



Frequently Asked Questions

Application and Admission to Program

How are students accepted into AMCS? Lottery? First, registered? Grades?

Currently, the program is not using a lottery system. The program has approximately 500 seats (total) so we are screening student's applications for college readiness and program prerequisites:

- Junior or Senior
- Academic Preparedness
 - HS GPA of 2.5 or higher
 - Placements scores in either or both
 - Writing: Accuplacer ≥ 530
 - Math: ALEKS ≥ 30
- Readiness for college environment and independence
 - Maintaining a strong attendance record and
 - Demonstrates maturity, responsibility, and independence.

If I already taken a ALEKS placement test at my high school, can I use this for the application?

No, both placement tests must be completed with your UAA ID number.

How many times can I retake the Accuplacer?

Twice in a semester.

If you graduate high school early, can you still be enrolled in AMCS?

No. Students should delay graduation and join AMCS which allows students to benefit from this program. See your counselor for more information.

If I started the application process last year and we got a UAA ID, can we use that still or do we need to start over?

Yes, you can use your UAA ID but you will need to complete the AMCS application and possibly the placement tests again.

Do I need to take the SAT before applying? Can I use SAT/ACT scores instead of taking Accuplacer?

No, you do not need to take SAT before applying. However, SAT scores, if appropriate scores, can place the student into a course. The student would not need to take the Accuplacer placement test. Students are encouraged to speak with their UAA advisor to determine if the SAT score is appropriate for placement into college courses.

[Writing](#)

[Math](#)

If you do not achieve the scores needed for either the Accuplacer or the ALEKS tests, will you NOT be accepted into AMCS?

AMCS program requires the student to place into either college WRTG or Math. Unfortunately, not placing in either of these courses, will disqualify the student from participating in the program for that semester. However, if the student places into one of the college courses, they qualify for the program. The student would take the college course while taking an AMCS course for the other area that needs improvement. At the end of the semester, the student will retake the placement test.

Can you test out of any college course?

Yes, there are opportunities under [Local Credit by Examination](#). The cost of these exams are not covered by ASD.

How many students does the program accept each year?

In fall 2020, AMCS welcomed 179 new students into the program and the program capacity is approximately 500 students.

If I attend a private school, do I need to apply to an ASD school before applying for AMCS?

No, a student may complete the AMCS application process but must enroll in ASD-AMCS before the semester he/she is entering the program.

General Program Information and Statistics

How does AMCS help us prepare for college?

Students will take college courses with the support of AMCS teachers, the AMCS counselor and the UAA advisor to help students acclimate to the college setting while earning college credits.

How many students come in as juniors vs seniors?

Most students entering the fall semester are juniors. Fall 2020, AMCS admitted 179 students with 66 or 37 percent of the students holding junior status.

How many students attend AMCS?

Spring 2021 total enrollment, junior and senior, is 279 students.

What is the difference between UAA and AMCS?

UAA is a college and AMCS is a high school in the Anchorage School District that has partnered with UAA. The two schools work together so that students can earn college credits while meeting the graduation requirements for their high school diploma.

Can students qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship?

Yes.

Can AMCS help me graduate early from high school?

Yes. For every semester college course, you will receive one credit. We recommend not graduating from high school and continue to take college course until you graduate as scheduled.

Affiliate Schools (Neighborhood School)**Can AMCS students take a course at their affiliate school?**

Yes, students may request to take one course at their affiliate school.

Can I take a King Tech High School course?

Yes.

Does the neighborhood/affiliate high school have to let you take the single course? And if so, are you waitlisted behind all the regular enrolled students?

The affiliate school does not have to accept a single course enrollment. AMCS students are waitlisted until all their students have been placed in courses.

Can AMCS students participate in the athletics programs at their affiliate school?

Yes. Students can participate in a sports program with their affiliate schools. All ASAA eligibility requirements still apply. If a student is interested in participating in athletics, they should discuss their intent during the meeting with their AMCS UAA academic advisor and the AMCS school counselor, so they are not scheduled in late afternoon classes. Athletic eligibility for AMCS students will only be determined in the semester. Eligibility cannot be changed at quarter due to grades because college courses do not have equivalent quarter grades.

Can AMCS students attend dances at their affiliate school?

Yes. AMCS students are allowed to participate in extracurricular activities at their affiliate schools. In addition to being issued a UAA Wolf Card, each AMCS student will be issued an AMCS ID card with their affiliate school listed.

