



## **FAQs: Common Questions Asked By Prospective Students**

### **How long does it take to complete the program?**

Depending on how many credits students transfer in, they can be on their way to earning a high school diploma in a few months. Students are given up to 18 months to complete the program.

### **When can students start classes?**

Smart Horizons Career Online Education (SHCOE) offers rolling admissions, which means students can start any time of the year—whenever it is convenient for them.

### **If a student dropped out in his or her senior year, will all of the courses completed count toward a diploma?**

Once a student is ready to start the program, a Registrar will analyze the student's transcripts and apply credits for any coursework completed while in high school that fulfills SHCOE's credit transfer requirements. Elective credits do not apply since the electives SHCOE offers are necessary to earn career certification.

### **How much time does a student need to dedicate to coursework?**

SHCOE recommends that a student dedicates 6-10 hours per week to his or her coursework. An Academic Coach will help each student stay on track. Students will also have access to a Pace Guide that helps move through the program by completing one credit every two weeks.

### **When can a student work on courses?**

Courses are self-paced and taught in an online learning environment available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### **What if a student needs help with coursework?**

An Academic Coach will connect a student with a certified Instructor to provide additional academic support, when needed.

### **What is the career portfolio?**

To arm students with the tools needed to find a job, SHCOE will teach them how to create essential documents, such as a resume and a cover letter.

### **If a student chooses a major such as Child Care, how will he or she train to work with children?**

While SHCOE provides a student with all of the coursework needed in order to qualify for a Child Care Certification, the student will need to find a local agency in the community to fulfill the hands-on training hours required.



**Why shouldn't a student just get a GED?**

A GED or General Equivalency Diploma requires a student to pay for an exam. Preparing for the exam does not always provide the student with the beneficial learning opportunities associated with completing coursework. Additionally, SHCOE gives students the benefit of also earning a career certificate and completing additional job preparation documents. SHCOE encourages students to make a decision that is right for them by researching all of their options, and seeking support and opinions of family, friends, and employers.

**How much does it cost?**

Program cost depends on the specific partnership program.

**Is Smart Horizons accredited?**

Yes. SHCOE is accredited by AdvancED/SACS/NCA/NWAC. Smart Horizons is also approved as an Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). More information: [shcoe.org/accreditation/](http://shcoe.org/accreditation/).

**Will a student need to purchase textbooks?**

No, students will not need to purchase textbooks; however, the Language Arts classes may require novels, which can be purchased or checked out of the library.