



EARLY COLLEGE ALLIANCE @ EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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Vision: To bridge the gap between high school and college, enhancing life outcomes while fostering a democratic society.
Mission: To empower high school students from diverse backgrounds to earn up to 60 university credits towards a Bachelor's Degree.

Values: Social Justice, Strong & Supportive Relationships, Diversity, Growth Mindset, & Individualized Pathways

2024-25 ENROLLMENT & DEMOGRAPHICS:

- Total Enrollment: 510
 - Academy (9th Grade) 97
 - 10th Grade 106
 - 11th Grade 139
 - Seniors (12th/13th Grades) 168
 - Anticipated 2024-25 Grads: 114
- Gender: 38% M, 62% F
- Ethnicity: 27% African American, 5% Asian, 7% Hispanic, 7% Middle Eastern/North African, 40% White, 14% Other Race/Ethnicity
- 21% of students eligible for free/reduced lunch

#1 HIGH SCHOOL IN MICHIGAN IN PRODUCING COLLEGE GRADUATES

2010-2018 ECA Graduating Classes
College Graduation Rates:

- 78% of all ECA students
- 78% of ECA's White students
- 78% of ECA's Black students
- 79% of ECA's "Other Race/Ethnicity" students

(Source: MDE/CEPI, National Student Clearinghouse)

2024 GRADUATES:

- Total "Completers" finishing in April, June, August, or December, 2024: 117
- Average # of EMU Credits: 52
- Average EMU GPA: 3.37
- 88% matriculated to 4-year colleges
- 4% matriculated to 2-year institutions
- 8% employment, military service or gap year

ECA @ EMU: AN EARLY/MIDDLE COLLEGE

The Early College Alliance @ Eastern Michigan University is a public early/middle college program on the campus of Eastern Michigan University, a fully accredited post-secondary institution of the North Central Association (NCA). The ECA @ EMU is a Shared Educational Entity (SEE) that partners with the Washtenaw Intermediate School District, EMU, and nine local school districts (Ann Arbor Public Schools, Chelsea Public Schools, Dexter Community Schools, Lincoln Consolidated Schools, Manchester Community Schools, Milan Area Schools, Saline Area Schools, Whitmore Lake Public Schools, and Ypsilanti Community Schools). Van Buren Community Schools in Wayne County also sends students as part of a contractual arrangement. Each partner district receives a percentage of the available enrollment openings at the ECA, and contributes to its governance by membership in the Washtenaw County Educational Options Consortium Joint Steering Committee. The ECA is in its 17th year of operation.

PROGRAM

The ECA @ EMU offers students the opportunity to fulfill their requirements for a high school diploma while completing rigorous college preparatory coursework, gaining valuable college readiness skills, and earning up to sixty transferable college credits from EMU.

The ECA @ EMU is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) as a four-plus-one program. Students begin the program at the start of ninth, tenth or eleventh grade, and if needed, are provided an additional year beyond their expected year of graduation to complete the program. The ECA @ EMU is a "non-time centric" program; students progress through the program based on actual skill acquisition (mastery learning) rather than on credit acquisition.

CURRICULUM

The ECA @ EMU is a three-phase program. The first phase, for students who enroll in the 9th grade, is the 9th Grade Academy, which provides a transition from middle school to the high-rigor of the 10th/11th grade program.

In the second "credentialing" phase, students are provided with a rigorous college preparatory curriculum. Students acquire and demonstrate "hard" (academic) skills in English, mathematics, science, and social studies, as well as "soft" (social and emotional) skills. "Soft skills" are fundamental to student success in the post-secondary environment, and are embedded into the curriculum and school culture through direct instruction, practice, and instructor feedback in several specific learner domains: Attendance, Preparation, Performance, Communication and Self-Advocacy, and Self-Awareness. Once they begin their Credentialing year (10th/11th grade), students remain in the ECA college preparatory program until they consistently demonstrate true college readiness in both academic and soft skills. All high school-level classes are taught by Michigan-certified secondary education teachers, right on campus in Eastern Michigan University's classrooms.

In the third phase, ECA students transition to become full-time Eastern Michigan University undergraduate students, simultaneously pursuing college general education requirements and ECA program completion requirements to finish high school. Students only move onto the third phase of the program upon completion of the ECA college preparatory component.

ECA @ EMU SAT scores compared to State of Michigan*

year	ECA	Michigan
2022	1122	960
2023	1084	958
2024	1092	945

* Michigan requires every student in public education to take the SAT, which accounts for the lower than expected state composite scores.