Can you attend your advisory class at your current ASD school? Can you take all UAA offered courses?

Students must attend AMCS advisory classes but can also work with the ASD counselor to enroll in an advisory class at their affiliate school.

Can AMCS students attend sports competitions at their affiliate school?

Yes. AMCS students should also be allowed to purchase an activity sticker from their affiliate school.

Can AMCS students receive academic awards or honor graduation recognition from their affiliate school?

No. These recognitions will be awarded through AMCS. Similarly, AMCS students should not be included in valedictorian or salutatorian running at their affiliate school.

Can AMCS students qualify for the UA Scholars program at their affiliate school?

It depends. If they attend their affiliate school as a junior and fall within the top 10% of their class, they should be included when reporting to the UA Scholars program at the end of the school year. If they attend AMCS as a junior and qualify amongst their AMCS cohort, they will be included in the submission form for AMCS.

Cost to Participate in AMCS

Do AMCS students have to pay for college tuition or textbooks?

It depends. ASD covers these costs for most General Education Requirements (GERs) during the Fall and Spring semesters. A list of approved UAA courses will be provided to students before registering for classes. Students can meet all ASD graduation requirements and potentially earn an Associate's Degree or certificate through the approved list courses. Based on academic needs, additional courses may be petitioned to the AMCS principal.

Students can opt to register for classes, not on the approved list; however, the student will be responsible for the course tuition and any associated textbooks. Registering for non-approved courses must be done in consultation with the AMCS counselor and the UAA Academic Advisor.

Students can also enroll in summer classes at UAA but will be financially responsible for tuition, books, and fees.

Can AMCS students take evening classes?

Yes, if they meet the minimum placement requirements.

Transportation

Is bus transportation provided?

Yes. Students can take their regular bus route to their affiliate high school and catch the bus to the King Tech High School. From KTHS, students can ride a bus to the UAA campus. The reverse route is available in the afternoon. A more detailed description of the bus service, including departure and arrival times, is available on the website.

Do students need to purchase a UAA or ASD parking pass?

Students who want to park on the UAA campus will be required to pay for parking. Students who take a class at their affiliate high school will need to purchase a student parking pass if they park on campus.

Will bus transportation be available from Eagle River?

Each year, ASD reviews demand and thus far the district has been able to offer busing from Eagle River to King Tech High School, home of the AMCS program.

Courses, Schedules, Transcripts, Grades, and Seals

How late in the day do classes run until?

ASD classes run from 7:30 am-2:00 pm while UAA classes start as early as 7am and end around 10 pm. UAA also offers courses during the weekend.

Can a student be enrolled in King Tech and AMCS as well as their school?

Yes. The student would be enrolled full-time student in AMCS. Working with the ASD counselor student would determine if the King Tech courses fit into his/her schedule. Students are allowed one single course enrollment with their affiliate school.

Are ASD students in regular UAA courses with all UAA students?

Yes. AMCS students will attend courses that are published in the UAA class schedule. UAA does not offer classes for just ASD students. The purpose of this program is to assist students in the college environment.

Are classes at AMCS in person (when it is not COVID)?

Before COVID, courses were all taught in person. Currently, we are returning to in-person instruction, but we will also be incorporating blended courses that will use both online and in-person learning when appropriate.

Since some classes will be offered online due to covid, will they have to make that choice ahead of time, or can they come into class one day and the next do the class online?

Both UAA and ASD will determine if the course will be delivered in person, online, or a combination of the two. UAA course schedule and your advisor/counselor can help students in determining how a course will be delivered before enrolling in a class. Once enrolled, the student is required to participate and attend the course as indicated in the class schedule.

Can students choose to take only online classes?

When available, students may take all online courses; however, students must discuss this with their UAA advisor in detail as most college courses require independence, time management, and discipline skills.

When enrolled in UAA classes, do you go to different parts of the campus?

Yes.

Does FERPA prevent our professors from talking directly with our parents?

No. FERPA ensures the student information is protected. Students can give permission for UAA staff and faculty to share their information with their parents through the completion of a Release of Information Form. Please note, FERPA does not require a professor to speak with parents. Many professors are willing to have conversations with parents but there are a few who wish to communicate directly with the student.

How do I know what classes to take?

You will work with the AMCS counselor and UAA advisor to select courses that meet your high school diploma requirements and your career/academic pathway.

Do we get to choose whether we take virtual or in person classes?

