



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is eStart?

**eStart** is a collaboration between the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) and the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS), a fully accredited online high school. High school students can take CCSNH college courses fully online and earn credit for college and high school.

### At what grade level are students eligible to enroll in eStart courses?

High school juniors or seniors enrolled in a public school, private school, alternative school or home school program are eligible.

### What is the cost of tuition?

The cost for Community College System of New Hampshire eStart tuition is \$100, provided that the course is taken concurrently for high school credit. The cost of tuition does not include the cost of books which may range from \$75-\$100.

### What are important dates to know?

- **February 12, 2009 through August 26, 2009** - Registration is open for Fall 2009.
- **August 26, 2009** - VLACS and CCSNH must receive all completed forms and payment of \$100 eStart tuition to the CCSNH college offering the course.
- **August 31, 2009** – eStart courses begin.
- **September 8, 2009** – Last day to drop an eStart course and receive a refund of the \$100 tuition.
- **December 18, 2009** – eStart courses end.

### Are these college courses or high school courses?

**eStart** courses are college courses. Students will receive a college transcript with credits that may be transferred into a CCSNH college or to another college or university. Students are awarded high school credit through the VLACS.

**NOTE: Students should verify with their high school Principal, Counselor, Curriculum Advisor or Running Start Liaison that the college course will meet a high school requirement.**

### How is an eStart college course different from a high school course?

An eStart college course:

1. May require the student to work more independently and be more self sufficient. Instructors will not be calling students on the phone. It is up to the student to contact the instructor if he or she has questions.
2. Will require that students complete all assignments by assigned due dates and complete all coursework according to the CCSNH academic calendar.
3. May require a textbook.
4. Will require students to use CCSNH email, the CCSNH Student Information and Blackboard. Blackboard is the software used at CCSNH for online courses.
5. College courses may make greater demands on students' abilities to conceptualize, understand implications, draw conclusions and apply what they have learned than do some high school courses. The courses may go in to greater depth, often take more time and work and challenge students to

greater accomplishments. Students accept these challenges when they register for a CCSNH course and understand that there may experience appropriately stringent college grading standards.

6. A student orientation to online learning: [http://www.ccsnh.edu/distancelearning/student\\_orientation.html](http://www.ccsnh.edu/distancelearning/student_orientation.html)
7. Students with disabilities must work with the college Disability Coordinator to discuss appropriate accommodations. Go to the website of the campus offering the course for contact information.
8. Because Federal law (FERPA) protects academic and financial records for students enrolled in college courses, the students will need to sign the release form which is included in the eStart registration form to allow parents or guardians to have access to the student's records.

### **Who teaches eStart courses?**

The courses will be taught by CCSNH college faculty using the college grading system. Students will be expected to follow college policies related to academics.

### **How do students enroll in an eStart course?**

Follow the registration instructions found at: <http://www.ccsnh.edu/estart>

### **Will the student be able to view the course syllabus before registering?**

Yes – view at: <http://www.ccsnh.edu/estart>

### **How does a student purchase books?**

Books may be:

- Picked up at the bookstore of the college offering the course
- Shipped by the bookstore of the college offering the course
- Ordered through any online bookstore ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), etc.)
- Purchased at a local bookstore ([www.borders.com](http://www.borders.com), etc.)
- Available at a local library

### **How does a student withdraw from a course and what grade is issued?**

The student must complete a **Drop form** to officially withdraw from a course. To obtain the Drop form, go to the website of the college offering the course, unless the course is offered through NHTI, Concord, then the student must call Continuing Education at 603 271-7122. For a 100% refund of the \$100 tuition, students must complete and submit the CCSNH Drop form no later than **September 8, 2009**.

Withdrawing from a course prior to **November 3, 2009** will result in a grade of "W" (Withdraw). After that time, a student must complete the Drop form and request that the instructor issue a grade of "WP" (Withdraw - Pass) or "WF" (Withdraw - Fail) depending on the student's standing in the class at the time of the drop. A "WP" is not calculated into a GPA. A "WF" is calculated into a GPA as an "F".

If a student fails to officially withdraw from a course, the student will receive an "AF" (Administrative Failure). Students must go through the proper steps and meet the deadlines to withdraw from a course or they may damage their college GPA. ***Withdrawing is not the responsibility of the VLACS or CCSNH.***

### **For more information, contact:**

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