

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Pamlico County Schools Virtual Academy (PCS VA)?

Pamlico County Schools Virtual Academy is an online program that offers students in grades 7-12 an option in their educational experience. This is a 100% online program that allows students more freedom, flexibility, choice and convenience than a traditional school. We offer high quality courses taught by highly qualified instructors. Students will also have access to classes that may not be offered at their face to face schools. This program can assist students in acceleration to graduation, allow flexible scheduling so students can dual enroll at PCC, and meet the needs of students who need a different path in education.

How does online learning work?

Students will be given access to the course on the first day of the semester. They will login each day and complete assignments. Teachers will use a syllabus with a suggested pacing guide. Work can build up if a student becomes complacent and does not complete assignments on a regular basis. Students should login each day as their schedule allows.

How is attendance monitored?

Students are encouraged to attend class regularly and weekly. After 3 days of student being inactive, the teacher will contact the parent to alert them. After 7 days of inactivity, the student will have a conference with the teacher, school administration, school counselor and virtual academy director. A plan will be put in place to help the student get back on track and the student will be required to follow. Failure to follow through with the plan will result in removal from the online academy.

How quickly can I move through the class?

PCS VA is self-paced with no firm due dates. Students may work at their own pace. They are encouraged to log in daily and establish a good routine. Typically, students should devote one hour per day, per online class in order to be successful.

What is the schedule like?

Each course is 18 weeks in length. We follow the Pamlico County Schools high school 9 week calendar.

Do I still take state exams?

Yes. If you are enrolled in a class that has a state mandated exam (EOC, EOG, CTE, or NCFE) you will take that exam as your final. The exam will be 25% of your grade. You will have to report to your face to face school to ensure testing security. You will also be required to go to the Virtual Academy Lab to complete the PLAN, ACT and WorkKeys. Certain courses have a midterm EOS. If you have to take a midterm, your teacher will state that in the syllabus and the school will contact you a few weeks prior to schedule the exam. I will notify you about the time and location for reporting for all required state exams.

Can I participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes. You will be enrolled at Pamlico County High School and you will have open access to all extracurricular activities offered there. You are a member of their student body. All musicals, clubs, dances, proms, graduation, etc...are open to you. You may also participate in athletics as long as you meet the eligibility requirements of the NCHSAA. Be aware that on some campuses, band and orchestra, are considered courses. In order to participate you would need to be in attendance at the school during that class period which is permissible.

What is the cost to be enrolled in the academy?

It is free of charge to all students enrolled full time in the Pamlico County School system.

How do I know if online learning is for me?

Successful students in an online learning environment possess self-discipline, ability to meet deadlines, responsibility, dependability, flexibility and strong communication skills (writing and reading). Strong reading skills are essential for student success! We do require that all applicants and students have and maintain a 2.0 GPA and remain in good academic standing.

What materials are needed?

A computer with access to the internet each day. You will also need a headset with a microphone.

What hardware and software will I need?

You will be given a PCS email address to use. You will be required to install Java and Shockwave in some situations. Students are required to use their school email account for all PCS VA communication.

Do I have to take all my classes online?

No. In order to be enrolled in the academy, you must take ½ your course load each semester online. You can attend your face to face school the other ½ of the time or you may be an online student 100% of the time. This will allow you freedom and flexibility to best meet your individual needs.

If I choose to go to my face to face school part of the day, will transportation be provided? Can I take my online classes at the school? School buses will run the usual routes/times. You may ride one way to the school for part day enrollment if you are starting your day or ending the day your day at the school. You will need to arrange for transportation for all other options. For students who utilize the blended option, you may take your online classes on campus if transportation is an issue. It is a school based decision as to where you will report for those classes. Please be aware that if you take your online classes at school, all school rules apply, including the tardy policy and check in/check out procedures.

Can a student with an IEP or 504 apply for the Virtual Academy?

Yes, we welcome all students in grades 9-12 to apply. However, some services that PCMS/PCHS offers are not applicable in the online environment. We work in conjunction with

PCMS/PCHS to ensure the needs of the student are met. PCMS/PCHS will conduct IEP/504 meetings with input from the academy director/teacher(s). The student's IEP/504 will be maintained and monitored by PCMS/PCHS. Some adjustments in modifications and accommodations may be necessary.

Can homeschool, private school or charter school students apply?

Yes, as long as you are a resident of Pamlico County and are eligible to enroll in Pamlico County Schools. Selection is based off completed applications and lottery system. If you are selected, you will receive notification. You will take that notice to PCHS and enroll your child within 10 calendar days of notification of acceptance to the academy. All students participating in the academy MUST be enrolled in the Pamlico County School system. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting your spot.

Also, if you are transferring in from a non-accredited private school or home school, your child will be required to take a series of tests in all areas they are seeking credit.

Also please be aware, that when a home school or private school student transfers into the school system, they do not automatically become eligible for athletics. Eligibility will be determined using guidelines from NCHSAA. PCMS/PCHS, not PCS VA, is the one who determines eligibility.

How does the lottery work? How many students are accepted?

Priority for the lottery will be given to previous Virtual Academy students first. After we exhaust that pool, a computer lottery system will be used to generate the rest of the student population. The computer system will randomly select students for the remaining seats. After the lottery, a follow up screening will be done to ensure students demonstrate basic computer skills and adequate reading skills for success in an online environment.

Once a student is accepted, you are in the academy for the remainder of your high school career as long as you remain in good academic standing. We will send out intent letters each winter that you must fill out and recommit for another year. You also must be enrolled ½ time with the academy. If you fail more than 1 class in an academic year, you will not be allowed to continue with the program as online learning may not be the best fit for you.

Who do I contact for more information and to apply?

Please contact the Coordinator of Virtual Academy and Alternative Programs, Kim Potter, at kimberlypotter@pamlicoschools.org or at 252-745-4688.