5 Steps to Running Start

Step 1: Admissions

Submit a Pierce College online admissions application. Select the primary campus you will be attending (Fort Steilacoom or Puyallup) and select Running Start applicant.

Step 2: Placement Assessment

College level placement in English is required for Running Start participation. You may complete a computer-based placement assessment or provide alternative placement documents (Smarter Balanced Assessment Scores or high school transcripts with final grades for the sophomore year) for placement consideration.

Step 3: Meet with Your High School Counselor

Complete a Running Start Enrollment Verification Form with your high school counselor. Private school students meet with a counselor at the public high school they would be attending; homeschool students refer to the public school district contact list.

Step 4: Meet with Your Advisor

All students will be required to meet with a college advisor prior to registration. Check your Pierce College student email for updates on scheduling an advising appointment.

Step 5: Register and Pay

After meeting with a college advisor at the New Student Orientation, you are ready to register for classes. Running Start students pay student and course fees each quarter after registering. See the Fees page for more information on quarterly fees.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Running Start student tuition must be adjusted by the college each quarter.

AFTER tuition has been adjusted, payment can be made; be sure to pay by the quarterly deadline to avoid being dropped for non-payment (if tuition has not been adjusted several days before the payment deadline, please contact Running Start).

Pay at the Cashier's Office or online