Students will be able to choose classes; however, students must choose based on what UAA and ASD are offering and in which delivery method, online or face-to-face. Both entities are working hard to offer both delivery methods but can guarantee that both will be offered in the same semester. A class might be taught online in the fall while the face-to-face will be taught in the spring.

When do AMCS students receive their complete schedule (high school and college)?

For Fall Semester: In early August, the AMCS counselor reviews all college schedules and adds any needed AMCS high school classes/advisories. High school schedules will be viewable on Student/Parent Connect by Orientation Week. College schedules are viewable on UAOnline once students complete their course registration.

For Spring Semester: After students, complete college advising and final grades are posted, the AMCS counselor will review all college schedules and add any needed high school classes/advisories. High school schedules will be viewable on Student/Parent Connect during the first week back from winter break. College schedules are viewable on UAOnline once students complete their course registration.

When scheduling AMCS high school classes and advisories, several things are considered: the most sense in the student's schedule and needs, the high school teachers' class schedules, class sizes, and student's requests. Sometimes students will have unscheduled time in their schedule between classes. Even though most AMCS students will not be scheduled in classes Monday-Friday for full days, as they would be in a traditional high school, students should expect that the amount of time required to complete their schoolwork will not decrease. Thus, students are encouraged to make the best use of unscheduled time (studying, working on assignments, getting assistance, eating lunch, etc.).

How can I find where my college classes are located?

Students can find their college course schedule and class locations through their UAOnline account.

Will any of these classes be counted as a class that is a requirement for the IB degree West High offers?

Students and parents will need to consult with the IB coordinator/counselor at West High School.

Can my student take half AMCS and ASD classes?

Usually, a student will have a combination of college and ASD courses. Some students will have three colleges and one HS course while others might have one college and four HS courses. All depends on the student's placement scores and other commitments outside of this program.

What is the maximum number of classes a student can take at UAA per semester?

Students usually take between 2-4 courses in their first semester and based on performance, the student may opt to take an additional course the next semester. UAA allows students to enroll up to 19 credits per semester without academic approval. However, AMCS students will need principal's approval to enroll in 16 or more credits per semester.

Can a student just start the program with one class?

Yes, as long as the student is enrolled full-time in the program. Therefore, the student will need to be enrolled in four high school courses along with one college course.

Are college courses weighted?

No. College courses do not have extra weight in GPA calculations.

Are there any AP credits associated with or available in the AMCS program?

No. AMCS utilizes UAA courses; however, students may take AP courses as a single course enrollment at their affiliate high school. Students need to speak with an ASD counselor.

If you have taken two years of high school language are you automatically put into the second level?

No. UAA requests the student enroll in the 100-level course and then requests the student make an appointment with the language department to have an assessment of proficiency in the language. If the skills are appropriate, the department will approve enrollment in the 200-level course.

Does the AMCS program accept International Student Exchange students?

No. International Exchange Students are not eligible to enroll at AMCS.

Will Q reflect mid-quarter grades or only final grades?

Q will only reflect the course's final grade.

Do UAA courses affect my GPA?

Yes. The grade you receive in a college course will be entered on your high school transcript and used to calculate the GPA.

Do AMCS students have UAA transcripts as well as ASD high school transcripts?

Yes. AMCS students build a UAA college transcript at the same time as their high school transcript. UAA grades will be posted on their college transcript. At the end of each semester, college grades will be posted to the student's high school transcript.

How transferable are the college credits that students earn outside of UA?

Most of the general education courses are transferable; however, the ultimate decision regarding what transfers outside of UA system lies with the institution the student plans attend. Students are encouraged to contact the college and speak with an admission counselor to determine what UAA course(s) might satisfy a degree requirement.

Can AMCS students earn a Seal of Biliteracy?

Yes. Seniors should complete the Seal of Biliteracy application. Students will need to take the STAMP test during their junior or senior year to qualify. If students are not in a world language class at their affiliate school, they will need to coordinate with the affiliate school to register for the STAMP test.

Can a student repeat a university course if they are unhappy with the final grade?

It depends. If a student receives a D or F in a college course, the district will cover the student's tuition cost to repeat the course one more time. After that, if a student does not make a passing grade of C or higher, they may repeat the course at the student's own expense. If a student receives a grade of C or higher in a college course, the district will not cover the student's tuition cost to retake the course. In this situation, the student must cover the cost if he or she wishes to retake the course for grade improvement.

Can a student retake a class he or she withdrew from in the previous semester?

