High school students enrolled in university: 10 reasons why it’s a good thing

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STUDENT BENEFITS

TASTE what university life is like

CHOOSE from a wide range of courses

PURSUE specific areas of interest

MEET like-minded peers

EARN credit towards a degree

UNIVERSITY BENEFITS

SHOWCASE university offerings

HELP students prepare for university

INCREASE options for high-achievers

SUPPORT students’ intrinsic love of learning

ENABLE high-achievers to meet their potential

Background
Western University’s concurrent enrollment program enables high-achieving high school students to earn a university credit while in high school. Students choose from any first-year university course. The program is offered through Student Success Services.

Participants
Our study involved 21 high-achieving students in grades 11 and 12 who shared their reasons for choosing concurrent enrollment.

Method – Group Concept Mapping
Participants brainstormed reasons for taking part in the program. Then they categorised the reasons and rated their importance. We used multi-dimensional scaling and hierarchical cluster analysis to identify key concepts (Trochim, 1989).

Results
We analyzed result using Deci and Ryan’s (1985) self-determination theory framework. Students showed motivation for concurrent enrollment for a variety of reasons, which are presented here. Our review of the literature revealed advantages for universities too.

Discussion
In view of the many benefits illustrated here, other universities may consider establishing similar concurrent enrollment programs.

References