

Early College Program

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- Winter/Spring 2017: Found out about Early College Program.
- Fall 2017: Started Early College Program at Castleton University.
- Spring 2018: Dean's List
- Summer 2018: Graduation
- Fall 2018: President's List

I submitted my application for the early college program after learning about it from Senator McNeil. Mr. McNeil helped me get in touch with Mr. Lyle Jepson and Mr. Krispin White who at the time worked at Castleton. Without the help of these three people, I wouldn't have been able to take advantage of this great program.

My junior year of high school I took an accounting class with Mrs. Roberts who was also the teacher that I worked with along with 3 of my classmates to develop the school store. I took the initiative of developing the store while others kept the accounting records and worked in the store. In a little over three months, our school store was selling a full line of snacks from our distributor that I secured. We had retail displays for clothing and a full-service POS system I worked with the IT department to get set up. My senior year of high school at Mill River would have consisted of two classes, senior law (the name has since been changed) and one English class; the rest of my time would have been spent working in the school store and training new students to take over the store. As much as I liked to help and continue to build the school store, there wasn't much academic value.

Without the early college program, I don't know where I would be. I wanted to go to college but was honestly scared of it. I am the first child in my immediate family to continue with traditional 4-year education. I had many questions; would I be able to do the work? How was I going to afford it?

Castleton University does a great job of seamlessly integrating the early college students into the school. My first semester included an English Composition class that also double as our early college meeting place. Our advisor was helpful in answering questions and working on schedules with us. After my first year at Castleton, the transition was yet again seamless. I have since changed advisors because I declared a major in business management.

The Early College Program is a great option for students like me that have most of their credits coming into their senior year of high school. After going through the program, I can say without hesitation that it should be talked about and advertised more in our schools. This program helped me to jumpstart my college career.