It depends. Students should first meet with both their AMCS high school counselor and UAA academic advisor to discuss their reasons for the withdrawal. If a student withdraws from a class because of a low grade, he or she will be allowed to retake the course one more time, and the district will cover the cost of tuition. After withdrawing from the same course twice, the student must cover the tuition cost if he or she chooses to retake the course a third time. If a student chooses to withdraw from a course in which he or she is passing with a grade of C or higher, he or she may be required to cover the cost of tuition for that course unless there are extenuating circumstances outside of the student's control.

How many UAA credits does a student need to take a semester to graduate in two years with an AA? Do they have to take summer classes to do so?

The AA degree requires 60 credits. Based on a student entering the program their junior year and attending through their senior year, the student must take 15 credits per semester or plan to take University courses during the summer. ASD does not pay for summer classes so students will need to pay for all expenses associated with a summer schedule.

Can AMCS students do summer school?

AMCS students can enroll in ASD's summer school following ASD's policies and procedures. Students can also enroll in summer classes at UAA but will be financially responsible for tuition, books, and fees.

If you pass all your classes and do everything, you are supposed to in your first (Junior) year of AMCS, do you have to retake any of the tests to continue at AMCS your senior year, or will you just automatically move forward?

Students are automatically moved forward unless the student opts to leave the program. The student will need to notify the AMCS registrar his/her intention to transfer to another school or out of the district.

AMCS & High School Diploma Requirements

How does AMCS determine if a student is enrolled full-time?

To answer this question, it is important to understand how credits are applied to a student's transcript at the end of a semester:

- Students earn .5 credit each semester for completing a high school course.
- Students earn 1.0 credit each semester for completing a 3-credit college course because it is equivalent to a yearlong high school course.

A high school student enrolled in *six* semester-long classes, or *three*, 3-credit college classes are considered full-time. Many AMCS students will take a blend of college and high school classes. They will be considered full-time if they are enrolled in a combination of classes totaling 3.0 credits for the semester. It is especially important to understand that, under ASAA eligibility rules, an athlete must be enrolled in the equivalent of *five* semester-long classes (2.5 credits) to maintain athletic eligibility; seniors in good academic standing must be enrolled in *four* (2.0 credits).

How do students at AMCS complete their physical education requirements for high school?

Students have several options to complete PE requirements. ASD requires 1.5 credits of PE. AMCS students can take online Apex Health or PE during the school year through ASD Virtual, enroll in a PE course at their affiliate school, and earn .25 PE waivers for each season of a sport they complete. ASD does not cover the tuition/fees for UAA PE classes; however, students have the option to enroll in UAA PE classes to earn high school PE credit at their family's expense.

If you do a sport or participate in ROTC does it count towards PE credits?

Participation in a high school sport and some of ROTC can count towards PE credits. See your ASD counselor.

If you pass all of your classes and do everything you're supposed to in your first (Junior) year of AMCS, do you have to retake any of the tests to continue at AMCS your senior year, or will you just automatically move forward?

You are automatically moved forward to the next academic year.

What are advisories and where are they located?

AMCS requires students to enroll in a language art advisory the first semester they take a college writing course and a math advisory the first semester they take a college math course. AMCS high school teachers teach advisories, which are worth .5 high school elective credits. Advisories are a pass/fail grade and should not add to a student's workload but rather support their college coursework.

Students in advisory will get support in understanding their syllabus and class expectations and can receive feedback on their written work and assistance with understanding new concepts.

High school classes and advisories will be located on the King Tech High School campus. Classrooms will be listed with class schedules on Student/Parent Connect.

Graduation and Attending College Out-of-State

If someone goes to AMCS, would they be considered a transfer or new student when they go out of state when they graduate?

Students planning to attend colleges out-of-state will transfer in as a new or first-time student for their first semester if they have **not** received a college certificate or degree. Students who have a conferred college degree or certificate are considered transfer students.

How transferable are the college credits that students earn outside of UA?

Most of the general education courses are transferable; however, the ultimate decision of what transfers outside of the UA system lies with the institution the student plans to attend. Students are encouraged to contact the college and speak with an admission counselor to determine what UAA course might satisfy a degree requirement.

Can AMCS students walk in the graduation ceremony at their affiliate school?

Yes. Students will earn an ASD high school diploma from **AMCS**. Students will commence in the AMCS graduation and may also participate in their affiliate high school graduation as per ASD specifications.