



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**



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

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.

*** *Dropped classes or withdrawals can cause adjustments to any financial aid awards, resulting in a balance being due to the college for tuition.***

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
ESTIMATED TOTAL SAVINGS	\$18,686
TCNJ	\$30,932
MCCC	\$9,576
ESTIMATED TOTAL SAVINGS	\$21,356

* 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

■ 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

■ MCCC Scholarships

- http://www.mccc.edu/admissions_financial_scholarships.shtml



MONEY MATTERS (CONT.)

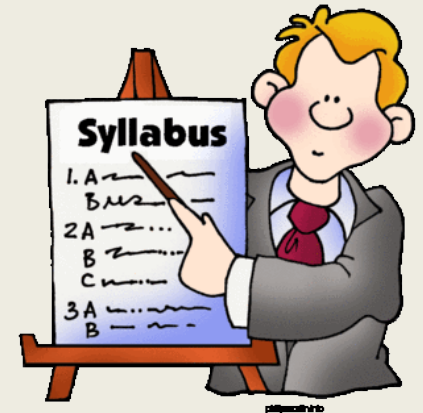
Hot off the presses:

- **Federal Aid will NOT cover courses that are not in a student's program, with the exception of remedial courses. Please be sure that your students are only signed up for courses that meet their program requirements. Additional courses taken for exploration outside of a student's major cannot be used for financial aid eligibility.**
 - (Students can check this in the **ACADEMIC/ STUDENT PLANNING** Module in their portal!)
- **Students can now file the FAFSA as early as OCTOBER using their 2015 info. We recommend students complete the FAFSA as early as possible.**

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

PHYSICAL/MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

■ Fitness Center

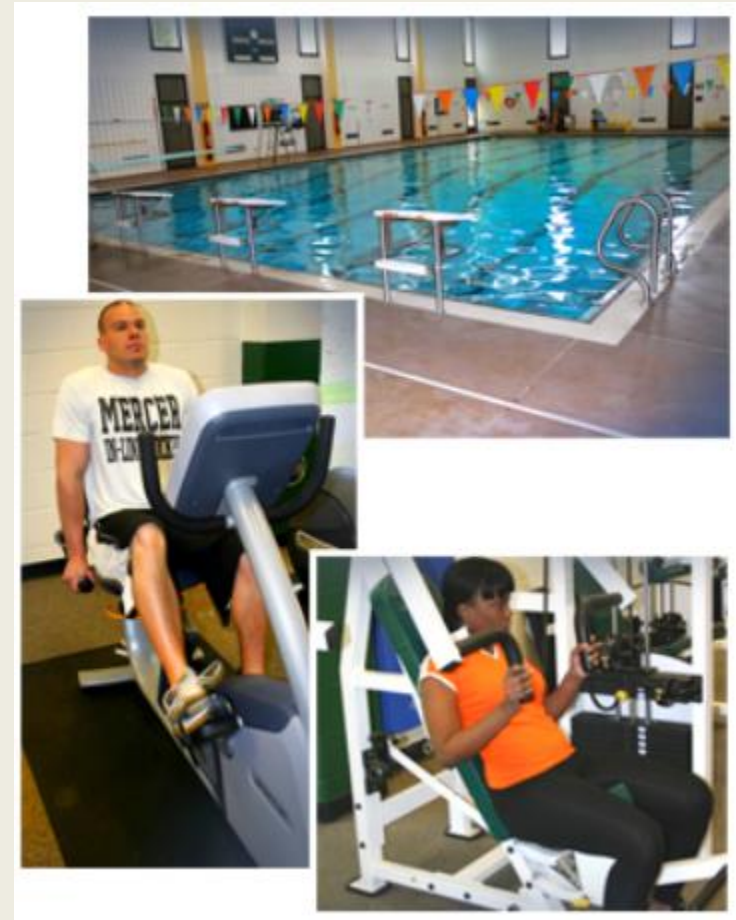
- All full-time students can utilize the fitness center free of charge!

■ 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)
 - Students can use the Academic Planning/Student Planning feature in their portal to plan out the entire degree at MCCC!
- 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

- 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 top navigation bar includes the college logo, the tagline "college-wide support for student success", a search bar, and the "Mercer" logo. Below the navigation bar is a grid of menu items for "FUTURE STUDENTS", "CURRENT STUDENTS", "ABOUT MCCC", "ACADEMICS", "STUDENT SERVICES", "NON-CREDIT COURSES CONTINUING EDUCATION", "BUSINESS & TRAINING", and "COMMUNITY". The "STUDENT SERVICES" menu is circled in yellow and includes links for 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 is a section titled "STUDENT SERVICES" with a photo of a student and a counselor. The text below the photo reads: "College life promises opportunities and challenges. For all they face at every stage, Mercer students additionally can expect an extensive support system. Assistance, guidance, and encouragement contribute to personal, academic, social, and career well-being and growth." At the bottom, there is a section titled "The Division Of Student Affairs Supports MCCC Students" with a list of services: 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.
 - iPhone users – download Google Chrome and use this browser to access your student email.



@MercerCollege
@MCCC_TACS



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???

