

# START EARLY COLLEGE: YOUR ESSENTIAL PSEO PLANNING GUIDE

**Thinking about PSEO? You're not alone.** Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) can be a game-changer for families—but it often feels confusing or overwhelming at first. That's exactly why we created this guide. As a Minnesota family who navigated the program firsthand—helping our child graduate high school with an associate's degree and saving nearly **\$60,000+ in college tuition**—we're here to share what we've learned. Whether you're just starting to explore your options or actively planning, this guide offers practical advice, clear strategies, and real-world insights to help you decide if PSEO is the right path for your student.

## What is PSEO?

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a Minnesota state program that allows high school students to earn free college credits while still in high school. It's available to 10th, 11th, and 12th graders who meet eligibility criteria.

## 🌟 Why Families Choose PSEO 🌟

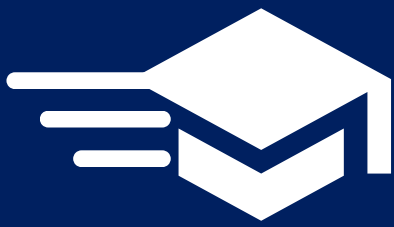
*PSEO isn't just a program—it's a launchpad. Families who take advantage of it often gain 2 years of college credit, save tens of thousands in tuition, and help their students mature faster than traditional peers. If you're looking for an edge in college readiness, career exploration, or financial freedom—PSEO might be the smartest decision you make this year.*

## 🔑 Top Benefits for Parents

- ✓ Save \$30,000–\$60,000 in tuition—and sometimes up to \$100,000
- ✓ Gain early access to private university quality education – for free
- ✓ Build maturity and adult responsibility under your guidance
- ✓ Speed up the college timeline—some PSEO students finish their 4-year degree by age 20
- ✓ Foster real-world skills; time management, study strategies, and navigating college systems

## 🎓 Top Benefits for Students

- ✓ Escape the 8:00–3:00 routine and gain schedule flexibility and autonomy
- ✓ Take real college classes with real professors and earn transferable credits
- ✓ Boost your college application with proven academic rigor
- ✓ Graduate high school with a 2-year associate's degree
- ✓ Explore career interests early with flexible electives



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## 🤔 What Surprised Most Parents?

*“My student matured so quickly – this experience changed everything.”*

*“I didn’t realize how easy it was to waste time in high school.”*

*“I had no idea how much we’d save.”*

## Real Numbers That Matter

Average tuition in  
Minnesota

**\$7,000–\$25,000**  
per year

Associate's  
degree via PSEO

**~\$0 out of  
pocket**

## 💡 Checklist: Is Your Student a Good Fit?

- ✓ Motivated to try new things
- ✓ Interested in saving time/money
- ✓ Comfortable with more independence
- ✓ Willing to commute or work online

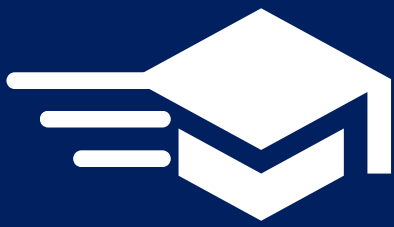
## 📈 Did You Know?

- MN students can start PSEO as early as 10th grade.
- You can attend private universities for free under PSEO program.
- Some families save \$60,000+ through early college credit.
- A student with an Associate’s Degree can still apply as a first-time freshman to 4-year colleges.

## 📅 Sample 4-Year Roadmap

- Align high school graduation requirements
- Choose the right college classes at the right time
- Graduate with a high school diploma AND a 2-year degree
- Be on track for a business minor or major by the time you leave high school

If you’re feeling overwhelmed or unsure where to start, our eCourse is exactly what we wish we had when we began. It’s the complete roadmap—designed by real parents who successfully navigated the system.



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## What You'll Learn in Our Full Course

### MODULE 1: Understand the Basics

- What is PSEO? How does it work?
- Pros, cons, myths, and risks
- Is your student ready?

### MODULE 2: Choosing the Right College

- Comparing Normandale, Bethel, and other options
- Public vs private vs technical colleges
- Commute, schedule, campus culture, class sizes

### MODULE 3: Mapping Out High School Credits

- Downloadable templates + real examples
- Understanding your district's credit check
- Aligning PSEO classes with high school grad requirements

### MODULE 4: Planning for a 2-Year Degree

- How to fulfill all 6 MnTC goal areas
- Avoid wasted credits
- Strategic class selection by semester

### MODULE 5: Saving Time and Money

- Real numbers: how much we saved
- Choosing electives that transfer
- AP vs PSEO vs traditional college

### MODULE 6: Helping Your Student Thrive

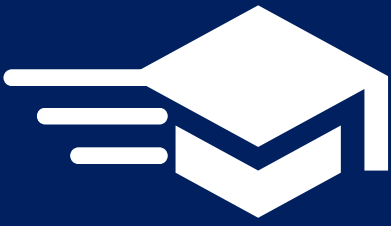
- Your role as a parent
- Tools for oversight without micromanaging
- Helping your student grow in confidence and independence

## Start Early College

Making Minnesota's best-kept secret easier for families to understand — and act on.

The value of this course speaks for itself. With families saving \$30,000–\$90,000 or more through smart PSEO planning, this \$149 investment can make all the difference. Unlike most school resources that simply point you to eligibility links or general lists, our course walks you through the real decisions and steps you'll face.

This is real-world advice from a Minnesota family who's done it—not just theoretical guidance. We've packaged hours of research, spreadsheets, advisor conversations, and trial-and-error into one simple course.



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Let's get real and practical.

## Practical Advice for Parents

- Review your high school's graduation requirements early.
- Use a spreadsheet to track what classes are completed, which are left, and how PSEO can fulfill them.
- Know that colleges don't give progress reports — you'll need to request access or partner more closely with your teen.
- Plan ahead for driving, car insurance, and schedule flexibility.
- Take advantage of your district's online course options when needed (e.g., health/CPR).
- Communicate often: be part advisor, part coach, and part accountability partner.
- You can save tens of thousands — but oversight is still required.

## Practical Advice for Students

- If you're independent and ready to learn like a college student, PSEO might be a great fit.
- Be honest with yourself: do you want more freedom or prefer the structure of high school?
- Online classes = flexibility, but they demand discipline and follow-through.
- In-person classes = more relationships, live discussions, and stronger professor support.
- You'll grow fast: independence, time management, and confidence will accelerate.
- Don't expect your friends to understand at first—be ready to lead your own path.

### **Start Early College**

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