ECA @ EMU AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2011-12 University of Michigan Music Society Arts Education of the Year Award

2013 Engineering Society of Detroit David A. Skiven Leadership Award

2018 Ranked 99.9 out of 100 for Michigan’s new school ranking system. State median 71.89.

2023 Michigan Department of Education Dr. Cheryl S. Wagonlander Early Middle College Excellence in Practice Award.

STUDENT OUTCOMES:

J.L.(Manchester), EMU Dean’s List, transferred to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with 62 credits.

M. M. (Ypsilanti) transferred to Cornell University (Engineering) with over 45 credits.

T.C. (Chelsea), EMU Dean’s List, transferred to University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (Engineering) with 57 credits.

R.F. (Manchester), Transferred to Brown University with 33 credits.

A.F.(Saline) & M. J.(Ypsilanti), Full-ride (Presidential Scholarship) to Eastern Michigan University.

S.T. (Ann Arbor) One of 781 students in the nation with a perfect score of 36 on the ACT. S.T. completed the exam at the age of 15.

EVALUATING ECA @ EMU STUDENTS

Organizationally, ECA @ EMU students become full-time EMU students. They are not high school students who dual enroll in a few college courses. Instead, they are “jointly enrolled and admitted” to the ECA and Eastern Michigan University. ECA students who demonstrate an average rate of progress will spend nine semesters in the program, with the last seven to eight semesters as full-time Eastern Michigan University students.

Culturally, ECA @ EMU students are fully immersed in the college environment. Once they reach the third phase and take college courses, they attend class with the EMU student body as a whole, with no modifications or adjustments made in either curriculum or instruction by Eastern Michigan University faculty. The structure and pedagogy of the ECA is designed to support the university curriculum as the core academic experience of its students. Generally, ECA students make up no more than 20% of any EMU course section.

Transcripts

When applying to any post-secondary institution (beginning with 2020 graduates), an ECA @ EMU student will submit a transcript that combines their full high school experiences, and may include grades from the following:

1. **Prior Secondary School Setting(s).** The ECA transcript of students who attended a different school environment in the 9th and/or 10th grade will show reported coursework, grades, and credits awarded in these prior educational settings, designated by a T, including coursework from home schooling.
*ECA district transcript(s) will be submitted separately and show official graduation date.
2. **ECA @ EMU—9th Grade Academy:** The Academy emphasizes growth and the learning process over letter grades. Students who attended ECA for 9th grade will show grades of Pass/LNC (Less than Proficient, no credit); these do not have an impact on a student’s Grade Point Average.
3. **ECA @ EMU:** The ECA’s college preparatory classes employ the following grading scale for academic content courses:

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Points
90-100%	A	Exceptional	A=4.0, A-=3.67
80-89.99%	B	Above Average	B+=3.33, B=3.0, B-=2.67
73-79.99%	C	Average	C+=2.33, C=2.0
55-72.99%	LCR	Less than Proficient, with credit	LCR=1.67
0-54.55%	LNC	Less than Proficient, no credit	LNC=0

NOTE: Certain ECA courses are Pass/LNC courses and do not have an impact on a student’s Grade Point Average. Students may request to opt into either a traditional ECA grading scale (above) or into a Pass/SLNC grading scale.

4. **Eastern Michigan University:** EMU courses are reported on the ECA transcript, designated by the letters “EMU”, followed by the course name and the number of college credits in parentheses. High school credits are reported as Carnegie Units, with 3-5 college credits translating to 1 unit of high school credit, and 1-2 college credits translating to 0.5 HS unit. All EMU classes at the 100-level or higher are weighted by adding 0.5 to the GPA calculation for the course.
*Eastern Michigan University transcript will be submitted separately
5. **COVID-19 Impact:** EMU grades during the COVID-19 Pandemic may be reported as “S” for passing grades or “U” for failing grades, with a neutral impact on GPA. ECA grades during the COVID-19 Pandemic may be reported as “P” for passing grades or “SLNC” for failing grades, with a neutral impact on GPA.

Students at the ECA are not ranked based on grades.

Please note: While the ECA @ EMU transcript will offer a full account of the student’s high school academic record, students will also submit their ECA District transcript and an official EMU transcript when applying to colleges. The ECA District awards the high school diploma, and will bear the **final graduation date** once they finish the program.

ADMINISTRATION

If you have any questions regarding a student’s academic record or the ECA @ EMU program, please contact us directly at (734) 487-4290.

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