

EARLY COLLEGE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN CAN I APPLY TO THE EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM?

Students apply to the Early College program in the fall of their sophomore (10th grade) year.

Information sessions are scheduled in the fall so students and parents can learn about the program, options available, and ask questions to MCPS and Montgomery College (MC) staff about the program. See the schedule of sessions and recorded past sessions [HERE](#)

I'M A JUNIOR (11TH GRADER) IN HIGH SCHOOL. CAN I APPLY TO THE PROGRAM?

Students apply to the Early College program in the fall of their sophomore (10th grade) year. While Juniors and Seniors cannot apply to the Early College program, they can take advantage of other dual enrollment opportunities through the MC and MCPS partnership. Information about those opportunities can be found on the MCPS Dual Enrollment website [HERE](#)

I AM APPLYING TO THE EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM, BUT I HAVEN'T TAKEN MY TECH CREDIT (OR ANOTHER REQUIRED COURSE FOR MCPS GRADUATION). WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Students accepted into the Early College program will take all their high school graduation requirements through the program. MC Early College Coordinators will work with the student's home high school counselor to determine what courses may need to be taken and work them into the Early College program to complete all high school graduation requirements.

I'VE REVIEWED THE EARLY COLLEGE DEGREE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE, BUT NONE ARE OF INTEREST TO ME. CAN I WORK TOWARD A DIFFERENT DEGREE?

The Early College program is designed to support students toward a specific degree at the end of their senior year in high school. Students interested in degree options not offered through the program, can participate in other dual enrollment opportunities including Jump Start to College. Information on that and other dual enrollment opportunities can be found on the MCPS Dual Enrollment website [HERE](#)

HOW DO I KNOW WHICH COURSES I WILL BE TAKING FOR MY MC DEGREE?

Your Early College Coordinator will create your individualized academic plan based on the course requirements found on your degree program pathway as well as your remaining MCPS high school diploma requirements. You will meet with your Early College Coordinator at least once a semester to review your plan and discuss your future course enrollments.

WHEN DO I REGISTER MYSELF FOR MY CLASSES?

There are administrative holds placed on your account preventing you from registration. Your Early College Coordinator will register you for your courses throughout the time you are in Early College Program

HOW AND WHEN DO I GET MY BOOKS FOR CLASSES?

Textbooks will be mailed to Early College students for summer and fall 2020 courses.

DO I HAVE TO REGISTER FOR THE EARLY COLLEGE SUMMER TRANSITION PROGRAM?

No, you do not have to register for the Early College Summer Transition program. There is no charge for this program.

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR MY CLASSES?

Students must pay their balance - which in most cases is only the student fees - prior to the first day of classes. Payment may be made online with a credit card, by mailing a check, or in person at the campus Cashiers Office (if open). Please go to the following link to learn more about making a payment:

<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/paying-for-college/payments/index.html>

WHAT PART OF MY MC COURSE CHARGES DO I PAY?

The tuition is covered by MCPS and MC. Your required Instructional materials are paid by MCPS. Students are responsible for paying all Board of Trustees approved fees for each semester. Students who are FARMS eligible will have their fees paid by MCPS.

CAN I COMPLETE A FAFSA AND APPLY FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID TO COVER THE COST OF FEES?

Early College students are not eligible for State and federal financial aid. Students who are not FARMS eligible may qualify for the MC Dual Enrollment High School Grant. Please go to the following link to obtain information on the MC High School Grant: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/high-school-students/dual-enrollment/tuition-fees-and-financial-assistance.html#high-school-grant>

I AM A FARMS STUDENT. WILL I BE ABLE TO ACCESS BREAKFAST/LUNCH DURING THIS PERIOD OF REMOTE WORK?

Reach out to your MCPS High School counselor to confirm (if and when MCPS will be providing breakfast/lunch).

I AM APPLYING FOR A PROGRAM THAT REQUIRES I TAKE AND PASS PRECALCULUS. HOW WILL I TAKE THAT COURSE IF I AM CURRENTLY NOT ENROLLED IN IT AS A 10TH GRADER?

Students accepted into a pre-calculus-based degree program within the Early College program will be required to register for the summer online MCPS pre-calculus course. Students needing this requirement once accepted into the program will be informed by MCPS of the dates of the course and registration procedures prior to the start of the program. Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher in both the A and B parts of the MCPS pre-calculus course.

DOES THE PROGRAM PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION?

MC students can use the Montgomery County Ride On bus service with their student photo ID and current term registration sticker as well as having access to the MC inter-campus shuttle system. MCPS does not provide bus service.

I AM THE PARENT OF A STUDENT IN THE EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM, HOW OFTEN WILL I HEAR FROM THE EARLY COLLEGE COORDINATOR?

As a college student, it is the responsibility of the student to communicate with their parents/guardians regarding Early College business. The Early College Coordinators will reach out to parents in a case by case manner if absolutely necessary.

During the summer Early College Transition program, we will discuss Family Education Privacy and Rights Act (FERPA) and Early College FERPA form that needs to be signed & submitted.

I AM HAVING TROUBLE ACCESSING MY MONTGOMERY COLLEGE ACCOUNT. WHAT DO I DO?

The student must contact Raptor Central via email (raptorcentral@montgomerycollege.edu) or phone (240) 567-5000. They will be able to best assist you.

I AM IN A MEDICAL CAREER PROGRAM OR ANOTHER SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM AT MY HIGH SCHOOL. CAN I CONTINUE THIS PROGRAM WHILE ATTENDING MONTGOMERY COLLEGE?

Unfortunately, no. If you join the Early College Program, you will complete all your academic courses at Montgomery College. You will have the chance to take MC elective courses (at your own expense) that interest you.

WHAT HARDWARE/SOFTWARE DO I NEED WHILE I AM IN THE EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM?

At minimum, you'll need:

- Software:
 - Microsoft Office Suite (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc.) & Zoom. You can download the apps, but it is not necessary because they are also web based programs as well;
 - Individual professors may require additional software, but if so, it will be described in the course syllabus.
- Hardware:
 - Wi-Fi access;
 - A laptop and/or desktop computer with built-in audio;
 - A web camera with microphone.

I DON'T HAVE A RELIABLE LAPTOP/DESKTOP COMPUTER AT HOME. DOES MC OR MCPS PROVIDE THIS FOR ME?

Reach out to your High School Counselor and/or Early College Coordinator regarding this matter.

CAN I PARTICIPATE IN HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, CLUBS AND ATHLETICS? MC STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS TEAM?

Students can participate in after-school activities and athletics as well as attend high school events. Students should consider balancing the demands of their college schedule with those of participating in high school activities. Early College students can participate in all college clubs and activities with the exception of college athletic teams.

HOW DO I MAINTAIN MY STATUS AS AN EARLY COLLEGE STUDENT?

Students are expected to earn grades of "C" or higher in their college courses and abide by the Montgomery College Student Code of Conduct and the Early College Program Student Regulations.