in Vancouver. Opened in 2009, the location will be celebrating its 10th anniversary on October 14 with an official ribbon-cutting.



Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Get a Running Start at Clark



The 2018 graduating class included 476 Running Start graduates—a new record for the college, which has the largest Running Start program in the state.

High

school students and their families have an opportunity to attend a free Running

Start Information Night at Clark College on Wednesday, March 13, from 7:00-8:00

p.m. in the O'Connell Sports Center gymnasium on Clark's main campus.

The

information session, which outlines the process for entering the Running Start

program in fall 2019, is open to the public with no registration required.

Attendance is optional but encouraged as attendees will hear from Running Start

participants and learn about the program's eligibility criteria, benefits, and

more.

Running

Start allows eligible juniors and seniors to earn college credit while fulfilling their high school graduation requirements. Participants in the Running Start program attend Clark classes alongside the general college population. They can choose from a full range of academic and professional and technical courses, as long as the students meet the criteria and the classes are college-level.

The

program, which can significantly reduce the cost of a four-year college degree, has proven popular in Southwest Washington. In addition to the potential cost savings offered through participating in the program, Running Start also provides an opportunity for students to challenge themselves academically.

According

to Christina Smith, an instructor in Clark's Department of English, there are a number of qualities that Running Start students can foster in order to successfully navigate the college environment. "Curiosity, deep desire to learn, and willingness to ask questions in and out of class—these are the traits and skills that lead to success in college," said Smith.

Reid Brown, a current Running Start student, emphasized that frequent communication with professors can be helpful, along

with utilizing
services such as tutoring and meeting with advisors. "The
environment at Clark
is very inviting to young students and there are many
resources available to
help them with the transition into the college community,"
said Brown.

With
careful planning and dedication, some Running Start students
earn their
associate degree from Clark by the time they complete high
school. One such
student is Maria DeBartolo, who will graduate this
June with her high school diploma and an associate degree in
Nursing from
Clark. "I will be ready to enter a nursing program, which is
something that I
never thought I would be able to do at 17 years old," she
said.

Running
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time in Running
Start. Fees are subject to change by the Washington State
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For more information on Running Start, visit the Clark College website at www.clark.edu/runningstart. For information about Running Start Information Nights, call 360-992-2366.

A Running Start for high schoolers



High school sophomores and juniors can learn how to take the next step in their education by attending one of three optional Running Start Information Night sessions at Clark College.

The identical sessions will be held 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24; Wednesday, Feb. 28; and Wednesday, March 7. All three events, which are free and open to the public, will be held in the Clark College gymnasium in the O'Connell Sports Center, located on the southwest side of Clark College's main campus.

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The program, which can significantly reduce the cost of a four-year college degree, has proven popular in Southwest Washington. Some Running Start students are so motivated that they earn their associate degree from Clark at the same time that they earn their high school diploma. These annual information nights frequently attract hundreds of interested students and parents to the college, which is why the college is hosting three sessions this year. Fall Quarter 2017 Clark College welcomed 2,484 Running Start students, up by 2 percent from the previous year.

These information sessions are for students and parents who want to know more about beginning the program in fall 2018. While the sessions are completely optional, they are a good opportunity to hear current Running Start students candidly describe their experiences in the program and to learn about the eligibility criteria, deadlines, and more.

Running Start students pay for books, transportation, and some fees, but do not pay full Clark College tuition. Students can be part-time or full-time in Running Start. Fees are subject to change by the Washington State Legislature. A fee waiver is available for those demonstrating financial need.

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Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Fall begins at Clark



Students find their way on the first day of the 2017 fall term.

Monday, September 25 marked the start of the 2017 fall term at Clark College.

While official numbers are not available until after the 10th day of class, the day began with 12,055 students enrolled, slightly down from last year's Day One enrollment of 12,099.

This reflects trends seen throughout the statewide system and through much of the country as well.

Some specific segments saw increases. Enrollment in eLearning (or online) courses grew this year by 18 percent, with more than 4,700 students taking advantage of those courses. Clark College's Running Start Program also grew again this year by 2 percent to just over 2,100 students, making it the largest Running Start program in the state.

