# College Courses for CSS Students!

# Why take a CSS-CU or College Now Course?

★ **Explore an academic or career interest,** including classes not offered at CSS - e.g. psychology, Korean, business, astrophysics, community health, medieval studies.

★ **Add rigor to your transcript** & show colleges you are **ready to do college-level work**!

★ **Demonstrate your passion** for an extracurricular area.

★ **Receive college credit,** depending on the policy of college you attend

# Why does this matter for college admissions?

| Factor | N | Considerable Importance | Moderate Importance | Limited Importance | No Importance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grades in All Courses | 173 | 80.9 | 10.4 | 5.8 | 2.9 |
| Grades in College Prep Courses | 171 | 70.8 | 17.5 | 8.8 | 2.9 |
| Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT) | 172 | 52.3 | 30.8 | 14.5 | 2.3 |
| Strength of Curriculum | 170 | 51.2 | 29.4 | 12.9 | 6.5 |
| Essay or Writing Sample | 168 | 16.7 | 36.9 | 20.8 | 25.6 |
| Counselor Recommendation | 167 | 10.8 | 46.1 | 28.7 | 14.4 |
| Student's Demonstrated Interest | 168 | 15.5 | 21.4 | 34.5 | 28.6 |
| Teacher Recommendation | 168 | 7.1 | 46.4 | 29.2 | 17.3 |
| Class Rank | 172 | 9.3 | 27.9 | 36.0 | 26.7 |
| Extracurricular Activities | 169 | 3.6 | 34.9 | 40.8 | 20.7 |
| Subject Test Scores (AP, IB) | 166 | 4.2 | 28.9 | 28.3 | 38.6 |
| Portfolio | 167 | 5.4 | 7.2 | 27.5 | 59.9 |
| Interview | 168 | 3.6 | 14.3 | 29.2 | 53.0 |
| Work | 169 | 1.8 | 17.8 | 41.4 | 39.1 |
| SAT II Scores | 166 | 6.6 | 3.0 | 19.9 | 70.5 |
| State Graduation Exam Scores | 168 | 1.8 | 8.3 | 17.9 | 72.0 |

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2017–18.

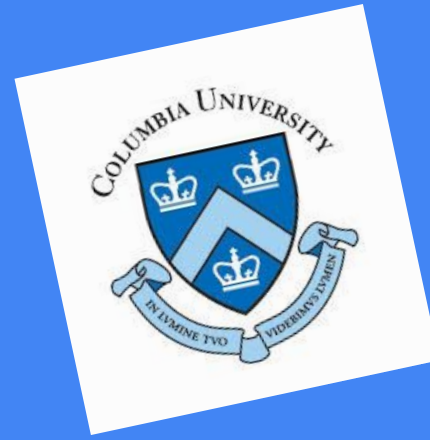| Factor | College Now | Columbia-CSS |
|---|---|---|
| *Location* | Classes are offered on the campus of the CUNY where students enroll (CCNY, Baruch, Hunter, John Jay) | Courses on Morningside Heights CU Campus |
| *Partnership* | Offers courses at CUNY schools. | Offers courses through special partnership between CU and CSS |
| *Enrolled Student Make-up* | Classes are taken on CUNY campus with high school students from around the city**.** | Classes are taken with regularly enrolled CU undergraduates |
| *Admissions Criteria* | Admission criteria includes GPA, PSAT or SAT scores, and/or ELA Regents, and varies depending on the class and program. | Admission criteria is based on GPA and review by CSS-CU panel |
| *Additional Supports* | Supports are offered to help high school students navigate the college class experience | Students are on their own to navigate the course & treated just like undergraduates |
| *Grades & Transcripts* | Classes do not appear on CSS transcript. | Classes students pass appear as a "CR" on CSS transcript. |
| *Timing* | Classes are after school or on Saturdays | Students take classes after school |
| *Semester Schedule* | Calendar / breaks align with CSS calendar | Calendar / breaks do NOT align with CSS calendar |

# The COLLEGE NOW Program

**College Now** is a city-wide program that enables high school students to attend classes on a CUNY campus.

**CSS** has a partnership with **City College (CCNY)**. Students can take classes at other CUNY campuses, (many CSS students attend Baruch, Hunter and John Jay).

| City College (CCNY) | Baruch College | Hunter College |
|---|---|---|
| **Classes include...**<br>Intro. to Business, Hispanics in the US, Ideas of Physics, Psychology in the Modern World, Freshman Composition<br><br>**Course schedule**<br>Weekday classes: 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. Mondays & Fridays, Saturday AMS<br><br>**Eligibility**<br>GPA minimum: 80 AND<br>ELA Regents score minimum: 75 or PSAT min ELA score of 480<br><br>**Instructions:**<br>Fill out forms, have Andi Velasquez, sign, and give you signed transcript, make an appointment to go to CCNY through, bring completed application packet to your appointment. | **Classes Include...**<br>Cultural Anthropology, Journalistic Writing, Intro. to Sociology, Personal Finance, Critical Health Issues<br><br>**Course schedule**<br>Most classes are either  Mon. & Weds or Tues. & Thurs, 4:10 - 5:50 p.m.<br><br>**Eligibility**<br>ELA Regents score minimum 75 OR MATH Regents score minimum of 75 OR Minimum GPA of 85 AND PSAT score of Math Min. 500 or ELA Min. 500<br><br>**Instructions:**<br>Online application, request transcript from college office | **Classes Include...**<br>Intro. to Urban Education, Computer Science, Music Theory, Intro. to Media Studies, Principles of Epidemiology, Classical Mythology<br><br>**Course schedule**<br>Mon. & Weds. or Tues. & Thurs., 4:10 - 5:25 pm or Saturday am<br><br>**Eligibility**<br>Varies for each class. See full list of courses offered and eligibility requirements.<br><br>**Instructions:**<br>Online application, request transcript from college office |

# The CSS-CU Program

CSS students take classes alongside Columbia University undergraduates, **as part of a special partnership with CU!**

CSS-CU students are **treated just like regular CU undergraduates** and are expected to meet the **same high academic expectations**.

⭐ ⭐ ⭐ ⭐

These are among the *most competitive* COLLEGE students in the country (a 5.9% admit rate).

# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURES

# CSS-CU's program criteria are understandably rigorous...

For all high school students, semester grades in every subject must be 85% or higher. In addition:

★ **Freshmen:** 95% or higher core GPA** (eligible to apply in 2nd semester for admission for fall of their 10th grade year)

★ **Sophomores**: 90% or higher core GPA

★ **Juniors:** 85% or higher

★ **Seniors:** 85% or higher

Senior applicants can only apply in Nov. for Spring courses.

**Core GPA is the average of the four CSS core subjects: Math, Science, ELA, Social Studies.  Average will be rounded to the nearest whole number

Students who meet GPA requirements in a given **semester** will receive an **invitation** to apply for CSS-CU courses during the following semester to take a class in the semester to follow.

# Let's say...

I'm a Freshman in 2019-2020 (now!). I have a core GPA from Fall of 2019 of 96%, so I will be invited during the Spring of 2020 to apply for a course that I would be taking in the Fall of 2020.

# *If you are invited, the steps are....*

(1) Students are emailed an information form they must fill out. **APPLICANTS MUST ADHERE TO DEADLINES!**

(2) Submitted applications are then reviewed by a **CSS-CU Committee** that includes CSS administration and teachers. **Attendance, punctuality, behavior in class, academic integrity, and maturity** are all taken into account when reviewing a student's application.

(3) You will be then notified **by email** of the outcome.

**Important Note:** Students need to **maintain their core GPA** and all core grades at CSS in the semester following their eligibility and invitation. If they do not... they will be withdrawn from CU course. Know own eligibility!

# AVAILABLE
# COURSES

# Intro Level Courses for Sophomores & Recommended for New-to-CSS-CU Students:

★ Elementary or First-Year Language (or level student places into)
★ ASTRX1753 Life in the Universe or ASTRX1754 Stars, Galaxies, and Cosmology
★ ECONX1003 Introduction to Economic Reasoning
★ ANTHV1007 The Origins of Human Society or ANTH1003 The Interpretation of Culture
★ UN1002 Fundamentals of Music (recommended music background)

# Other important things to know about course selection...

★ Returning CSS-CU students may apply for progressively challenging courses.

★ Writing, Literature, and Engineering courses are not open to our students.

★ Other courses have specific rules (i.e. students cannot take Intro to Philosophy).

★ Students select three course choices and the committee decides.

★ Only math courses can sub in for HS graduation requirements.

★ **ALL STUDENTS MUST TAKE MATH FOR ALL SEMESTERS OF HIGH SCHOOL.**

Please note: students may be subject to **waitlists and lotteries**, and are not guaranteed admission to a class just by being accepted by the CSS-CU Committee.

# What happens once students are admitted?

# Admitted students are expected to…

★ Attend **all courses** and **complete all homework** (even if not graded)

★ **Use supports as needed** - office hours, math help rooms, libraries, etc.

★ Communicate with AP Manriquez-Weiner & Prof. Thomas if any challenges.

# Admitted students…

★ Will controll their own registration (CSS cannot access!)

★ Will receive a CUID and access to CU facilities and resources

★ Must attend an orientation at the university (first time CSS-CU students)

★ Will be provided CSS-CU courses and books **FREE OF CHARGE** thanks to Friends of Columbia Secondary School! (must pay if not returned…)

**Also**: Students must earn a **B- or higher** in a CSS-CU course to be eligible to participate in CSS-CU in the following semester.

Last but not least: some colleges, but not all, will accept credits from the CSS-CU program. Funny enough, Columbia itself will **not** accept these.

**You can read more in the online CSS-CU handbook:**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/181ytPGU1YrlGjiEJXy0Lu6KZ45i5JXrY8P56cpaD8Cc/edit?usp=sharing

# Questions?

If you've read the CSS-CU Handbook and still have questions, please have your student see Megan Thomas or in Office 412A or send her an email: meganthomas@columbiasecondary.org