

# Quick Start Guide to Concurrent Advising in Arkansas

This Concurrent Advising Guide provides a structured, student-centered process to help advisors and students in Arkansas plan academic pathways that align with career goals, maximize funding opportunities, and ensure college readiness. This guide should complement the student's ongoing student success plan.



## Guiding Process 1: Lay the Groundwork

- Review current comprehensive student success and career plan
- Review career planning assessments and career interests
- Review, discuss, or consider pursuing experiential learning and exploration activities and opportunities
- Identify existing academic assessments (ACT, SAT, Workkeys, etc.) and educational data/information to provide an estimate of college and career readiness, including a review of previous coursework



## Guiding Process 2: Finding the Right College and Career Pathway

- Discuss with the student their initial interest in post-secondary education
  - Students may choose to pursue CTE and technical fields, traditional college degrees, and/or a combination of fields and degrees.
  - Help the student narrow down the options by discussing the planning assessments, career exploration activities, and academic readiness.
- Help the student research types of credentials and courses required for programs or pathways of interest.
- If undecided, consider pursuing the General Education Core required for all degrees in Arkansas



## Guiding Process 3: Financial Awareness

- If using the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship, discuss the implications of future eligibility.
  - A2A funding is available for students in grades 9 through 12.
  - A2A will pay for up to 15 credit hours per semester, not to exceed 30 credit hours per academic year (fall, spring, and summer terms).
  - Any credit hours beyond these limits will be the responsibility of the student or the student's parent or guardian.
- If dually enrolled, A2A may not cover full tuition, and additional payment may be required from the student or the student's parent or guardian.



## Guiding Process 4: Update Student Success Plan

# Key Considerations for Concurrent Enrollment Success



## Credit Transfer & Applicability

Not all courses transfer seamlessly across institutions or apply to specific majors.

- **Advisor Tip:** Always verify transferability via the **Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS)** or institutional transfer guides.

## College vs. High School Standards

Clearly explain that this is real college credit on a real college transcript with **differences in expectations**, grading policies, and academic rigor between high school and college-level coursework. Students may assume courses will be “high school easy” when, in fact, they carry full college-level expectations.

- **Advisor Tip:** Reinforce the permanence of college grades on transcripts and the permanent GPA impact on the student’s college record. It is common for students to not realize concurrent grades go on both the high school and permanent college transcript, affecting future GPA and financial aid eligibility.

## Deadlines & Administrative Processes

Students often find college administrative processes confusing, which can result in missing registration deadlines, scholarship application windows, and drop/withdraw dates.

- **Advisor Tip:** Provide a **semester-specific calendar** with all key deadlines.

## Eligibility & Course Prerequisites

Many colleges and universities have different eligibility requirements for programs of study, such GPA minimums, prerequisites, grade-level restrictions.

- **Advisor Tip:** Create an **eligibility checklist** before enrollment. Requirements can vary between institutions, courses, and funding programs.

## Financial Responsibility

The A2A scholarship is available to all high school students enrolled in eligible college courses through concurrent or dual enrollment. Tuition responsibility may vary depending on the student’s school type (public, private, home school) and enrollment type (concurrent and/or dual). Materials, fees, or retaking failed courses may incur unexpected costs. Dropping or failing classes may impact future scholarship eligibility.

- **Advisor Tip:** Clarify cost coverage **upfront** and explain limits (e.g., number of funded credit hours).

## Academic & Career Alignment

Beware of enrolling in courses that don't align with their future goals or degree pathways, leading to excess credits or wasted effort.

- **Advisor Tip:** Require alignment with the **Student Success Plan (SSP)** and review academic/career goals before selecting courses.

## Special Needs & Accommodations

Every college or university you attend will have an office of disability services where students can register to request academic accommodations. IEP and 504 accommodations **do not** automatically transfer to classes taught on the college campus by college professors. The school district is responsible for accommodations related to IEP or 504. Content altered or modified may impact student’s ability to count the course as college credits.

- **Advisor Tip:** Encourage families to **reach out** to the office of disability services at the college as well as coordinate with their school's special education supervisor.

## Age Appropriateness

College classes, the internet, the library, and other environments are **not censored** for students below the age of 18.

- **Advisor Tip:** Encourage families to consider **social maturity** for attending college-level classes potentially with adult peers.

