

Getting Started at College

Sources of Help

College Catalog

Student Handbook

Bulletin of Classes

Student Support Services

Tutoring

Counseling

Disability Services (physical or learning disabilities)

Student Support Services (Trio Grant) (to qualify, you must have academic need and meet at least one requirement: your parents didn't graduate from a 4-year college, physical or learning disability, or financial need)

Academic Advisor

Get to know your advisor well. Develop a semester-by-semester plan for graduation so you know what you will be taking in order to cover all requirements for graduation.

Financial Aid Advisor

UTILIZE THESE RESOURCES TO HELP YOU LEARN ABOUT NAVIGATING THROUGH THE COLLEGE PROCESS. READ THE HANDBOOK, CATALOG, AND BULLETIN. ASK QUESTIONS IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING. ASK! ASK! ASK! ASK!

Terminology

Credit Hour: A 3-hour class means you meet 3x per week for 1 hour x 15 weeks (i.e. MWF for 1 hour or TR for 1-½ hours)

Degrees

Associates (64 credit hours)

Art (emphasis on humanities such as art, music, philosophy) – prepares for transfer to a four-year school

Science (emphasis on math and science) – prepares for transfer to a four-year school

Liberal Studies or General Studies (broad liberal arts background) – Prepares for transfer to a four-year school

Applied Science (more technical – classes prepare you to go to work immediately upon graduation)

Bachelors (124 credit hours)

Masters (additional postgraduate hours 36, 48)

Doctoral (additional postgraduate hours)

Grade Point Average: Add points earned and divide by the number of credit hours attempted.

A = 4 pts.

B = 3 pts.

C = 2 pts.

D = 1 pt.

F = 0 pts.

Add/Drop Courses

If you decide to drop a course, be SURE to do it formally, **by the drop dates posted in the Calender section on the 2nd page of the college bulletin** by signing a drop slip and having your advisor sign as well. When dropping courses, be sure to talk to an advisor about possible consequences, such as losing financial aid, losing athletic or scholarship eligibility.

Steps to Enroll

Apply to the college

High school diploma or GED required (you can be finishing these at the time of enrollment, but transcripts or scores must be sent to the college upon completion of the work.)

Apply for financial aid (paper and on-line applications available)

Pell Grant
Scholarship
Work Study
Student Loan
Payment Plan

Placement Testing (determines which level of classes you will start in for math, writing and reading.)

Most colleges use your scores from one of the following tests to determine placement.

ACT
SAT
ASSET (free)
ACCUPLACER (free)

Meet with an advisor to design a schedule

Full time – 12 hours or more (15-16 credit hours per semester is an average load)
Part time – less than 12 hours
(You can still receive financial aid for part-time enrollment - the amount will be prorated.)

Apply for Housing

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Skipping class – the best predictor of success in college is regular class attendance
- Not getting help – many students wait too late to get tutoring or advising help.
- Time mismanagement – you may have more free time in college than you did in high school. Plan definite study times daily so that you don't get into procrastination trouble! Use the free hours in-between classes to study.
- Missing due dates, dates to drop classes, or other important deadlines
- Living with test anxiety – Don't suffer with this! Attend seminars on eliminating test anxiety or see the college counselor for help.
- Not working with your advisor.
- Not realizing that ultimately it is your responsibility (not your advisor's) to be sure you have the classes and other requirements you need to graduate.