



# Parent Information

Common questions parents ask...

## Common Parent Questions

### Can my student really do EC AND graduate college on time?

Yes, students can both do EPIC Commission and graduate college on time and we encourage them to do so! We strongly believe in students going to college and obtaining their bachelor's degree. In fact, EC has been created with the college student in mind - EPIC Commission is NOT a diversion from your students college plans, EC is a priceless supplement to your student's college education. EC students who take 12 credit hours per semester and 6 credits over the summer will graduate college at the same time as their peers in their high school graduating class.

- For example, numerous past students (who came into the program right after high school) took classes at KVCC for their two years in EC (12 credits per semester and 6 credits over the summer). Then when they graduated EC, they also graduated KVCC with an associates degree that is completely transferable into Western Michigan University (and other colleges/universities) These students are completely on track to complete their bachelor's degree on time - and in some cases even earlier than their peers!

### Why does EPIC Commission cost \$5999?

The cost of EPIC Commission is actually a very affordable price for what the students receive. Below you will see a cost comparison of EC and the average public four year university:

- The average cost of a public, four year university is \$7,605 for tuition, around \$4,000 for room and board, which is a total average cost of almost \$12,000 per year.
- On the other hand, the average cost of tuition at KVCC (Kalamazoo Valley Community College) is \$1,800. If you add that to the cost of EPIC Commission, \$5999 (which includes housing, Bible Classes, and discipleship), then the total cost of KVCC and EC is around \$7,799, per year, which is substantially more affordable than the typical 4 year college experience.

The value of the EC experience combined with college classes is priceless. Your student would not only be able to stay on track academically, but they would also be able to grow spiritually, receive one-on-one mentorship, life skills, resume building intern experience, all in a community of other college-age students who are striving to grow spiritually!

### Is financial aid available?

Yes, every student must fill out a FASFA form to qualify for financial aid from the local universities, and 42% of KVCC students receive some kind of financial aid. Sometimes student's grants or loans supersede the cost of college tuition and those students are able to use money from their loan/grant to pay for a portion of EPIC Commission. Additionally, students can apply for the numerous scholarships available to college-age students - school counselors can help with this. Also, since EC includes ministry training, many EC students send out support letters to help raise money.

### **When my student graduates EPIC Commission, what do they receive?**

EPIC Commission sets your student apart from other students who just attend a four-year degree. For EC students in the college track, their resume does not only list a college degree, but it also has 370 hours of hands-on intern experience at one of the fastest growing churches in the nation, two years of Bible training, and life training. On top of that, they have a Discipleship/mentorship experience, that sets them apart in interviews and shows that they are serious about personal and spiritual growth. But, the most priceless value of EPIC Commission is that your student graduates as a spiritually mature, confident young adult who is full of integrity, responsibility, and passion, ready and equipped to make a mark in their generation. EPIC Commission 2nd year grads do not only finish with a certificate of completion, they graduate with life experiences, ministry training, intern experience, discipleship, and character that sets them apart from their peers in today's marketplace. (For a detailed breakdown of what students get through EC, see the "EPIC Commission - What You Get" document)

### **Does EPIC Commission take a mission trip over Spring Break?**

Yes, every spring break EPIC Commission students participate in a Beach Reach Mission Trip in Panama City Beach, FL. EC students team up with 900 other Christian college students nationwide who serve and minister to their peers over spring break by giving free van rides and witnessing on the streets at night and serving free pancakes every morning. This is a life-changing trip that will rock students' world, increases their passion for the lost, and challenges their boldness. The cost of this trip is not included in the EC tuition. Students are expected to either send out support requests or raise money - the trip usually costs around \$670.

### **Are there boundaries with guy/girl relationships in EC?**

Yes, since the first year of EPIC Commission is only 9 months of a student's life to focus solely on the plan of God for their life, there are guidelines for guy/girl relationships. During the first year (9 months) of EPIC Commission, students are not allowed to be in a dating relationship. There are also restrictions on communication between the sexes. All of these guidelines are to limit as many emotional distractions as possible while students are in EPIC Commission, so they can find their identity in the Lord independent of any dating relationship.

### **When can my student take college classes?**

EPIC Commission students should be able to fit most, preferably ALL of their college classes on Tuesday and Thursdays from 8am - 4pm. If for some reason students are not able to fit all their classes in that time slot, they can also take a night class on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday night after 4:30pm. EC students in the college track are encouraged to take 12 credit hours per semester, but not required to.

### **When will EPIC Commission Begin and End?**

- Registration | end of August
- EPIC Commission Orientation | last week of August, first week of September
- EPIC Commission Graduation | second or third Friday of May

