



A Special  
Orientation  
for Parents,  
Spouses, &  
Supporters)

**SOAR P.S.S.**



# WHAT YOU WILL GET OUT OF SOAR P.S.S.

- Have a better understanding of the MCCC student experience and the resources available to students and parents
- Feel more connected to MCCC
- Feel better able to support your student and empower him/her to take responsibility while enrolled at MCCC
- Understand the academic expectations of your student
- Meet people who are here to help your students succeed
- Understand MCCC and Federal Policies
- Have your questions answered!



# IMPORTANT POLICIES

## ■ FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

- Grants rights for students to withhold disclosure of education records except for situations involving legitimate educational interest or as may be required by law
- As a general rule, the following information can only be released to the student or to a college official:
  - **Grades or GPA**
  - **Course enrollment or schedule**
  - **Student ID numbers**
  - **Social Security Numbers**
  - **Race/Ethnicity/Nationality**
  - **Religious Affiliation**



PRIVACY POLICY

# IMPORTANT POLICIES (CONT.)

## ■ Attendance

- Students are expected to attend all classes of every course on their schedules and to be aware of each instructor's attendance policy.
  - If an absence cannot be avoided, students should contact their instructor(s) for assignments. Prolonged absences due to illness, injury, or bereavement for an immediate family member should be reported to the office of the Executive Dean for Student Affairs.

## ■ Academic Progress

- If a student does not pass or complete enough courses (or if grades are too low) the student will be placed on academic Warning, Probation, or Dismissal.
  - Warning limits a student to 13 credits or fewer.
  - Probation limits a student to 10 credits or fewer.
  - Dismissal requires the student take one full 15-week semester off, and that you develop an approved Individual Success Plan before returning.

## ■ Academic Integrity

- A student will be guilty of violating ACADEMIC INTEGRITY if he/she (a) knowingly represents work of others as his/her own, (b) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in the execution of any academic work, or (c) gives fraudulent assistance to another student

- <http://www.mccc.edu/pdf/handbook.pdf>

# IMPORTANT POLICIES (CONT.)

## Refund Policy effective SUMMER 2015

■ **Deadlines for course refund eligibility differ according to term length, as follows:**



■ **15-week terms:**

Full refunds are available for classes dropped **within the *first seven days* of the associated term (NOT the *class start date*).**

■ **Terms shorter than 15 weeks:**

Full refunds are available for classes dropped **within the *first two days* of the associated term (NOT the *class start date*).**

A course dropped anytime after refund eligibility for that course ends will be processed as a withdrawal. No refund of tuition or fees will be made to a student who is withdrawn from a course by an instructor due to non-attendance or who is dismissed from the college for cause.

# DO THE MATH

Time to complete a degree:

$$12 + 12 + 12 + 12 \neq 63$$

## Cost Savings:

Tuition and fees add up quickly. If your student gets through courses on the first try and completes an AA or AS degree, you could potentially save close to \$20,000 or more!

Cost and Savings of Starting at MCCC	
College	Estimated Tuition & Fees 2 Years Full-Time
Rutgers	\$28,262
MCCC	\$9,576
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL SAVINGS</b>	<b>\$18,686</b>
TCNJ	\$30,932
MCCC	\$9,576
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL SAVINGS</b>	<b>\$21,356</b>

\* Tuition at MCCC is estimated based on the current in-county rate of \$152 per credit. Tuition at TCNJ is based on the current rate of \$15,446 per year. Tuition as Rutgers is based on the current New Brunswick rate of \$14,131 per year.

