

UConn Early College Experience at Westhill

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“How do our students feel about being able to take dual enrollment?”

At Westhill High School, students can choose from several levels of rigor for their courses. Westhill offers difficult courses such as honors-level classes, AP classes, and UConn ECE classes. Although honors and AP classes are familiar to many students, UConn ECE classes might raise some questions. Westhill offers many UConn ECE courses such as Behavior & Training of Domestic Animals, Environmental Science, U.S History, Microeconomics, and many more.

Throughout many Connecticut high schools, UConn ECE has become a popular course choice among students for several reasons. The exposure to college level classwork, for instance, is an incentive for students. “UConn ECE is a program that allows high school students an early college experience. ECE is literally a college course offered through Westhill. The teachers for ECE courses must get certified through UConn and therefore act as adjunct professors, with our syllabi aligning with those offered by on campus professors” Mrs. Taylor said, a social studies teacher at Westhill.

UConn ECE credits are also transferable to different colleges, so you don’t necessarily have to go to UConn to receive the college credit. “By registering for ECE, you are registering at UConn. The grade you earn at Westhill actually goes on your [UConn] college transcript. You don’t have to go to UConn or even a state school for it to build your transcript. Around 85% of colleges accept UConn ECE credits,” Mrs. Erin Taylor said.

College-level coursework might sound intimidating and challenging, but the benefits of the college credit are appealing to many students. “My classes make me really stressed; however, I know it will be worth it in the end knowing I will get my college credit.” Krisha Parmar (‘26) said, a senior taking UConn ECE Statistics, Calculus, and Accounting. ECE “The content is pretty interesting and I feel like I have a good teacher who’s preparing us well.” Alessandria Rasile (‘27) said, U.S. History student.

Students and teachers alike believe that UConn ECE courses are advantageous for Westhill students. “I think taking an ECE class is beneficial for students as it allows you to get college credit so that you don’t need to take them in college,” Parmar said. The financial savings aspect of taking ECE class is highlighted when asked about the benefits of

these classes. “I would absolutely recommend Westhill students take the opportunity to enroll in our ECE offerings. Academically, it mirrors what you can expect to encounter in college, and financially, while it costs money to take the course, it’s a huge savings in the long run because it’s a fraction of what the course costs at UConn. One of our Westhill graduates from the class of 2024 actually started college as a sophomore due to the number of AP and ECE credits she earned here,” Mrs. Taylor said.

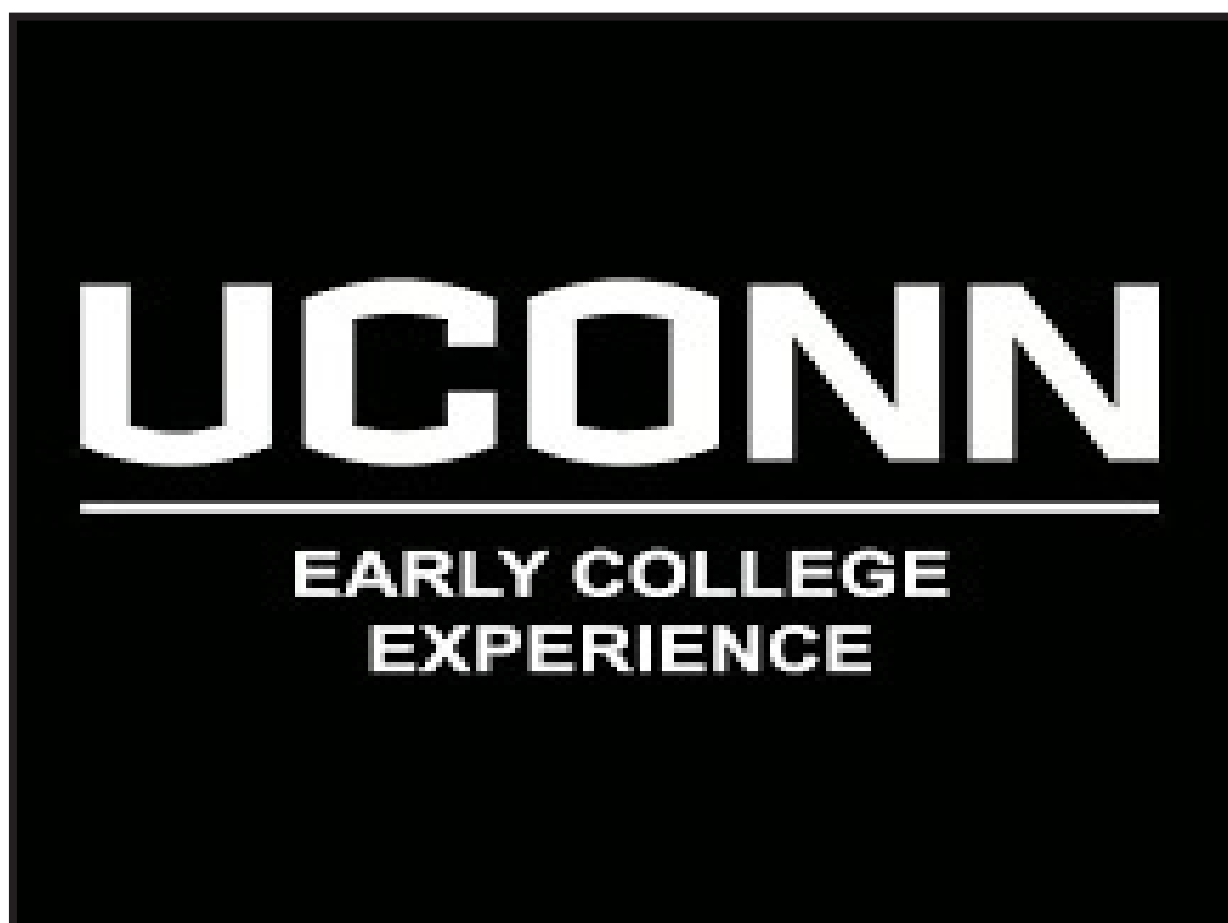
Overall, UConn ECE courses provide Westhill students with an opportunity to challenge themselves academically while also getting a head start on college. From earning transferable credits to experiencing college-level expectations, these classes prepare students for future success both in and beyond high school. UConn ECE is a valuable option for motivated Westhill students looking to make the most of their education.



70 YEARS UConn’s Early College Experience has been running. Photo via Uconn Webpage.



NACEP National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships Certified. Photo via Uconn Webpage.



UConn ECE logo. Photo via Uconn Webpage.