



MicroCollege

An Honors Pathway Program

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is MicroCollege?**

MicroCollege is a unique college pathway program that provides students who are *College Capable but not College Ready* (as defined by the CA State Board of Education) the opportunity to remain dual-enrolled in high school during the 5th year and complete up to 10 college classes.

Check out this [video](https://honors.docsend.com/view/nck8k39) for a good overview! <https://honors.docsend.com/view/nck8k39>

### **2. How are students selected for the program?**

MicroCollege collaborates with District staff to prioritize student enrollment based on academic need. District staff (specifically, counselors and high school administrators) are ultimately responsible for approving students for participation in MicroCollege.

### **3. Is this an online program?**

Nope! MicroCollege is a classroom-based program. Courses are taught in-person at a college extension site by college faculty, with small class sizes and two tutors assigned to each cohort of approximately 30-35 students. MicroCollege is designed to prepare students for success on a traditional college campus – that means teaching students how to be successful in traditional college classrooms, how to utilize office hours, how to ask for tutoring, and how to navigate financial aid.

In short, we help students learn how to become successful at college before they arrive on campus.

**4. Who will teach students in MicroCollege? What are their qualifications and affiliations?**

Faculty who teach at MicroCollege serve under faculty appointment at William Jessup University, the sponsoring university in Northern California. Faculty must have earned a Master's or Doctoral degree in the subject matter of their class.

Most faculty who teach at MicroCollege also teach at other institutions, including UC Berkeley, Cal State East Bay, Mills College, American River College, Peralta College, and others. In fact, it's possible that MicroCollege students will take classes with their same MicroCollege faculty when they arrive on their college campus!

**5. Is MicroCollege non-sectarian?**

Definitely. MicroCollege is a non-sectarian program.

**6. What happens to students when they complete their year of classes with MicroCollege?**

Students apply to the colleges and universities of their choice as first-time freshmen, but with advanced standing due to the college credits they earned. This provides students with two key benefits: 1) they have the opportunity to improve their High School GPAs and/or complete any unmet A-G requirements by taking college courses, and 2) they have the opportunity to transfer up to 30 credits of college coursework (10 classes) to the college in which they transfer.

Honors Pathway continues to support students with counseling and advising and career support after they transfer – all the way until they graduate college and start a career.

**7. Will students' credits transfer?**

Yes! Credits come from William Jessup University, a WASC Senior accredited, non-profit university. William Jessup University has a long history of credit transfer to CA public and private colleges and universities. Further, MicroCollege only offers the general education courses required by CSU and UC campuses. Transcripts issued to students by WJU are identical to any other transcript WJU would issue to its students.

**8. What percentage of MicroCollege participants continue their education?**

94% of MicroCollege students have been accepted to 4-year colleges and universities and continue their education. Through their participation in MicroCollege, many students (who were not previously eligible) became eligible for CalGrant A, and several students gained admission to more selective colleges and universities.

MicroCollege students are enrolled at UC Santa Cruz, CSU East Bay, CSU Stanislaus, and Mills College, among other schools.

**9. What happens if the student stops showing up?**

In the event that a student withdraws, they receive their HS diploma and any college credits earned up to that point.

**10. How is MicroCollege funded? How does MicroCollege use its funds?**

MicroCollege is funded via California LCFF funding. In total, MicroCollege operates off approximately 80% of the funding generated by each student. The district retains the remainder.

MicroCollege uses these fees to pay for faculty, staff, books, equipment, (each student is issued a laptop), and facilities, etc. Students pay NO tuition or fees, and all their books and supplies are provided for them along with over 500 hours of tutoring and academic support. Best of all, the program generates no student debt, and does not utilize students' limited federal or state aid – meaning that the full amount of those benefits will still be available to them when they complete their year of MicroCollege!

**11. Will MicroCollege result in budget cuts at the school or district level?**

No. MicroCollege predominantly serves students who have already fulfilled minimum high school graduation requirements and would have otherwise graduated. The program therefore increases district enrollment and does not take away from resources already in place. MicroCollege creates a surplus for the district.

**12. Two of the founders were previously affiliated with Patten University. Is Patten part of this program?**

MicroCollege was incubated in Oakland, CA at Patten University (a WASC Senior accredited university), with support from the Patten Education Foundation. In 2018, Honors Pathway was established as a standalone organization that partners with a growing national network of private, non-profit universities to operate MicroCollege college extension sites serving graduating high school students who are at risk of dropping out of college.

### **13. Is Honors Pathway a for-profit or a non-profit?**

Honors Pathway (HP) is a public-benefit corporation, also known as a “B Corp”. Public benefits corporations are a hybrid between a for-profit and a non-profit: they can raise private capital and generate returns, but they have a legal obligation to prioritize their social mission. To learn more about B corps, see <https://bcorporation.net/> and <https://www.incnw.com/blog/2018/03/02/about-b-corps/>.

Honors Pathway has received all of its financial support from philanthropists and foundations, including the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation.