

Early Middle College Office

Hafa Adai and Welcome to the NEW Accelerated Credential Program for Guam's Youth!!

Why Early Middle College?

According to the National Skills Coalition, middle-skills jobs, which require education beyond high school but not a four-year degree, make up the largest population of the labor market in the United States. Key industries are unable to find enough sufficiently-trained workers to fill these jobs and this skill gap keeps the economy from growing and employers from hiring, as reported by the National Skills Coalition. To address the gap, the Early and Middle College programs recruit secondary students to continue their education with a focus on earning a postsecondary certificate and stackable credentials upon graduation from high school. The collaboration between school districts, community colleges, parents, and business representatives provides support for Early College and Middle College high schools as an alternative to "traditional high school". According to the 2013 Early College High School Initiative Impact Study, Early College students were significantly more likely to graduate from high school; significantly more likely to enroll in college, and; significantly more likely to earn a college degree.

In a 2017 Pacific Islands Report notes that on Guam, one segment of middle-skills professions, the construction industry, is responsible for 10 percent of the island's employment, and that "the surging construction activity on Guam will drive the island's continued economic growth in 2018, according to government's chief economist Gary Hiles." Guam is experiencing a construction industry crisis due to the U.S. government's denial of H-2 visas for construction workers over the past three years. The supply of foreign skilled construction workers has effectively dried up, and contractors with jobs on the island's two bases are using all of the local construction talents, leaving few skilled workers for off-base construction. Therefore, Guam Community College launched the first Early Middle College cohort with the opportunity to earn a Certificate in Construction Technology to help fill this industry gap. As the program expands, Guam Community College will provide opportunities to secondary students to help fill the needs of the community. Active companies currently in the GCC Apprenticeship programs will also help future EMC program graduates to secure good-paying sustainable jobs upon graduation from high school with their postsecondary credential.

What are Early and Middle Colleges?

The Middle College Program is a high school alternative program first established in New York in 1974. It was intended to give high school students who desired a more independent learning environment the opportunity to take core high school courses and college courses while they work toward earning their high school diploma. Middle College high schools are secondary schools that are authorized to grant diplomas in their own name and are usually located in a college campus.

Early College high schools are seen as "early colleges" and give students who are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education, the opportunity to enroll in college courses and receive credit while pursuing a high school diploma. That said, early college schools share the same characteristics as middle college schools, as they are designed to serve the same target population, have an established partnership between a high school district and a community college, offer a strong academic program, and provide a supportive environment that fosters students' engagement and success.

Given that both early and middle colleges have similar features, the differences between them have diminished over the years and the two titles are almost interchangeable. Presently, both share in the same goal of increasing high school graduation rates and promoting college and career readiness through the accumulation of substantial college units concurrently with high school graduation credits.

Student Benefits

GCC's Early Middle College program provides secondary students the opportunity to obtain postsecondary education and accelerate their job training to become skilled workers after high school graduation and fulfill industry needs. As part of the program, secondary students will participate in wraparound services for support in their academic needs and to overcome social & economic barriers unique to their population.

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The following Four Pillars for Student Success are supported and informed by student data on college success and student perceptions of their experience in Middle/Early Colleges and Dual Enrollment Programs.

- Deep sustained collaboration with partners and stakeholders
- Aligned postsecondary programs with dual enrollment programs and high school curriculum
- Wraparound services appropriate to meet the needs of students and the demands of the college
- Continuous organizational improvement

With the foundation of the program, our team aspires to achieve the following Three Program Goals.

- Improve students' cognitive and affective abilities to ensure on-time completion
- Increase postsecondary enrollment to drive and fulfill the demand for a growing economy
- Enhance graduates' employability to meet community and industry needs

Our Team will continue to enhance the EMC program to fulfill the needs of our students.

- Program Administrator: Dr. Michael Chan
- Program Manager: R. Gary Hartz
- Planning and Development Assistant Director: Doris Perez
- CTE Administrator: Pilar Williams
- CTE Counselor GWHS: Hernalin Analista
- CTE Counselor Tiyan: Barbara Rosario
- EMC Success Coach: Imelda Arce
- Career Placement Specialist: Christine Sison
- Faculty Representative: Dr. Trisha Unten
- Reach for College Representative: Eleanor Damian
- Construction Trades Department Chair: Ronald Santos
- Construction Trades CTE Instructor: James Calma
- Telecommunications Department Chair: Ricky Tyquiengco
- Telecommunications CTE Instructor: Dr. Byoung Yong Lee

Stay Tune for our Program Guide and Reference Guide for Students and Parents...

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