

Early College Testimonials

Alumni

JUSTIN PALEKA

Justin is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at UH Mānoa. He graduated from Kapa‘a High School, where he enrolled in Early College classes offered by Kaua‘i Community College.

“I earned a total of 11 credits prior to my enrollment at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Essentially, I was able to earn a semester's worth of college credit and by doing so, I was able to save over \$5,000 in the long run. Not only did this ease the financial burden of obtaining a college degree, but it also allowed me to experience the rigor of a college-level curriculum. I gained a general idea of what will be expected of me by my professors and by taking these college courses, I attained valuable insight as to what I could expect during my collegiate career.”



VYAS HALE

Vyas is a graduate of Kealakehe High School and a freshman at UH Hilo majoring in history. He hopes to earn a teaching certificate after graduation and become a high school teacher.

“My experience with the Early College program during my senior year in high school was a very positive one. Between AP courses and the Early College program, I was able to earn 18 college credits - a semester of college for free! This has given me the ability to take higher level classes, and if I choose, to graduate college a full semester early. Early College also introduced me to the online system that the University of Hawai‘i uses, allowing me to get comfortable with the platform that the majority of professors use.”



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
SYSTEM

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JILLIAN PANGANIBAN

Jillian earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a concentration in Hospitality and Tourism from UH West O‘ahu in Fall 2020. A graduate of Waipahu High School, she is a first generation college student and second generation immigrant. She plans to pursue a master’s degree in Hospitality Management.

“Early College has greatly reduced my college costs. One of my main concerns was ‘How will I pay for college?’ However, being in the Early College program lessened my worries as I was able to take advantage of free college classes and earn my associate degree while in high school. Doing so led me to completing my bachelor’s degree in a span of 2.5 years. Early College also strengthened my learning about the Filipino culture, which was not available through high school courses.”



KUREHA PAMBID

Kureha graduated from UH West O‘ahu in Fall 2020. She immigrated from Japan while in middle school and is the first Wai‘anae High School student to have simultaneously received an associate degree with her high school diploma.

“The Early College program assists students in deciding on their career path. If students know what their academic interests are, they can finish their associate degree and basic coursework and jump into their concentration. If they are unsure about a major, the Early College program still helps them to complete their general education requirements. Either way, students save money. The Early College program also helped me develop responsibility and leadership. It made me mindful of deadlines and use my time wisely.”

