How do I get started?

To take an Excelsior Program course, you must be a high school junior or senior who has demonstrated readiness to take college-level course work and has been recommended by a high school teacher or guidance counselor. Some Excelsior Program courses may have additional requirements for acceptance. Participating high schools have student enrollment applications containing all of the information necessary to take advantage of this opportunity. The program is explained and enrollment is completed in each of the classes being offered through the Excelsior Program. Interested students should contact their high school administration to see what courses are being offered in their school district.

How does the Excelsior Program differ from AP/IB?

With the Excelsior Program, college credit is earned and an official Suffolk County Community College transcript is received at the end of each course. Student success is based on a variety of assessments throughout the course, not solely upon one test. Additionally, Suffolk's Excelsior Program courses follow the College syllabi using college-level textbooks.

What can I expect from these courses?

College courses are rigorous and challenging; careful time management skills are essential. The workload varies between courses, but typically involves additional time and extensive reading and writing assignments. Courses are designed to promote independent and peer group study skills with increased student expectations and higher level class discussions.

What can I do with the credits I earn?

When you register for an Excelsior Program course, you create a transcript record at Suffolk County Community College documenting the credits you earned. When it is time to apply to college, you can request that your transcript be sent to the college or university of your choice.



"By taking advantage of Suffolk's Excelsior Program, I am able to show colleges that I hold a high academic standard and can handle an intense workload. This increases my chances of being admitted to highly competitive schools, gives me greater flexibility during my college career and shortens the time needed to receive a bachelor's degree."

- Rosario Terracina, Shoreham-Wading River High School student