

GET TO KNOW...

ASCENT

*Accelerating Students through Concurrent ENrollment
Colorado's Fifth Year Program*

The "Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act" (CRS 22-35-101) established a *statewide concurrent-enrollment plan* that gives high school students an opportunity to earn a college degree while finishing high school. It offers a "fifth year" option – where a graduating senior may choose to stay an additional year in high school to attend a year of college – to *all* Colorado school districts. **ASCENT**, the "Fifth Year" alternative, will be fully implemented in the 2012-2013 academic year.

In the program, the school district pays for the student's tuition; some school districts assist with fees, books and other course materials. The student remains enrolled in both the district and the college and does not receive a high school diploma until the end of the 'fifth' year.



ASCENT students:

- Are capable of completing an associate degree by the end of their fifth year with careful planning.
- Must take 12 credits per semester to participate and required to maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher in college coursework to participate.
- Are responsible for course fees and book charges not covered by the district.
- Must be approved by a school administrator.
- Are not eligible to participate in high school or college sports.
- Do not qualify for state or federal need-based aid for school-related expenses not covered by the school district
- Must have accrued at least 12 credits of college (dual) credit during the course of their high school education. Developmental courses may not be used toward the twelve credit minimum; a student's English, reading and math skill levels must be 'college-ready.'

"Families are realizing that a year less college tuition can be a significant savings. This can be a substantial reduction in cost for middle income families who don't qualify for need-based aid. It also provides an excellent transition between high school and the student's next step in education or employment. I encourage students and their families to speak with their high school counselors or LCC to determine if ASCENT is a good fit for them."

*- Del Chase, Coordinator
Concurrent Enrollment/ASCENT Programs*



LAMAR
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Phone: 719.336.1514
Fax: 719.336.2400
E-mail: concurrent@lamarcc.edu