

Hanani Interview

Musical Scoring

Introduction: Welcome to College Credit Now Success Stories. From time to time we will feature interviews with students, parents and teachers who have participated in College Credit Now and we'll hear what they are about to say about the program.

Joining us for our first interview is Hanani. She is a recent graduate who earned over forty college credits while in high school. Let's listen to her story.

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Interviewer: Ok. Well thank you for agreeing to talk about your experience in college credit now, Hanani. I know you've been attending school here at Chemeketa Community College this year. Prior to coming here, at your high school you earned 42 credits that you were able to apply towards your degree here in dental assisting and the other things that you are planning on doing. So, again thank you very much for being here. I just want to visit with you a little about that experience. When did you learn that college credit was available at your school?

Hanani: It was in...during my sophomore year while I was taking a Spanish class. I think that was one of the language courses which was one of the first courses that had college credit available and my teacher told us, you know, if you have a passing grade in the class, go ahead and get it cause it will be beneficial later on.

I: Was that a teacher that had offered that credit for several years in high school or were they new to it? Do you remember that?

H: I think that it was new. It was during my sophomore year that they had started it that but I do recall that my Spanish teacher had actually taught courses at community college so she had idea about this system.

I: So in terms of registering for the course, filling out any paperwork, paying fees, how was that process? Was that very easy?

H: It was very easy. We just had a slip and we just made sure that we our important information on it. Fortunately the school came up with the a deal with the students, is that we would pay the first \$25. With every additional class we took that year would only be \$15. It was very inexpensive. What was nice about the forms is that they're so similar to the registration forms for Chemeketa is that when you start doing those you already know what to do.

I: Good. What other types of credits did you earn besides Spanish. Forty-two, that's an awful lot.

H: Yes. I took a health occupations class, science, I think I got some from science and history, english, a little bit from everywhere and then electives.

I: And why were those credits important? Why did you earn that many?

H: Well especially the science classes - I want to be a dental assistant so I took as many as I could. I knew that the occupations, like the one that was offered, that would be helpful later on. And then also, many of the classes that had the college credit associated with it, they were just harder level classes. I knew that I need to keep myself up to that level and if I wanted to go to a program at the community college.

I: Did you find the courses challenging?

H: Yeah. They weren't so overbearing that you felt like you were lost but they were a lot to keep your mind engaged. On a homework level, it was really even to what I am doing now. So it works out nice.

I: So is this the type of program that you would recommend? I mean across the board do you think lots of teacher should be offering it? Do u you think lots of students should be taking advantage of it?

H: I do, I think it would be very nice if all of your classes could be associated with College Credit Now. Even when I started taking them, I was just thinking about getting them because I might use them. I wasn't really thinking about getting an associates degree or anything but you know your mind sets gonna change five years from now. And your circumstances will change where those credits can come really in handy. And they don't go anywhere. You already have them and to build on them is really great.

I: Are there some things that you would see a teacher being able to do to make the credits even more valuable or more known to other students.

H: It would be nice that like we have our job fair and figuring out what we want to do. Maybe doing that to apply for doing college credits in high school. You know as in what do you want to take to get to your job, here's the classes you can take right now. Tell them about it when they are freshmen so they can start...really like starting a game plan of sorts and a syllabus for themselves , or curriculum for themselves sp they're not so lost when they're doing it .They will make sure they have full benefit of the program.

I: Is there any advice that you would give to high school students, current high school students and their parents as far as taking advantage of this?

H: Even if you're not thinking you're gonna use it. You know you just take it anyway because it's gonna be helpful later on. The courses are challenging sp that keeps you up to the level of education that you gonna be having to do in college. And so it's easier during that transition.

I: Is there anything else that you can think of as far the program or observations that you've made?

H; I think the program is really nice for us. It would be nice if we could do even a more joint with you know taking college credit now classes in high school and then maybe even driving to the campus and finishing out there. We get it done faster and we're able start our plans faster and that really helps.

I: And increases that exposure to the college, too.

H: It does.

I: Very good. Well thank you again. I appreciate that you've taken the time to visit with us about your experience with college credit now. It is a great story and good job am good luck.

H: Thanks for inviting me!