

Tips for Advisors and Mentors of CollegeNow Students From the Director of CollegeNow

We definitely want this to be a successful experience for your student - a low or failing grade can have a permanent impact on his/her future. These grades will be a permanent part of his/her college record and can have a positive or negative impact on his/her financial aid package in the future.

There are several serious consequences for low grades in these college courses:

- For example, students who have at least 12 credits are under the regulation of academic standards. A student's GPA and their ratio of credits attempted versus credits earned will usually affect a student's academic standing under most college policies. CollegeNow students in Dual Credit, online courses and Tech Prep tuition free courses are all starting their academic record – that will affect their future academic standing (whether they will be at risk of being put on academic probation) in college. If you would like to show your student an example of college-level academic standards, TC3's are posted on the website at http://www.tc3.edu/enroll_svc/pdf/catalog0607b.pdf#page=14
- The student can negatively impact their future financial aid package in two ways:
 - High or low college grades will affect his eligibility for merit based scholarships
 - If the student has many credits attempted and not many credits earned, they will lose their eligibility for federal financial aid. The student should be aware that they are beginning their academic record with CollegeNow courses, and their success in this course will have a positive or negative impact on their future. Their performance in a CollegeNow course will become part of their permanent college record. TC3's "Academic Requirements for Financial Aid" are posted at <http://www.tc3.edu/aid/standards.asp> and are similar to those in place at most colleges (many of these standards are Federal mandates attached to Perkins and Stafford loans and Pell grants, etc.)
- Most colleges will not allow you to transfer credit for a grade below C. Most CollegeNow students are taking these courses because they plan to later transfer the credit to another college or university. Even within TC3, many majors will not give a student credit toward graduation for a grade below C. More information about transferring credits is posted on our website http://www.tc3.edu/collegenow/dualcredit/is_students.asp

We have full faith in high school students that they can and do succeed in these courses (over 90 percent of our students earn an A or B in their online course) - but we always tell them that it is better to drop or withdraw from the class than to fail it. That said, for a summer course, the drop and withdraw deadlines come much faster than they do in a semester course, and the work comes at a faster pace, so we really encourage students to be aware of those deadlines and to make a decision about how they are doing in the course in time to get out if they need to. If they drop the class, there is no record of them ever having been there - if they withdraw it will be an attempted credit and they will get a W on their transcript (which is better than an F). The deadlines are posted on our website at http://www.tc3.edu/collegenow/dualcredit/ol_catalog_desc_calendar.asp

We recommend that students print a copy of these deadlines, and share them with their parents, and try to make an assessment about how well they are matched with their course (time commitment, transportation available, level of difficulty, interest, motivation, etc.) BEFORE they reach the deadline to **drop** the course. (This deadline comes very quickly in the semester, so they should be assessing the match from the first day of class.)

If the student does decide that the class is not a good match for him/her, and wants to get out, the form for dropping/withdrawing from the class is posted in the same section of the website http://www.tc3.edu/collegenow/dualcredit/ol_catalog_desc_forms.asp He/she should fill one out and fax or mail it to our office by the appropriate deadline.

We also tell students that deciding to drop a course is not a defeat - they win just by trying a college course, and if they try it and find out that it's not the right experience for them right now, that's fine. They still have the chance to see college level work, to see how much time they will need to commit to college, and it will still benefit their student development for the future.