



FAQ about attending FSWC - Lee

Remember that when asking questions or seeking information, it is important to consider the source and their perspective. At FSWC - Lee, we want to provide the most accurate and relevant information to your questions and encourage you to discover the reality of being a Buccaneer. Please don't hesitate to ask anyone any questions but please consider:

- Current and former students are the best resource concerning student related issues.
- Teachers are the best resource about curriculum, course content, teaching methods, academic skill development, and grading.
- Support and administrative staff are the best source of logistical information, enrollment, and program requirements.

TRADITIONAL vs. COLLEGIATE

How does the collegiate program differ from the traditional high school setting?

In a traditional high school setting, students are earning credits in a high school for four (4) years. After that, they attend a college or university for another four years. In the collegiate program, students are in a high school setting for their freshmen and sophomore years, and then they are dual enrolled fulltime at the college. Dual enrollment students earn high school credits needed for graduation while they also earn college credits during their junior and senior year.

Can you provide an example of how dual enrollment can benefit my student?

Qualified junior students will enroll in a college class called ENC1101 and complete it during the fall semester. This course earns 3 college credits as well as an entire high school credit. By also taking ENC 1102 during the spring, students will earn a total of 6 college credits and complete both traditional Junior English 3 and Senior English 4 during their junior year of high school.

What are the requirements for dual enrollment?

Junior and Senior students with a 3.0 unweighted GPA and a qualifying ACCUPLACER score can dual enroll. Second semester sophomore students with a 3.5 unweighted GPA may take one course during second semester of their sophomore year.

What is the ACCUPLACER?

All state colleges use the ACCUPLACER (formally the PERT) to assess students' reading, math, and writing scores. Students must pass the reading section to take any classes; the math test is used to place students into an appropriate math course. It can be taken 3 times, and/or a concordant SAT or ACT score can be substituted.

How does learning differ at FSWC-Lee from the traditional high school setting?

FSWC-Lee is about choosing a different style of education...focus is on independent learning. The curriculum is structured around independent inquiry based learning as opposed to traditional teacher led instruction. Students are taught the necessary skills needed to be successful in high school and throughout their college career.

What if I fail a class?

Failure of a class presents two overlapping problems. Firstly, there is very little flexibility in the available course sequence to retake a particular class, presenting a graduation requirement deficit. Secondly, the negative impact on the GPA greatly diminishes the probability of maintaining the required 3.0.

How do I know what classes to take?

High school personnel, specifically the guidance counselor and/or the principal, manage and track course selection in light of high school graduation. Florida SouthWestern State College academic advising personnel manage and track course selection of college classes. High school graduation requirements are the priority.

How many college credits will I have when I graduate?

Assuming you meet the dual enrollment criteria and begin dual enrollment the junior year, you will take 15 or 16 credits per semester for 2 years. This will amount to approximately 60 credits and may qualify students to earn an Associate in Arts degree.

How does Dual Enrollment differ from IB (International Baccalaureate) or Advanced Placement classes?

This is a tricky question and some people have different opinions. The bottom line is that Dual Enrollment classes issue college credits upon completion of the coursework. The other options require passing a test. Please address specific concerns with the Principal or Guidance Counselor.

What if I don't qualify for dual enrollment?

To take dual enrollment classes, students must have a cumulative unweighted 3.0 GPA and pass the ACCUPLACER test. An upfront commitment to earn A's and B's in all classes is an important indicator of success in our program. Specific inquiries about individual student circumstances are handled on a personal and private basis.

HOMEWORK, TEXTBOOKS, and CURRICULUM

What courses do freshmen take?

During the freshmen year, each student will have STEM, Math, Chemistry, English, Social Studies, HOPE, and Critical Thinking. Electives are reserved for the Junior and Senior years to access the large variety of courses offered at the college.

How much “out of school” time is required?

We recommend about 2 - 4 hours of study time to complete assigned work and review the day’s notes. Students who put in this type of commitment are successful. Students who do not are not passing.

What is the difference between homework and studying?

Part of becoming an independent learner is learning to identify, prioritize, and complete academic tasks that are not specifically assigned by a teacher. Examples of studying include pre-reading assigned textbook passages, finding additional resources, organizing materials, etc. Homework is the completion of specific tasks assigned by the teacher. Just because nothing is “due” tomorrow, doesn’t mean there is nothing “to do.”

CALENDAR AND SCHOOL TIMES

What is the class schedule time?

Students must be inside the classroom and in their seats by 8:00 A.M. If not taking the bus, students can be dropped off any time after 7:30 A.M. and picked up no later than 3:00 P.M. School is in session from 8:00 A.M. until 2:30 P.M.

When we are using our traditional schedule, there are 7 periods in a day with a 25 minute break for lunch. When necessary to reduce class size, or to allow extra time for periods to meet, we also use a block schedule. This block schedule has classes meeting on “odd” and “even” days with an additional study hall period. FSWC-Lee follows the same annual calendar as Lee County School District.

Is every day the same process?

There are many days where teachers plan activities that require an alteration to the bell schedule. Otherwise, students will see all seven teachers every day. We do not go by a block schedule.

How does lunch work?

We have regular lunch shifts and eat in our own cafeteria. The criteria for Free and Reduced lunches will be identical to what the Lee County School District uses. Our food vendor serves fresh fruit, vegetables, and “home cooked” food.

Can I “hang out at the college” after school?

High school students must remain on the HIGH SCHOOL campus unless escorted by a parent or staff member. When students are dual enrolled during their Junior and Senior years, they will travel freely around campus.

BUSSING INFORMATION

Will there be bus transportation or any other fees?

There are no book, uniform, or tuition fees for students. A limited bus system with depot style service is provided and details will be confirmed after students' addresses are finalized.

Will we add more busses next year?

FSWC - Lee will continue to run depot style routes just like this year. Please see the existing bus routes for some indication of how things worked during the previous school year.

Will college students enrolled in FSWC-Lee have access to bus transportation?

Yes, but students at the college would need to make sure that their schedules are around the same times as the high school. We will not have extra busses for students at the college who will need to leave later than 2:30 P.M.

SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR INFORMATION

Does FSWC - Lee have a sports program?

FSWC - Lee has opted not to participate in FHSAA sanctioned sports and is focusing on student interest clubs and academic preparation. There is an opportunity for students to participate at a Lee County Public High School through the LCSD choice office.

Will students have after school clubs?

Yes, every year there will be after school clubs based on students' choices. These clubs do not go into full function until the end of the first month of school.

ATTENDANCE and DISCIPLINE

What happens if my child is sick?

Students are required to be in school every day unless they are sick. When a student is sick a parent's phone call or an email to the office will suffice. We will then mark the student absent accordingly. It is the student's responsibility when they return to school to ask the teacher for any work missed during their absence. The student will be allowed the number of days missed plus one day to turn in their work.

What happens if I get in trouble at school?

Students here expect students to behave, and misbehavior is minimal and infrequent. Consequences include timeout, detention, suspension, etc., just like a regular school.