

**FALL 2009 TESTING INFORMATION**

Sign-up for the Fall Running Start test online at [www.clark.edu/runningstart](http://www.clark.edu/runningstart).  
Click on "Test Sign-up Information".

*Running Start is a program approved by the Washington State Legislature in 1990, which allows high school juniors and seniors to challenge themselves academically by taking classes at a community college. The program allows students with college-level test scores to attend Clark College part-time or full-time. Students receive both high school and college credits for successfully completed classes. At the end of each quarter, the student's grades are mailed to the high school and become part of the permanent high school transcript and permanent college transcript. The credit equivalency ratio is 5 college credits = 1 high school credit. Students are limited to college-level classes (numbered 100 and higher). The tuition is paid by the school district, but students are responsible for textbooks, class fees and transportation to the college. Running Start students must live in Washington.*

*Home-schooled or private-schooled juniors and seniors must access Running Start through a public high school in Washington, and qualify on the eligibility test. Homeschoolers must have an "intent to homeschool" form on file at the local public school district office.*

**STEP 1 Eligibility**

**Test:** January 12 through February 27, current Sophomores and Juniors can take the initial test for entry into Fall Quarter 2009. See the Running Start website at [www.clark.edu/runningstart](http://www.clark.edu/runningstart) for sample test questions, Frequently Asked Questions, and Test Sign-up Information. Students sign-up for the test online at the same website.

Students are given the COMPASS test, free of charge. This test is computerized and is not timed. The test includes three parts: (1) Reading (2) Writing (3) College Algebra (optional). To be eligible for the program, students must qualify with college-level scores in both Reading **and** Writing in order to take all subjects other than Math. Students must have college-level scores on the College Algebra test in order to take Math or courses that state a Math requirement. Scores will be provided to students immediately after the test. Once students pass the test with college-level scores, they do not test again.

**Apply:** Students who have college-level scores as indicated on the "Test Information" handout must bring their "Running Start Application" and their test scores to the Running Start Office after qualifying. Students should apply no later than **March 27** for Fall Quarter 2009. See our website for a map and application.

**Retest:** Students who do not initially qualify on one or more parts of the test may retest between **March 9-26** at \$10 per part of the test. However, you must retest, qualify, and apply prior to the **March 27** deadline in order to qualify for Fall Quarter 2009. You will only have one opportunity to retest and qualify before the deadline for Fall 2009. More complete information regarding retesting is on the website.

**STEP 2 Orientation**

Eligible students must attend a mandatory orientation meeting in late April or early May. Details will be provided to students after they qualify for the test and will also be posted on the "Running Start Events" link. Students will be given valuable information about the college at the orientation.

**STEP 3 Forecast**

In May, eligible students will access the Clark College schedule using the web page and complete a forecast form with their high school counselor. This form is a "request" which is used for planning purposes and indicates what classes they want to take at Clark. The actual class times may be different when the student registers in August. The forecast form must be returned to the Clark College Running Start Office prior to the stated deadline for each quarter. Students may attend day, evening or online classes. Students may be enrolled part-time or full-time at the college. If a student decides to attend the college on a part-time basis, the student must also attend some classes at the high school in order to meet Washington State attendance guidelines as a full-time student.

**STEP 4 Registration**

In August, students will register online for their Fall classes and pay for any related class fees. The tuition is paid by the local public school district (even for homeschooled and private-schooled students). Students are also responsible for textbooks and transportation expenses. There is limited book funding available for those who qualify for either free or reduced-price lunch.

Questions? Contact the Running Start Office at (360) 992-2366

[www.clark.edu/runningstart](http://www.clark.edu/runningstart)