

COLLEGE IN THE SCHOOLS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2026-2027

What is a College in the Schools (CIS) course?

A CIS course is taught in the high school by a high school instructor. That high school instructor works collaboratively with a professor at a college. Students who enroll in a CIS course earn high school credit as well as college credit in a single course.

What does it mean to earn college credit?

Students who qualify and complete a CIS course at Aitkin High School will earn college credit. This means they will have a transcript of courses and grades with the college.

What are the qualifications needed to enroll in a CIS course?

CLC - 3.0 GPA for Juniors, 2.5 GPA for Seniors. Accuplacer test may be required for certain Math or Science courses.

SMSU - 3.0 GPA for Juniors and Seniors, OR ranked in the top half for seniors, top third for juniors.

UMD - 3.0 GPA for Juniors and Seniors.

UMN - Junior or senior with a class rank in the top 20%, or instructor approval

Does it cost anything to take a CIS course?

There is no cost to enroll in a CIS course. Students can earn numerous free college credits this way, potentially saving hundreds, even thousands, of dollars.

Are CIS courses harder than high school level courses?

Yes. The rigor is higher, and there is more responsibility on the student for study time, homework time, and self-learning.

Will these college credits and grades transfer to a different college/university?

Most likely. Students enrolling in a different college/university after high school graduation will need to determine if that institution will accept the college credits from the CIS course(s) they took. The website www.transferology.com can help. The grades earned in CIS courses could impact a students' academic standing at the college they choose to attend after graduation from AHS.

How does earning a low grade in a CIS course affect future opportunities?

Each institution will have requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress. It is up to the student to know if they are maintaining eligibility for future college level courses. Questions about eligibility should be directed to the CIS instructor or the school counselor.

Which colleges do students earn college credit from for Aitkin's CIS course(s)?

Central Lakes College, Southwest Minnesota State University, University of Minnesota Duluth, University of Minnesota Twin Cities. This information is provided in the course registration handbook.

How do I transfer my credits to the college/university I attend after high school?

Once your child graduates from high school, he/she must request an official transcript from the colleges from which credit has been earned. There is typically a fee to have this information sent.

How can I get support in my CIS course(es)?

Students struggling to adjust to a CIS course can seek out help from their high school teacher as well as from the college. Students needing help should first reach out to their CIS teacher. Students are also able to request the AHS CIS Seminar course which will teach them valuable skills needed to be successful in college level coursework.