# MONEY MATTERS

[http://www.mccc.edu/admissions\\_financial.shtml#6](http://www.mccc.edu/admissions_financial.shtml#6)

## ■ Federal Aid

- Grants: Pell, SEOG, and FWS
- Loans: Direct Loan and Stafford Loans

## ■ State Aid

- Grants: TAG and EOF
- Scholarship Programs: NJStars and Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars Program

## ■ Payment Plan

- [http://www.mccc.edu/admissions\\_tuition\\_deferred.shtml](http://www.mccc.edu/admissions_tuition_deferred.shtml)

## ■ MCCC Scholarships

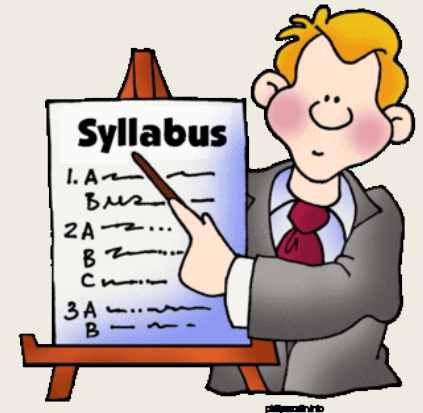
- [http://www.mccc.edu/admissions\\_financial\\_scholarships.shtml](http://www.mccc.edu/admissions_financial_scholarships.shtml)



# EXPECTATIONS

## ■ Assignments

- Assignments are expected to be completed and on time.
- Each professor will provide a syllabus for their class that outlines the requirements, grading policies, assignments and deadlines, etc.



## ■ Homework

- Expect 2-3 hours of homework each week per class.

## ■ Computer Access

- Students are expected to have reliable access to a computer/internet. If that is not available at home, access is available in the MCCC Library. Many classes have online components and portals that the students will need to use to complete assignments. Print cards are also available!



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2Co6\\_tu808](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2Co6_tu808)



# PHYSICAL/MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

## ■ Fitness Center

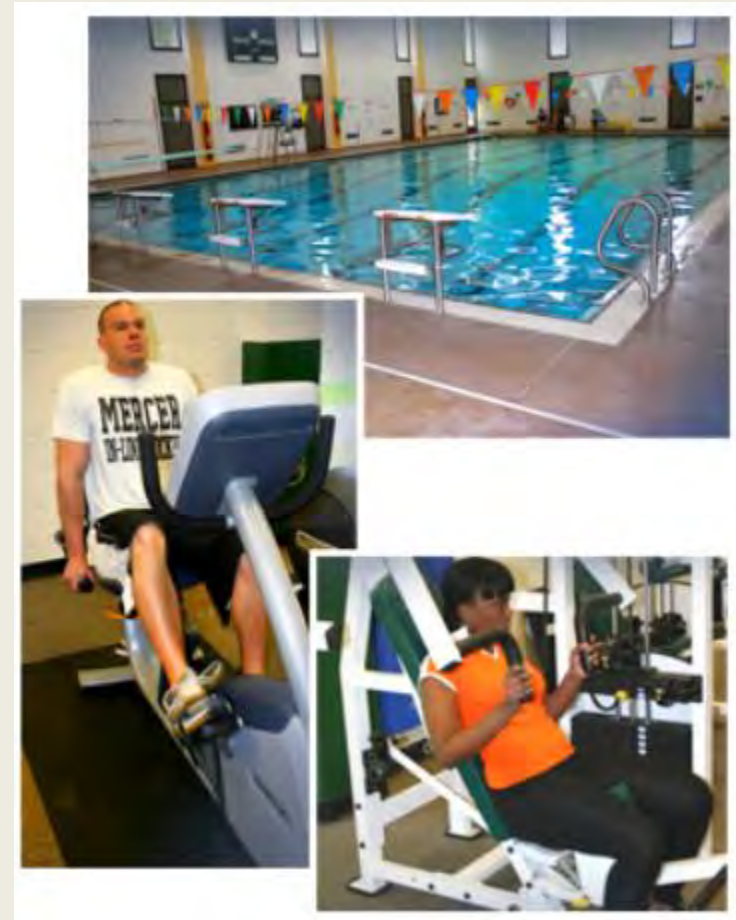
- All full-time students can utilize the fitness center free of charge!

## ■ Student Activities

- More than 40 clubs!
- Various campus activities
- Free Zumba and Yoga classes!