Other highlights for the quarter:



Cuisine instructor Aaron Guerra looks ready to start fall term.

This quarter sees the relaunch of the college's culinary programs, including Cuisine Management and Professional Baking and Pastry Arts. Students entering the program this quarter will be the first to study in the college's McClaskey Culinary Institute, which is still in the final stages of construction and is expected to open to the public by the end of 2017. When it opens, it will be the only nonprofit culinary institute within 120 miles. Clark's Culinary Arts – Cooking/Restaurant Management program was put on hiatus in 2013 in order to modernize the curriculum and facilities. The Culinary Arts – Baking/Bakery Management program was put on hiatus in

2015, when it was determined that the program could not continue running while the culinary facilities were being remodeled.

- The Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management program, which launched January 2017, begins its first full academic year at capacity with 35 students. This is the second bachelor's degree offered by Clark, and more are expected to be announced by the end of this academic year. In response to strong demand, a second cohort of the BASAM program will launch in January.



The BAS in Applied Management program's newest cohort poses with administrators, faculty, and campus resource specialists during their orientation session.

The college's new Rural Access Mechatronics Program (RAMP) launches this quarter, providing opportunities for students in underserved parts of the college's service district to gain in-demand skills without relocating to urban areas. Made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation, this two-quarter program allows students to earn a certificate in

mechatronics through primarily online classes that require them to come to Clark's Columbia Tech Center location in East Vancouver on Saturdays only. As with the BAS in Applied Management, this program is at capacity, and faculty are considering adding an additional cohort in winter term.

- The college's new Penguin Pantry has opened on the college's main campus, providing students with free food and hygiene supplies, as well as some clothing and school supplies. Almost half of Clark's student body is classified as lower-income, according to data from the college's Office of Planning & Effectiveness.

Photos: Campus photos by Clark College/Jennifer Shadley, BAS in Applied Management photo by Clark College/Jennifer Lea.

Get a Running Start at Clark College



High school sophomores and juniors can learn how to take the next step in their education by attending one of two optional Running Start Information Night sessions at Clark College.

The identical sessions will be held 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1 and Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017, in the Clark College gymnasium in the O'Connell Sports Center, located on the southwest corner of Clark College's main campus.

Running Start allows eligible juniors and seniors to earn college credit while they fulfill their high school graduation requirements. Running Start students attend Clark classes along with "regular" college students. They can choose from a full range of academic and professional/technical courses as long as the students meet the criteria and the classes are college-level.

The program, which can significantly reduce the cost of a four-year college degree, has proven popular in Southwest Washington. Some Running Start students are so motivated that

they earn their associate degree from Clark at the same time that they earn their high school diploma. According to Associate Director of Running Start Linda Calvert, these annual information nights frequently attract hundreds of interested students and parents to the college, which is why the college hosts two sessions. Fall Quarter 2016 Clark College welcomed 2432 Running Start students, which was up by 163 from the previous year.

These information sessions are for students and parents who want to know more about beginning the program in fall 2017. Calvert explained, "These optional sessions provide a great chance to hear current Running Start students candidly describe their experiences in the program. You'll also hear about the eligibility criteria, deadlines, and more."

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Calvert noted, "Running Start is not for everyone. It requires not only college-level skills, but also college-level maturity. Successful program participants who flourish under the academic rigor of Running Start are generally self-motivated and looking for additional academic challenges. Students frequently tell us that they like the learning environment at the college and the ability to gradually sample the college environment."

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Clark kicks off a new year



Monday, September 19 marked the start of the 2016 fall quarter at Clark College. A highlight of opening day was seeing

progress on the college's initiative to encourage more students to attend full-time (12 credits or more). Forty-eight percent of non-Running Start, and 74% of Running Start students, attended Clark full-time. These statistics are important because studies show that students who are enrolled full-time are more likely to graduate and to do so in a shorter amount of time.

