

graduates can earn up to 60 hours of transferable college credit, the equivalent of two years of college or an associate's degree.

### Average Yearly College Tuition and Fees - 2019

- Public Two-Year College (in-state) \$4,080
- Public Four-Year University (in-state) \$8,446
- Public Four-Year University (out-of-state) \$27,143
- Private Four-Year University \$47,564

### Who can enroll and how do students enroll?

- Must be an incoming 9th grade student
- Students must live within United ISD boundaries
- Obtain an application from middle school counselor or United Early College High School Counselor
- Submit the application by deadline
- 100 students will be accepted each year
- Students will be accepted using a performance-blind open access lottery system
- Accepted students must complete a summer bridge program

### For more information

- Talk with your counselor about Early College High School
- Early College High School staff will visit the United ISD middle schools during the spring semester.



**FOR CHILDREN**  
**We are UNITED ISD!**

**United South High School  
Early College Academy**  
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**Graduate from high school with up to  
60 hours of transferable college credit  
or an associate's degree.**



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It is the policy of United ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap in its programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

**WE ARE  
UNITED**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## What is Early College High School?

United South High School Early College Academy (USHSECA) is a small school designed for students to earn both a high school diploma and an associate's degree or up to 60 hours of credit toward a bachelor's degree.

USHSECA has the potential to improve high school graduation rates and better prepare all students for high-skilled careers by engaging them in rigorous, college preparatory curriculum and compressing the number of years towards a college degree.

## Why Early College High School?

Did you know that...

For every 10 students that start high school:

- 8 will finish and obtain a high school diploma
- 6 will enroll in a post secondary institution
- Only 3 will complete a bachelor's degree within 10 years

A post secondary education is essential for financial and personal freedom in today's economy. A four-year college graduate earns two-thirds more than a high school graduate does. An associate's degree translates into significantly more earnings than with a high school diploma alone.

## At United South High School Early College Academy, you are on the path to success!

The United Independent School District has partnered with Laredo College to offer students the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and up to 60 hours of transferable college credits or an associate's degree.

Students at United South High School Early College Academy begin taking college courses as 9th graders and follow the program throughout the four years. Students will graduate from high school in four years and can complete up to 60 hours of transferable college credit.

## What is the difference between United South High School Early College Academy & dual enrollment or Advanced Placement?

What sets Early College High School apart from dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, and other pre-college programs is the rich and coherent academic program and a relentless focus on underrepresented students. United South High School Early College Academy, Advanced Placement, and dual enrollment programs give students an understanding of post secondary education, yielding multiple benefits to students. However, only United South High School Early College Academy:

- Fully integrates students' high school and college experiences, both intellectually and socially;
- Enables students to earn up to two years of college credit towards a degree while in high school;
- Blends the curriculum as a coherent unit, with high school and college-level work into a single academic program that meets the requirements for both a high school diploma and an associate's degree or certificate;]
- Grants college credits through the postsecondary partner institution

and enables students to accumulate the credits toward a degree from that institution or to a university.

## Why is it important for students to earn two years of college credit while in high school?

USHSECA prepares high school students for successful career and educational futures through integration of high school and college courses in preparation for the work force. Students will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, and successful members of our community.

USHSECA graduates will have a significant advancement on their paths towards their baccalaureate degree. It also provides students access to support structures (academic, emotional, and social) that will enable students to navigate the educational process in higher education. (LC MOU)

## What can students do after they complete United South High School Early College Academy?

When students complete USHSECA, they have a high school diploma and up to 60 hours of college credit or an associate's degree. This serves as evidence that ECHS students are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to enroll in college and more likely to earn a degree. (Hurst & Uribe)

## How much money can students save by going to United South High School Early College Academy?

United South High School Early College Academy