## ■ Counseling

- Dorothy Gasparo
  - Anxiety, Basic Needs, Depression, Domestic Relationships, Grief, Substance Abuse, Stress, etc.



# COMMIT TO COMPLETION

- We ARE NOT a “2-year” school.
- We ARE an Associate’s Degree granting institution.
  - It often takes longer than two years (Part-time, W/F/D Grades, remedial coursework, taking fewer than 15 college-level credits per semester, changing majors, not seeking help with course selection)
  - The average student takes 6 years to complete a Bachelor’s degree.

(U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics)

- BUT, staying and completing the degree at MCCC is WORTH IT even if it takes longer!
  - Dual Admissions – Guaranteed Transfer Admission
  - LAMPITT – Transfer all credits as a package!
  - Scholarships – Many only available to degree holders



# ACADEMIC RESOURCES

## ■ Tutoring:

[http://www.mccc.edu/student\\_services\\_learncenter\\_wv.shtml](http://www.mccc.edu/student_services_learncenter_wv.shtml)

- West Windsor Learning Center (LB214), Science Learning Center (MS211), Kerney Learning Center, E-tutoring

## ■ Counseling

- Career & Transfer

## ■ Library

- Books
- Study Space
- Computer Labs

## ■ Coaches

- First point-of-contact
- Connecting students to resources



The screenshot shows the Mercer County Community College website. The navigation menu is highlighted with a yellow circle. The menu items are: FUTURE STUDENTS, CURRENT STUDENTS, ABOUT MCCC, ACADEMICS, STUDENT SERVICES, NON-CREDIT COURSES CONTINUING EDUCATION, BUSINESS & TRAINING, and COMMUNITY. The STUDENT SERVICES menu is expanded, showing a list of services including Financial Aid, Academic Advisement, Tutoring, Counseling, Registration, Transfer Services, Career Services, Library Services, Book Store, Testing Center Services, Health Services, Technology Services, Shuttle Service, International Students, Veterans and Military Services, Special Needs, Programs for Academic Services and Success (PASS), Office, Lab, and Faculty Hours, Forms, Transcript Requests, and Credit Union. Below the menu, there is a section titled "STUDENT SERVICES" with a sub-header "college-wide support for student success". The text describes the college's support system and mentions that qualified counselors are available in each academic division. A photo shows a student and a staff member sitting at a table, looking at a laptop. Below the photo, there is a section titled "The Division Of Student Affairs Supports MCCC Students" with a list of services including Academic Advisement, Athletics, Career Services, Counseling Services, Financial Aid, Health Services, International Student Services, Programs for Academic Services and Success, Recreation & Fitness, Registration, Student Activities, Student Government, Transcripts and Records, Transfer Services, and Veterans Affairs.

# TIME MANAGEMENT

Time management is a serious problem for many students. Students who do not do well are typically trying to juggle too much at once.

Hard to find a balance:

- School
- Work
- Family responsibilities
- Friends/Social
- Health/Exercise
- Sleep



# STAY CONNECTED!

- Follow us on Social Media to know what is going on on campus!
- Help your student access their MyMercer Portal – includes student email, access to grades, transcripts, etc.
- Have your student download the Ellucian Go App for their phones and mobile devices!
  - This is especially important for Mac/Safari users!



@MercerCollege  
@MCCC\_TACS



To login to the MCCC Mobile App use your MyMercer login username and password.  
Use the same **firstname.lastname** username that you use for the MyMercer Student Portal.  
**DO NOT** use **student** before the username.



# ADVICE FROM OTHER PARENTS/SUPPORTERS:

- Your student needs to learn how to handle life situations on their own. Within reason, allow them to make their own decisions and recover from mistakes.
- First-Year College Students tend to resent parental interference. Be sure to confront them with sincere inquiries and maintain open lines of communication.
- Communicate your trust in them and encourage them to seek out resources at MCCC.



QUESTIONS???

