The Valkyrie Middle College (VMC), a partnership between Spartanburg School District Seven and Converse University, is a two-year, co-ed program that provides high achieving Spartanburg High School students who wish to pursue a career in teacher education with the opportunity to earn up to 30 hours of transferable college credit – free of cost to the student. Students who successfully complete the two-year program will be eligible for priority acceptance into Converse University’s teacher education program, which is now open to both male and female students. Successful students will also receive priority consideration for teaching jobs with District Seven after graduating with teacher certification.
Valkyrie Middle College Program Overview

Spartanburg High School students will be identified, screened and admitted into the Valkyrie Middle College during the spring of their sophomore year and will begin coursework in the fall of their junior year. District Seven will transport VMC students to attend class each morning on the Converse campus, returning for lunch and afternoon classes at SHS. Students will complete five courses each year of the program. Valkyrie Middle College coursework replaces regular and elective SHS courses. Students continue to participate fully in all aspects of SHS outside of their morning classes at Converse.

Joining together to form a “cohort” during their junior and senior years of high school, VMC students will benefit from classes taught solely for their cohort by Converse faculty members. The program provides the rigor of college-level learning balanced with mentorship and support tailored to the needs of high school students.

Program Coursework

**Education Classes:**
- EDU 360 Introduction to Education  
  (Converse will also award credit for SHS’s teacher cadet course)
- EDU 302 K-6 Classroom Management, Discipline, and Law
- SED 300 Introduction to Exceptional Learners
- PSY 380 Human Growth and Development
- EDU 353 Adolescent Development
- EDU 361 Curriculum Design and Classroom Management

**Management General Education Classes:**
- ART 311 Art for the Child (fulfills fine arts requirement)
- ENG 201 Major British Writers I (fulfills British literature requirement)
- ENG 204 Survey of American Literature II (fulfills American literature requirement)
- HST 110 Western Civilization to 1648 (fulfills history requirement)

Admission to Converse College After Graduation

VMC students wishing to complete their Bachelor of Arts degree at Converse should file the Converse admission application early in the fall of their senior high school year. Successful program participants who otherwise are qualified for admission to Converse will be admitted with advanced student status and will receive priority consideration for Converse scholarship aid.

What type of students might be interested in the Valkyrie Middle College?

- Students who plan to pursue a career in education and will enjoy joining a community of learners who share this goal
- Students who want an early start on college while remaining an active part of their Spartanburg High School community
- Students who are academically capable, self-motivated, and ready for mentorship and learning at the college level

Benefits of the Valkyrie Middle College

- Earn up to 30 free transferable college credits before high school graduation.
- Learn college readiness skills and gain valuable insights on what it takes to be a successful college student.
- No tuition or course material fees: VMC students do not pay tuition or purchase course materials.
- Join a Community of Learners: VMC students experience small-sized, college-level classes in a challenging yet supportive environment. The cohort experience is designed to enrich students as they form bonds, learn about the profession together, and encourage one another.
- Priority admission and scholarship consideration to Converse upon successful program completion.
- Priority consideration for teaching jobs with Spartanburg School District Seven upon successful undergraduate degree completion and teacher certification.
Application Process

VMC students must meet the following criteria:

1. Be enrolled in Spartanburg School District Seven
2. Successfully complete and submit all required application documents
3. Successfully participate in an individual interview with program staff and Converse’s Valkyrie Middle College liaison, or other college representative, and be deemed to be a good match for the program
4. Participate in the VMC cohort orientation on the Converse campus together with their parent or legal guardian
5. Maintain good academic standing while in the program: Students are expected to be responsible members of the community and to maintain As and Bs in all courses

2021 Application and Enrollment Timeline

• February 25: Completed application packet due to guidance counselor (application plus two academic recommendations)
• Mid March: Admission committee interviews selected candidates
• Late March: All applicants notified of acceptance decision
• Late March/April: Orientation sessions on Converse campus

How To Apply

• Begin your application process as early as possible. Complete information and the application materials are available at spartanburg7.org/VMC. Note that the student application must be signed by both the student and the parent.
• Two academic recommendations are required:
  • One current or past high school teacher in the subjects of math, science, social studies, English or world language
  • One current or past teacher or counselor
Ask your recommenders to support your application process as early as possible. Provide them with a copy of the academic recommendation form so they can complete their recommendation.
• Completed application materials, including the student application and two academic recommendations, are due to your guidance counselor by February 25.
• Completing the application is not a guarantee of being interviewed for the program. An admissions committee will screen recent standardized test results, as well as attendance and discipline records, for each applicant. Applicants will be ranked based on their application responses, recommendations, test scores, and other information provided. The highest-ranking applicants will be offered an interview to fill the available seats.
• Candidates will be notified of their acceptance decision in late February.

Apply by February 25 at SPARTANBURG7.ORG/VMC
As an aspiring teacher, when you enroll as an education student at Converse, you join a legacy of award-winning teachers and school administrators. Converse graduates have earned honors such as Presidential Educator of the Year, National Marine Educator of the Year, and the Order of the Palmetto. A Converse degree is recognized throughout the Southeast as the mark of a quality educator.

Why Choose Converse?

- Converse has attained state approval and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation with provisions for all professional education programs.
- Converse enjoys close proximity to and partnerships with public schools and the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind.
- Converse faculty members stay closely informed on educational trends and legislation. Among them are the state-recognized experts who wrote the handbook on South Carolina educational legislation and partnered with South Carolina Department of Education in the South Carolina Reading Initiative.

Accreditation and Assessment

Converse’s programs are accredited by the State of South Carolina and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Converse maintains NCATE accreditation under the guidance of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

Converse has accepted the challenge of developing and maintaining exemplary programs that lead to initial certification and licensure for our highly-qualified candidates. As an Educator Preparation Provider under the guidance of CAEP, the college is committed to the continuous improvement model, the professional CAEP Standards, and the continual assessment of candidates and the evaluation of programs.

Using valid and reliable measurements, Converse collects, collates, and reviews continuous assessment data on each candidate and program. Both pre-service and in-service educators provide the college with the feedback necessary to maintain its nationally recognized programs. Converse’s goal is to provide high-quality instruction and preparatory experiences for educators while demonstrating a measurable impact on student learning in the public schools.

All Converse courses in professional education are designed to help the student meet the concept of the Ideal Educator.

The Ideal Educator:

- Demonstrates knowledge of and respect for individual differences by differentiating instruction for the diverse needs of all learners.
- Demonstrates knowledge of and competence in innovative instructional strategies.
- Demonstrates knowledge of content and standards by integrating them into planning and instruction.
- Demonstrates knowledge of technology and the value of its use by integrating it into a variety of areas.
- Demonstrates knowledge of and competence in assessment and evaluation of students, instruction, and self through the utilization of informal and formal methods.
- Demonstrates skills in management.
- Demonstrates a positive attitude toward professionalism.

Learn more about Converse’s education programs at: www.converse.edu/academics/education