

The VCCS Covid-19 Guidance Message 8: Temporary Modification to VCCS Policy 6.6.3 and Guidance on Admission and Placement of New Dual Enrolled Students During COVID-19 Closures, provides for placement of rising high school juniors and seniors who have not already taken the VPT and do not have access to other test scores. The guidance does not, however, provide for the enrollment of high school freshman and sophomores. Colleges were told to “continue to determine [students’] college readiness on a case-by-case basis, per Policy 6.6.3” which says “Because admitting freshman and sophomores is considered exceptional, the college-ready status of each prospective freshman and sophomore student will be treated on a case-by-case basis. Formal approval by the college president is required for admitting freshman or sophomores.”

Since we do not currently have access to the VPT placement testing, the Deans, Judy, and I are recommending that Camp implement the following requirements for **rising sophomores** who wish take college courses through Dual Enrollment in the 2020-21 academic year. These requirements would comprise a Dual Enrollment Application, which would be reviewed by Judy and me on a case-by-case basis, with a summary and recommendations sent to you for approval.

We would require from students:

1. Completed application to the college, with documentation of parental permission
2. An unofficial high school transcript
3. Cumulative, unweighted HS GPA of 3.5 or greater. [Note: This is higher than the HS GPA requirement for rising juniors and seniors under VCCS Message 8, but rising sophomores will only have one year of high school classes to review and most will have no test scores such as PSAT, ACT, SAT.]
4. A statement from the appropriate Principal or Guidance Counselor attesting to the student’s overall readiness and capability (including academic, work ethic, and commitment) for participation in a dual enrollment program.
5. A typewritten statement (400 – 500 words) from the student, that addresses what the student’s academic and career goals are, why the student wants to be Dual Enrolled, and how DE will help the student reach their goals. The written statement should be the student’s own work, demonstrating the student’s interest in, and commitment to, participation in dual enrollment. [Note: This isn’t intended to be a substitute for the VPT and it won’t be formally scored as an assessment. Rather, we wanted an indicator that the student has some investment in the process. Previously, showing up for and completing a 3-hour placement test would have been that indicator].

If possible, students will be tested with the VPT in the fall to determine math placement. High Schools will be requested not to enroll any rising sophomores into pre-calculus in the fall. Admission of rising freshman is not recommended at this time. However, in accordance with VCCS Policy, all admission of high school students into the dual enrollment program who are not rising juniors or seniors remains on a case by case basis and requires your approval.