The Early College Program (ECP) is a full-time college program that places students on the college campus with conditions that are nearly identical to a traditional college student. Below is a comprehensive list of points each ECP student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) to understand prior to the start of the experience.

1. Course work taken by ECP students is college level and will have the same depth, breadth, rigor and pace for all students regardless of age or grade placement. These courses are subject to the same standards, policies, and responsibilities as other college students unless otherwise restricted by federal, state, or local requirements. Curriculum content, evaluation, and selection of appropriate instructional materials are the prerogative of the college instructor and will not differ for dual enrolled ECP students.

2. St. Petersburg College (SPC) is an open campus where ECP and all dual enrolled students are attending classes with non-high school aged students. As such, it is certain that ECP students will encounter students of various ages and backgrounds while on the SPC campus. Additionally, should an ECP student choose to leave campus for any reason, SPC’s officers, trustees, employees and agents are released from all liability, claims of demands for any damage, loss, or injury to the student, his/her property, or the parent’s property in connection with the student’s actions.

3. ECP students must abide by all SPC policies and procedures and the Pinellas County School Board Code of Student Conduct.
   a. A major infraction that would result in an out of school suspension for a traditional high school student will result in removal from the Early College Program and must return to the high school setting.
   b. A violation of the SPC Board of Trustees Rules and College Procedures may result in removal from the Early College Program and return to the high school setting.
   c. Students who are disruptive to the learning environment will be removed from the Early College Program.

4. The ECP School Counselor or Program Coordinator are the first point of contact for parents who wish to discuss the academic progress in a college course or request information about school or classroom activities. Parents do not have direct access to their student’s college instructors or academic records.

5. ECP students are expected to attend every class in their schedule, including the high school Seminar class that provides dedicated time for college and career planning as well as proper orientation to the SPC campus and resources.

6. ECP student schedules must meet the following requirements each fall and spring term:
   a. College classes must total at least 15 credit hours and must be selected from requirements of the Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree. These classes must be taken at the home college campus unless otherwise approved by their ECP Coordinator. Exceptions will only be made when a class is not available on the home campus.
   b. Each term, the schedule will include a “Seminar” that is a high school course taught by the ECP Counselor.
c. If a student needs to withdraw from a college course due to extenuating circumstances prior to the 60% point in the term, the student would earn a W and need to enroll in another course to maintain a full schedule. Students not actively participating in a class after the 60% point in the term will automatically receive a grade of “WF” on both transcripts, which has the same impact on the GPA as a final grade of “F”.

7. ECP students must maintain strong academic standing in order to continue with the program. Students may be removed from the program and be required to return to high school under any of the following circumstances:
   a. The student’s college GPA falls below 2.0.
   b. The student’s unweighted high school GPA falls below a 3.0.
   c. The student falls off track for an on-time graduation.
   d. The student’s Bright Futures eligibility is jeopardized.

8. As in the high school setting, students must return their books at the end of each term. Students are financially responsible for replacement of lost or damaged textbooks.

9. Participation and/or recognition at high schools is impacted by participation in ECP as outlined below:
   a. ECP students are not eligible to qualify for the valedictorian or salutatorian honors within their assigned high school.
   b. ECP students may not opt out of the program during a semester. If an ECP student wishes to return to high school, the parent must notify the ECP Coordinator to determine the date the student will return to the high school setting.
   c. Students who leave ECP (voluntarily or due to academic or behavior concerns) in the middle of their senior year have the option to return to their assigned high school if there is a seat available for a “traditional” student. No student can return to Osceola Fundamental HS due to the fact that all seats are application program seats.
   d. ECP students must complete courses required for high school graduation by the end of fall term of the senior year, unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the ECP Counselor.
   e. If World History and/or Geometry graduation requirements have not been met prior to the start of ECP, a student will be required to enroll in the class on Pinellas Virtual School and complete it during the junior year.
   f. ECP students may participate in athletics and other extra-curricular activities at their assigned high school. Extra-curricular activities are defined as those that occur before or after the school day and do not require participation in a course that supports the activity. If an ECP student violates the Student Code of Conduct, participation in future high school activities will be restricted and, depending on the severity of the offense, the student may be removed from the Early College Program.