



## Advanced Studies FAQs

- **Must my son/daughter attend Paul Smith's College to receive credit?**
  - No, your son/daughter may attend the college of his/her choice
- **Are these credits transferrable?**
  - Yes, they are transferrable. Paul Smith's College is accredited by the Commission on the Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and is therefore recognized as an institution of higher education by other college and universities.
- **Will these college credits transfer to other colleges?**
  - Generally, Yes! However, colleges have a set of standards that they incorporate into their specific transfer policies.
    - For example: In order for a course to be taken into consideration for transfer credit into Paul Smith's College, the course must have been taken at/through an accredited college and the student must have passed the course with a "C-" or better. Additionally it must be something that will satisfy either a specific course requirement or be able to qualify as an elective.
  - Paul Smith's College cannot guarantee that every institution will accept every course. Therefore, you are encouraged to contact the college(s) of your choice to inquire as to the transferability of a course prior to making your tuition payment.
- **What is the process for the transfer of college credit?**
  - If the student attends Paul Smith's College, the credit is applied internally upon enrolling in their chosen program of study.
  - If the student attends another college, they must request that their transcript be sent to the college of their choice. This transcript request is made through our Registrar's Office and must be done in writing due to the Family Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) laws. There is no charge to the Advanced Studies student for the first transcript.
  - [Transcript Request Form](#) (PDF) must be completed in writing and returned to the Registrar's Office: [registrar@paulsmiths.edu](mailto:registrar@paulsmiths.edu) or by mail: Paul Smith's College ATTN: Registrar P.O. Box 265 Paul Smiths, NY 12970
- **Is the course taught by a college professor?**
  - No: Paul Smith's College recognizes the talent that is present in our local high schools and allows for the delivery of the course to be provided by the teacher your students

are already familiar with. The teacher, however, must have the credentials appropriate to the college course being offered.

- **How does this course differ from AP Courses?**
  - Both the Paul Smith's College Advanced Studies Program and Advanced Placement (AP) courses provide the student with the opportunity to challenge themselves and possibly earn college credit. They differ in that the student will receive a grade for the Advanced Studies course and will not have to take another test in order to qualify for college credit.
  - Most colleges require at least a 3 or better on an AP test in order to receive college credit. Even if you son/daughter receives an "A" in a particular course, they will not receive the college credit without the final AP test and a qualifying score. You should inquire with any specific college for their rules about AP coursework.
  
- **Who creates the course curriculum?**
  - The course is taught using a syllabus created by the instructors at Paul Smith's College. The teacher at the high school levels reviews the syllabus, and provides instruction that is equivalent to that of the actual college course at Paul Smith's College. Additionally the teacher works with a college professor to assure that the course content is appropriate.
  
- **What courses are available to my son/daughter?**
  - That depends. Each high school is afforded that opportunity to offer lower-division (100 or 200) level courses through the Paul Smith's College Advanced Studies Program that will meet the needs of their students. Also, much will depend on the expertise of the instructor and the ability of the high school to fit an advanced course(s) into its curriculum.
  
- **How much does an Advanced Studies course cost?**
  - Paul Smith's College charges the student \$40.00 per credit hour. Therefore, a three credit hour course will cost \$120.00; a four credit hour course will cost \$160.00.
  - We accept checks made payable to: Paul Smith's College. We also accept all major credit cards over the phone for payment
  
- **My son/daughter took an Advanced Studies course last year, but we did not pay the tuition. Can we pay for it this year?**
  - Unfortunately, we cannot accept payments for a course after the school year has been completed. Please pay close attention to the deadlines provided in your billing letter and on the Advanced Studies page on the Paul Smith's College website:  
<https://www.paulsmiths.edu/admissions/advancedstudies/>
  
- **Can the late fee be waived if I missed the payment deadline?**
  - Unfortunately, the late fee cannot be waived off a course. Bills are sent to the mailing address provided by the student and there is approximately 30 days to pay for the course.

Please be sure to check in with your student to know when they signed up for the course and when bills will be sent, so you can anticipate this coming via USPS mail.

- **Why is the cost so much lower that if my son/daughter were to take the course at Paul Smith's College?**
  - Our costs are at a minimum because the course is taught at the high school using the local professionals. The fee for the course covers our Administrative costs.
  
- **If I am eligible for free/reduced lunch, is there a different discounted cost for me?**
  - Since our courses are already significantly discounted (a typical Paul Smith's College student would pay over \$900 per course) there is no additional reductions in cost.
  
- **What are the cost savings?**
  - Much will depend on the courses the student takes and how many courses the student participates in. For example, one course will not save much in terms of the cost, but will save the student from having to take the course in college, thereby affording them the opportunity to lighten their first semester load to concentrate on the balance of the courses they must take.
  - However, if a student takes three or four courses, this may result in substantial savings depending on the college they attend and the degree program they pursue. A full semester is at the minimum, 12 credit hours. Participating in this number of courses may decrease the students stay at their college by a full semester and over the long term, reduce the family education costs.
  
- **What are the benefits in taking Advanced Studies Courses?**
  - In addition to the monetary savings, the student is afforded the opportunity to take college courses at their local high school with teachers already familiar to them.
  - The transition to college may be eased by having studied courses on the college level in high school.
  - Students are challenged in a way that will prepare them to think on the college level.
  - When reviewing applications, colleges recognize the student's efforts to prepare themselves for the rigors of college academics.
  
- **Who provides the books and other class materials?**
  - Books and other class materials are provided by the local school district.
  
- **Why is Paul Smith's College offering this program?**
  - There are a couple of reasons for this:
    - Paul Smith's College is committed to education and recognizes that a strong foundation at the high school level will provide the student with some of the basic tools needed to advance academically.
    - Paul Smith's College sees this program as a partnership with area high schools and wants to assist in the K-12 experience.