

Free 2 Explore

FREE DUAL ENROLLMENT...

UP TO 2 COURSES...

EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS!

Free 2 Explore Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Free 2 Explore?

The Free 2 Explore program at Miles Community College offers two free dual enrollment courses to all eligible Montana high school students. The classes can be on-campus, online, or in the high school. Free 2 Explore/dual enrollment classes allow students to explore college major options, and start on a college degree while still in high school. There is no credit limit on the two free courses (i.e. it is not limited to 6 credits only—if the two courses total 7 credits, both courses are eligible).

Q: What classes are considered “dual enrollment”?

Miles Community College provides dual enrollment opportunities to high school students in a number of ways – on-campus, online, or in the high school. Students earn college credit, and may even simultaneously earn high school credit at the same time.

Our college credit-only dual enrollment classes, offered on-campus at MCC or online, are offered under the heading “Pioneer Express”. Any Montana high school students can enroll in a Pioneer Express course, provided they meet enrollment eligibility and prerequisite requirements for the courses they are seeking.

“Concurrent enrollment” courses are those courses, taught at partner high schools, for which students can simultaneously earn high school credit and college credit. For these courses to be offered, they must be pre-approved and agreed to by a special agreement signed by both the college and high school administration. Student enrollment requires permission of appropriate high school personnel, and is limited to high school juniors and seniors.

Q: When does this start?

Free 2 Explore launched Fall 2018, alongside the Montana University System’s “One Two Free” program. Over the first two years of the program, hundreds of high school students earned college credits from Miles Community College! It is continuing now in its fourth academic year.

Q: How do I sign up?

For Pioneer Express courses (online or on-campus MC courses), you’ll complete a Pioneer Express application and registration form, found on our website, at the MCC Enrollment Services office, or in your high school counseling office. Concurrent enrollment students registering for college credit will complete a special, school-specific registration form which can be obtained from your high school instructor or guidance counselor. You’ll complete new registration forms for each term that you enroll.

Once you register and enroll for a dual enrollment course we’ll automatically waive the tuition and mandatory fees for your first two courses. These two courses can be spread across multiple enrollment terms. Pioneer Express courses are available fall, spring, and summer terms. Concurrent enrollment courses follow the high school calendar.

Q: What other costs aren't covered through Free 2 Explore?

Tuition, mandatory fees, and eLearning fees are waived for your two Free 2 Explore courses. However, this program doesn't cover the cost of course textbooks or any special fees associated with a class. Examples include science lab fees and other specialized course or material fees. You can view textbook lists and costs on the [Bookstore website](#).

Q: What if I take more than two courses?

Once you are above your two class limit you'll be charged only fees for your courses – tuition is waived for ALL additional courses. Mandatory fees are \$57.00/credit, and you may pay additional fees depending on the type of class and whether you take it online, on-campus, or in your high school. eLearning courses incur an additional \$28.00/credit fee.

The two class limit is a one time limit; the program does NOT provide two free courses per semester. However, the two free courses can be spread across multiple terms. (Example: one concurrent enrollment course in the spring at your high school, and one online Pioneer Express course in the summer.) If you withdraw or fail your two Free 2 Explore classes, however, you will not be eligible for additional free courses and will need to pay the regular rates (tuition waived, fees only).

Outstanding bills must be paid in full before you'll be allowed to register for subsequent courses, and be aware the outstanding bills will also prevent you from receiving a transcript.

Q: My school is already a part of a free dual enrollment project with MCC. Can I still participate in Free 2 Explore?

Miles Community College has extended its free concurrent enrollment pilot project with Custer County District High School and Sidney High School. For the 2021-2022 academic year, these students will continue to receive ALL of their concurrent enrollment course credits (for courses taught at the high school) absolutely free.

Students at these two schools can still take advantage of Free 2 Explore by enrolling in online or on-campus classes through the Pioneer Express program at MCC. Their first two Pioneer Express courses will also be free. CCDHS and SHS students can maximize their savings by taking both concurrent enrollment at the high school and online Pioneer Express classes!

Q: Which of my dual enrollment credits make me eligible for the Pioneer Promise scholarship?

Only Pioneer Express credits count towards Pioneer Promise eligibility. Concurrent enrollment credits do not.

Students who pass at least six credits from MCC through Pioneer Express will be automatically eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship to MCC if they enroll at MCC as a degree-seeking student after high school graduation. We call this scholarship our "Pioneer Promise" scholarship—it's our promise to help make college degree attainment affordable for Montana high school students!

Only Pioneer Express courses (MCC online or on-campus classes) will count for eligibility. Credits earned through concurrent enrollment (those courses taught at the high school) will not count towards the six credits of eligibility for the Pioneer Promise Scholarship. Students must earn at least a C or better in their MCC Pioneer Express courses to be eligible. The scholarship will be awarded as \$500 per semester for their first year of degree-seeking enrollment, provided students maintain good academic standing while enrolled at MCC (2.0 semester GPA). The scholarship can be stacked with other MCC tuition waivers, up to the full cost of tuition only.

Q: What if I have more questions?

Please contact MCC's Enrollment Services office at 406.874.6101 or email admissions@milesc.edu.



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