

Berrien County 5th Year Early/Middle College

Get a head start on college and in life by earning college credit or a certificate for FREE, while you're still in high school through the Berrien County 5th Year Early/ Middle College program. Tuition, books, and fees are provided at no cost to students and families.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Basically, you will earn substantial college credit up to an associate degree. Students take some college classes during 11th and 12th grades, and then attend college full time during "grade 13," or a 5th year of high school to complete the program.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

1. Save a ton of money. The national average cost of attending a four-year public college is more than \$28,000 per year. By starting college while in high school, you could cut your college costs in half.
2. Get a head start on your career. Whether you earn a career certificate or an associate Degree, you will advance through your educational path and start your career years faster than a traditional educational program.
3. Transition smoothly to four-year colleges. Lake Michigan College (LMC) and Southwestern Michigan College (SMC) participate in the state-wide Michigan Transfer Agreement and has individual transfer agreements with universities throughout Michigan and Indiana.

WHAT DEGREES CAN I EARN?

Lake Michigan College

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS/TRANSFER

- General Transfer (MTA)

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

- Criminal Justice
- Culinary
- Engineering Tech
- General Studies
- Hospitality Management
- Manufacturing/Machine Tool*

- Business
- Computer Information* Systems (CIS)
 - Applications Development
 - Networking
- Welding*

CAREER CERTIFICATES

- Medical Assisting

**Technical Certificates Available*



Southwestern Michigan College

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE/TRANSFER

- Automotive Technology*
- Construction Trades Green Technology*
- Fire Science*
- Sports Management

TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES

College Association (MEMCA) Certificate

**Technical Certificates Available*

Additional programs may be available in the future.

WHERE WILL I TAKE MY CLASSES?

Students will attend classes at their high school or Berrien County Career & Technical Education PA 56 shared-time programs or on the campuses of Lake Michigan College and Southwestern Michigan College.

SOUNDS LIKE A CHALLENGE. WILL I HAVE HELP?

Absolutely! Support systems like the Summer College Success Bootcamp, Early/Middle College Cohort meetings and mentors, plus all the regular advising, tutoring, and library services from your high school, LMC and SMC will help you be successful.

GET STARTED OR ASK QUESTIONS

- Contact your local high school counseling office
- Call Melissa Springsteen at (269) 471-7725 ext. 1304
- Email melissa.springsteen@berrienresa.org
- Visit berrienresa.org/emc

THIS SOUNDS LIKE A SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENT

Students who elect to enroll in the Berrien County 5th Year Early/Middle College commit to:

- attending a mandatory week long Summer College Success Bootcamp during summer vacation between 10th and 11th grade.
- successfully complete college course work in their junior and senior years of high school.
- extending their high school graduation date by one school year. Students will however participate in commencement with their original graduating class.
- will graduate from high school with a high school diploma and significant college credits, a career certificate, an associate degree or a MEMCA Certificate.

The Berrien County Early/Middle College program is a partnership between Berrien RESA, Lake Michigan College and Southwestern Michigan College. Availability of the above programs and certificates will depend on student enrollment.

Non Discrimination/Title IX:

Berrien RESA, Lake Michigan College and Southwestern Michigan College comply with all federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the United States Department of Education and the Michigan State Department of Education. It is the policy of the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency not to discriminate in its policies and practices with respect to compensation, terms, or conditions of employment because of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, height, weight, marital status, political belief, genetic information, disability, or handicap which does not impair an individual's ability to perform adequately in that individual's particular position or activity.

Any inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy should be addressed to:

Lynda Hurlow, Director of Human Resources at Berrien RESA, 711 St. Joseph Ave., Berrien Springs, MI 49103 or the Executive Director, Human Resources (Diversity Officer) at Lake Michigan College, 2755 East Napier Avenue (Room A-305), Benton Harbor, MI 49022-1899, (269) 927-8102. Inquiries may also be sent to Thomas Atkinson, Chief of Staff, Southwestern Michigan College, Briegel Building Room 2104, 58900 Cherry Grove Road, Dowagiac, MI 49047, (269) 782-1276, tatkinson@swmich.edu. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights can be reached at (800) 368-1019.

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