



PUSD College Connection

College Connection is an educational program that allows high school seniors to complete their senior year through a daily advisory and independent study with a PUSD high school teacher (located at Butte College) and enroll in 9-11 units per semester (approximately 3 classes) at Butte College. Students learn how to plan college schedules, use college learning technology, learn in a college setting, adjust to new academic routines and expectations, how to manage their “free” time, earn general education credit, explore a wide variety of classes, discover what college has to offer, and get a head start in college while keeping costs down. At the end of their senior year, College Connection students graduate and receive their high school diplomas with their graduating class but have already accelerated along the learning curve of college.

Though they do not attend school on their high school campus, College Connection students are still enrolled at their high school, maintaining eligibility to participate in high school athletics, clubs, and events. Priority enrollment status at Butte allows students to enroll in college classes that give them the time to participate in extracurricular activities.

1. As high school seniors, all College Connection students are enrolled in 4 high school courses each semester:

- a. Seat Time = Advisory period, 5 elective credits fall/spring
 - M-F 8:00 -8:50 for the first 3 weeks of school
 - M-Th 7:45-8:55 for the remainder of the school year

Independent Study

- b. English 12 = A-G 4th year ELA, 5 credits fall/spring
- c. American Government/Economics = A-G Social Science & College Prep elective, 5 credits fall-Government/5 credits spring-Economics
- d. College Survival Skills/Career Planning & Advisement = 5 elective credits fall/spring

2. As college students, participants enroll in 9-11 college units in the Fall and Spring terms, and are eligible for:

- a. Priority enrollment
 - b. No college fees or tuition
 - c. College courses=college credit and college experience
 - d. Honors courses, major exploration, general education, and more
 - e. Individualized academic schedule
 - f. Options for priority enrollment in summer and winter terms
- All College Connection students are in class together with advisor for Seat Time Advisory period, allowing students to enroll in Butte College classes starting at 9 am
 - I encourage students to plan a 30-90 minute break between college courses to provide time on campus for homework and studying (often there are fewer distractors on campus)
 - Students can build college class schedules that allow them to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities on their high school campus
 - All meetings in February and March, 2019 are to assist program participants in building a fall college schedule (summer=optional)

- After morning advisory class, each student's schedule is unique.
- **NOTE: If a student is behind credits in English or social science, PUSD does not permit Butte classes to fulfill these necessary credits for students' graduation requirements (in these 2 categories only). These high school credits must be fulfilled by taking classes at the high school or via eLearning.**

Textbooks

→ High school textbooks

- ◆ There are none! Each student is provided with a PUSD issued Chromebook for their online independent study for their high school curriculum. Students may prefer to use their own device and not be issued a district device.

→ College textbook

- ◆ Textbook costs are defrayed by PUSD placing \$150 of financial aid in each participant's name to be used in the Butte College Bookstore for college textbooks. Students do not need to repay the amount of financial aid they use but they need to return textbooks to advisors at the end of each semester. The College Connection advisor has a lending library of college textbooks, also defraying costs. During the first semester, students receive guidance in learning how to acquire textbooks in the most cost effective manner.

Grade Reporting

→ High school

- ◆ Independent study grades are reported through Aeries at the time of progress reports and end of each semester. Students meet with their advisor to review work, progress, and performance on an individual basis throughout the semester.

→ College - Canvas

- ◆ Canvas is the Butte College online learning management system. It has features similar to Aeries (grades and communication), but additionally has an instructional component to deliver curriculum and assess student performance. Some (not all) Butte College professors use the Canvas gradebook, allowing students to have up-to-date knowledge of their performance. If students have any questions or concerns about their college course performance, they should use instructor office hours for clarification and support.

Butte College Main Campus

- College Connection classes and college classes are held at the Butte College main campus to immerse students in a college setting rather than at a remote campus (like the Chico or Glenn Centers). This provides students a deep orientation into college resources and services, most of which are available at the main campus. When students go to other colleges after high school, they will be able to transfer knowledge of college services and resources to those campuses.
- As students develop as responsible independent learners and time managers, they will be able to take one of their spring college courses online or at the Chico Center (advisor approved on an individual student basis).
- Butte College buses provide free transportation to students from locations in Chico and Oroville to all Butte College campuses.

Communication

→ With students

- ◆ I meet with students Monday through Thursday in a traditional classroom setting. Students schedule visits during office hours, approximately every three weeks, to review their high school and college performance, discuss college plans, and other topical information; students are welcome to drop into open office hours with questions and concerns, or to check in. A large part of college success is self-advocacy. I will guide and advise all students on communicating online and using instructor office hours.
- ◆ Students need to check their email daily during intake (January 25-April 1). Starting in August, I will communicate with students through a phone app (also accessible on a computer) called **BAND**. Each student will be required to download this free app and keep notifications turned on throughout the school year.



→ With parents/guardians

- ◆ Approximately every other month, parents/guardians will be emailed the College Connection newsletter. If I have concerns about student performance, I will contact a parent/guardian after a discussion with the student. Once each semester, students will bring a progress report home that will include their college progress for parents to review, discuss, and sign.

Transportation

→ Butte College Bus

- ◆ All Butte College students can use the Butte College bus system for free. There are multiple stops throughout Chico and at the Chico Center.
- ◆ The Butte College bus schedule is published each term (Summer/Fall/Winter/Spring), but the schedule does not change greatly.
- ◆ The Butte College bus schedule is divided into a Monday-Thursday schedule and a Friday schedule; Friday bussing options are reduced because relatively few classes are scheduled.

→ Personal vehicle

- ◆ Parking at all Butte College campuses is free; be careful not to park in staff, electric vehicle, or carpool designated spots unless you have an EV or carpool pass. Parking laws are enforced.

FAQ's

- Do my high school senior classes count as part or all of my 9-11 college units?
 - ◆ No. Students' high school credits count toward senior year curriculum: English, Government, Economics, and 2 elective courses (College Survival Skills and Seat Time/Advisory). The 9-11 units are set by Butte College and the State of California, allowing students to enroll in approximately 3 college courses in the fall/spring terms. Students are allowed optional enrollment with priority status in the summer before the senior year and winter of the senior year.
- What does "A-G" indicate?
 - ◆ A-G are college preparatory subject matter categories that students must complete in high school to be eligible as freshman applicants to 4 year colleges/universities. For example: 4 years of English Language Arts, 3 years of math, 2 years of same foreign language, etcetera. <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/files/csu-uc-a-g-comparison-matrix.pdf>

If you have questions, please contact PUSD's College Connection Advisor, Kimberly Jones

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