

Guaranteed Admissions Pilot Program for High Performing College Now Program Students

The College Now Program at Lehman College

The College Now program at Lehman College provides motivated New York City Public Schools students with the unique opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school, starting as early as their sophomore year. This program allows students to engage in a variety of learning formats, including dual enrollment courses alongside a student's current high school schedule, on-site courses at Lehman's campus, and flexible online courses offered in both synchronous and asynchronous formats. Additionally, specialized summer programs provide further opportunities for students to advance their academic skills. Regardless of course type, all faculty members are vetted and approved by the academic department sponsoring the course. Admission to the program is based on a student's demonstrated ability to excel in the courses they are currently enrolled in, ensuring that participants are well-prepared for the rigors of college-level coursework.

Recognized as the gold standard in dual enrollment, College Now offers students access to various college-level courses, including gateway English, Math, Science, and Humanities, many of which satisfy CUNY's Pathways requirements. Beyond fulfilling academic requirements, the program encourages advanced studies in the Arts and Sciences, preparing students for higher education and future careers. Participants also have the chance to engage in programs like the New York City Future Ready Program, which helps them develop essential skills for success in college and beyond. The College Now program at Lehman College empowers students to make a smooth transition into higher education, giving them a head start in their academic journeys.

The Benefits of Dual Enrollment Programs

Dual enrollment programs offer significant benefits for high school students. Early exposure to college-level coursework helps students develop essential academic skills, such as critical thinking, time management, and self-discipline, which are crucial for success in higher education. By participating in dual enrollment, students can also save time and money by accelerating their education, as they enter college with already-earned credits.

Long-term, students who participate in dual enrollment programs are more likely to graduate from college on time and with a higher GPA compared to their peers who did not take part in such programs. Research shows that dual enrollment participants are better prepared for the academic challenges of college, leading to increased retention rates and greater academic success. Furthermore, dual enrollment programs provide students with a competitive edge in college admissions, as they demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence and a readiness for college-level work.

Overall, these programs improve educational outcomes, making higher education more accessible and attainable for many students.

Pilot: “College Guaranteed Admissions Program”

Only 20% percent of College Now students enroll at Lehman College for their Freshman Year. These students, almost all residing in the Bronx and upper Manhattan, are frequently courted by private colleges and our sister institutions despite nearly all of them meeting our admissions criteria and many of them being eligible for honors consideration. Increasing the number of College Now students who choose to attend Lehman needs to become an institutional imperative given these students' demonstrated ability to succeed in completing college-level work at Lehman College.

We anticipate the development of a “College Now Guaranteed Admissions Program” with a corresponding financial award and academic experience will increase the number of College Now students choosing to enroll at Lehman College.

We propose a three-year “College Now Guaranteed Admission Program” pilot that will begin in Fall 2026 and continue through Fall 2029. Guaranteed admission will be extended to College Now students who meet the following criteria: completing six or more indexable credits and no more than four non-indexable credits as part of the Lehman College Now program and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

The proposed admission criteria are based on analysis conducted alongside developing the college’s updated full-time admissions criteria for Fall 2025. The data inferred that most College Now students would ultimately meet Lehman’s admissions criteria. Setting a minimum GPA across two courses shows the student has met college-level competency in at least two subject areas.

Eligible students will be tracked using a service indicator in CUNYfirst. This will allow the college to track and assess applications, enrollment, and academic performance at Lehman.

Proposed College Now Admissions Criteria:

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