While official numbers are not available until after the 10th day of class, the day began with 12,099 students enrolled, statistically even with last year's enrollment numbers.

While enrollment was flat overall, some specific segments saw increases. Running Start, which allows high school students to earn college credits tuition-free, saw its enrollment rise by 11 percent from its fall 2015 numbers to 2,445 students. Clark College's Office of Planning & Effectiveness estimates that families of Clark Running Start students saved a combined \$7.1 million in college tuition during the previous academic year. Elearning (or online) courses grew this year by 15 percent, with more than 4,400 students taking advantage of those courses.

Other highlights for the quarter:

- This is the first quarter that classes are offered in Clark's new, state-of-the-art STEM Building, which will have its ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 3.
- This quarter sees a 67% increase from fall 2015 in students enrolled in apprentice programs. Additionally, Clark's Transitional Studies is offering a new pre-apprenticeship program designed to help adults enter the trades. The one-quarter class costs just \$25, making it an accessible entry point for people seeking a new career.
- Students have begun enrolling for prerequisites to prepare for entry into Clark's new Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management This will be the second

bachelor's degree offered by Clark.

About Clark College

Located in Vancouver's Central Park and serving up to 12,500 students per quarter, Clark College is Washington State's second-largest single-campus, for-credit community college. The college currently offers classes at two satellite locations: one on the Washington State University Vancouver campus and one in the Columbia Tech Center in East Vancouver. Additionally, its Economic & Community Development program is housed in the Columbia Bank building in downtown Vancouver.

After 20 years, a dream realized



2016-2017 Community College Presidents' Scholarship in Honor of Val Ogden recipient Holly Varner

Holly Varner had always meant to go to college. She tried taking classes a couple times, but life as a Navy wife made it difficult—she was constantly having to move to follow her husband's 21-year-long career, not to mention taking care of three boys, now ages 8, 13, and 18. It was only when her husband retired and the family settled in Washougal that Varner could pursue her dream. She enrolled in Clark with just a GED and a handful of community-college classes on her transcript, determined to succeed academically.

During the 2016 Clark College Commencement ceremony, that determination paid off when Varner heard Clark College President Robert K. Knight announce that she was the recipient of the 2016-2017 Community College Presidents' Award in Honor of Val Ogden. The scholarship award provides full-time tuition at Washington State University Vancouver (WSUV) and is renewable for one additional year, essentially providing full

tuition to complete a bachelor's degree.



Holly Varner hugs her son after hearing that she has received two years of tuition to Washington State University Vancouver.

As soon as President Knight made the announcement, Varner stood and hugged her son, Jonathan, who had attended Clark alongside his mother through Washington State's Running Start program, which allows high school students to attend college tuition-free. The two had taken three classes together and even quizzed each other before exams.

"It was great to see him progress, to see him grow," said Varner.

Varner's own growth at Clark has been exceptional. She graduated with a 3.98 Grade Point Average ("I was so upset about that A-minus!") while managing multiple volunteer and extracurricular activities. Varner served as Vice President of Service for Alpha Sigma Phi, Clark College's chapter of the international honor society Phi Theta Kappa. In that role, Varner helped organize a Thanksgiving basket drive that provided holiday dinner supplies to more than 100 Clark College students and their families—negotiating an agreement with a new vendor that brought down the price of each basket that in turn allowed Alpha Sigma Phi to serve more students.

She also coordinated drives to provide books and art supplies to families in local homeless shelters. She interviewed more than 60 homeless individuals to learn what they needed most; based on those interviews, she developed a shoe and sock drive to help them.

“She is the go-to person if advisors, other officers, or administration have questions,” wrote Professor Ruth Trejo, who serves as Alpha Sigma Phi’s advisor. “We joke about her three-inch binder, where her sticky tabs have sticky tabs.”

Varner will begin studying at WSUV this fall. She intends to major social work and/or public health. Varner said that, while her family had educational funding available to them through the GI Bill, she needed to save that funding to help put her children through school. Receiving the Community College Presidents’ Scholarship will allow her to pursue her own education, hopefully to a master’s degree.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley