

COUNSELING CONNECTIONS



MISSION COLLEGE Counseling/Matriculation/Student Success

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Mission College Financial Aid Update

by Kathy Fitzgerald, Financial Aid / Outreach Advisor

What's new in Financial Aid? Faces. We have many new faces in our office. Lucia Gonzales just celebrated her one year anniversary with us; Marie Rancap came back in the summer from almost one year's maternity leave – she had twins! Amber de los Reyes just became a Grandma. Rene Dwyer joined us in April and last but not least, our Director of Financial Aid, Rita Grogan, is getting ready to celebrate her one year anniversary in January.

With new faces come new ideas. We have been trying to streamline some of our processes and hope that we are making it easier and a little more 'user friendly' for students to apply for aid.

Students are being encouraged to apply via the internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Need help completing the application? We can help. Just come by the Financial Aid Office and we can sometimes help at the moment or schedule an appointment for one-on-one assistance. Schools receive the paper version of the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet. This form typically follows the format that is used for the online version but allows students to gather and complete the required information before actually doing it online. After completing FAFSA on the Web (FOTW), applicants have the option to apply their PIN code to sign electronically or download the signature page and mail that. You may apply for your PIN at www.pin.ed.gov. If parent information is provided on your

FAFSA, one parent must sign your FAFSA, which also means one parent should apply for a PIN when planning to sign electronically.

Students can still obtain a paper FAFSA by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center

(FSAIC) toll-free at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). Students may request up to three copies of the paper application and should receive their FAFSAs in 3 to 7 business days. There is also a PDF version of the FAFSA that students can submit for processing. The PDF version of the FAFSA is available for download on various Federal Student Aid web sites, such as www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov.

Students can access the PDF, complete the form on the computer or by hand, and mail it to the address provided for processing.

January 1, 2009 is the time to renew or apply for Financial Aid for the 2009-2010 academic year. Those who have their Federal Application (FAFSA) electronically submitted or postmarked by March 2nd will receive priority processing. You may apply after March 2nd, but your application will be processed after the priority applications.

It Isn't Too Late

We are still accepting applications for the 2008-2009 academic year, for BOG Fee Waivers and Federal financial aid. Students are encouraged to drop by the Financial Aid Office (E1-401) for information and applications.

Scholarships

Our Mission College Scholarship Application packet for 2009-2010 will be available for download by December 23rd. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to be considered for one or more scholarships. We have dozens of donors and scholarships and the eligibility criterion varies, so it's not all about the 4.0 GPA or being low income. International students are welcome to apply as well. Go to our website to access the application packet.

Financial Aid Web Site

To view this site, go online to the Mission College website (www.missioncollege.org) and choose a "Quick Link" from the top: "Financial Aid". At our Financial Aid web site look for links to different financial aid pages giving information, forms and applications.

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The Pathway To Success For Students

Students, are you currently enrolled or have you taken the Assessment Test placing you into any of the following classes: English 905, English 108A, Math 900, 902, 903, Reading 960, 961, any ESL classes?

If your answer is “YES,” you must check out the resources available especially for you! Our end goal is to ensure that you are successful in these basic skills classes so that you can excel in your college-level coursework to earn an Associate Degree and/or transfer to the university! Follow this flowchart to see how your success is supported throughout your time at Mission College:

Step 1

Take the English, Reading and Math Assessment Test at the Assessment Center Room E1-101

Step 2

Sign up for the Orientation class (COUNS A) to create an educational plan with a counselor and learn the in’s and out’s of Mission College! Come to room E1-301 for more info.

Quick Tip for Success

Talk to your instructor if you are having difficulties in the class. Do not wait too long to ask for help!



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Mission College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or handicap in educational programs, activities or employment.

Step 3

Sign up for the recommended classes and begin learning! You may run into questions and concerns while taking the classes.

Here are some common ones:

Where do I go if ...

1. ...I need help with math?
2. ...I need help paying for tuition, fees and textbooks?
3. ...I want to practice speaking English outside of class?
4. ...I am having personal issues at home?
5. ...I am having health problems?
6. ...I need help with grammar/writing?
7. ...I need stress reduction advice?
8. ...I have math anxiety?
9. ...I am falling behind on reading for my classes?
10. ...I don't have time to study and do my homework?
11. ...I have a learning disability?
12. ...I need childcare assistance?
13. ...I need tutoring in a specific topic?
14. ...I need to learn how to do research for a class project?

The Answer is...

1. Math Learning Center, S2-401, 855-5320
2. Financial Aid Office, E1-401, 855-5065
3. ESL Lab (ASD, S2-201) 855-5085
4. Counseling Center, E1-301, 855-5030 and Student Health Services, W1-301, 855-5140
5. Student Health Services, W1-301, 855-5140
6. Writing Center (ASD, S2-201) 855-5085 and Tutoring Center, 2nd floor of Campus Center, 855-5371
7. Counseling Center and Student Health Services
8. Enroll in Counseling 53 and/or come to the Counseling Center
9. Reading Lab (ASD, S2-201) 855-5085 and Tutoring Center, 2nd floor of Campus Center, 855-5371
10. Counseling Center (make an appointment to discuss time management techniques)
11. DISC (Disability Instructional Support Center), S2-201, 855-5085
12. Child Development Center, between Campus Center and Parking Lot B, 855-5173
13. Tutoring Center (Tech Center, TC-2) 2nd floor of Campus Center, 855-5371
14. Enroll in Library 10; visit the Library, between Main Building and Parking Lot A, 855-5151

**ALL THESE SERVICES ARE
FREE FOR
MISSION COLLEGE
STUDENTS!**

Submitted by Mission College's Basic Skills Initiative Coordinators

Financial Aid Update *continued from page 1*

Features include:

- a link to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) website
- a link to the 2009-2010 Scholarship Application
- a link to the current Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy
- a link to the Request for Review of SAP Status (Appeal) Form
- a link to the Review of Financial Need Status Forms
- a link to the Review of Dependency Status Forms
- a link to our Financial Aid Tutorial

This site will be updated as new information becomes available.

Federal Stafford Loans

We have begun distributing Federal Stafford Loan application packets for the 2008-2009 academic school year. A student will not be able to apply for a loan until (s)he has received an award letter. If you haven't received an award letter, check with the Financial Aid Office for requirements. Student ID numbers will be listed on the Financial Aid Office window when loan checks have been received by our office. As soon as you see your number posted, come to our office with picture ID to pick up your check.

Ongoing

In order to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress, remember to comply with all regulations learned in your SAP Session. Dropping more than 1/3 of your units will cause you to be placed on Financial Aid Probation or Disqualification, and may require you to repay a portion of your financial aid. If you feel you need a review of the financial aid rules and regulations, feel free to access the SAP policy online at our web site.

The Learning Express

By Pat Hernas, Librarian

Have you ever been in the middle of tripling a recipe and suddenly discovered you really needed to brush-up on multiplying fractions? Looking for a new job that better supports your schooling efforts and need to update your resume and cover letter? Nervous about taking the California Real Estate Exam? Can't find the paragraph formatting menu in the 2007 version of MS Word?

LearningExpress is the database for you!!

Thanks to Basic Skills Initiative funding, the Mission College Library is able to offer students, faculty, and staff access to the LearningExpress database. This database offers FREE online practice tests as well as self-paced skill building courses.

All practice tests are based on the real exams—giving students the actual experience they will have during the exams. If the real exam is timed, the practice test offered by the LearningExpress is also timed. Learn how to pace yourself through the test and not spend too much time on any one section. Take tests over and over again to increase confidence.

LearningExpress includes basic skills building in reading, math, vocabulary and spelling, TOEFL exam preparation, instant-scoring adult writing essays, resume and interviewing success skills, job search, business writing skills, and practice tests for firefighters, paramedics, real estate brokers, and many more!

In addition, there are easy to use, self paced computer skills courses. Approved by the Microsoft Office Specialist Program, these include Microsoft Word 2007, Excel 2007, PowerPoint 2007, Outlook 2007, Access 2007 and more.

Access to the LearningExpress database is available from the Mission College Library website:

http://www.missioncollege.org/lib/dbs_testing.html

The first time you access the database you will set up a user account. This account will allow you to identify which skills and/or practice tests you want to take. Courses and tests can be "paused" and restarted as needed. Check it out—it will help you remember how to add 1/3 cup and 5/8 cup to get that perfect recipe!

LEARNINGEXPRESS



ESL Department Launches New Podcast Channel

by Myo Myint, ESL Instructor

The ESL department is very excited to announce the launching of a new podcast channel, Celebrating ESL Students. As many of you know already, from time to time I have written about some of the outstanding students we have in our ESL program at Mission. Now, you will have the opportunity to listen to the stories of students like Vanessa Vo, an outstanding musician from Vietnam, Zhen Yong, a successful painter from Hong Kong or Yu Yu Zhao, an opera singer from China.

ESL students are often misunderstood because they lack the language skills to express themselves clearly in English, but many of them are highly accomplished in many fields as these tales will attest. Our purpose in launching the new podcast channel is two-fold. First and foremost, we wish to celebrate the success of these individuals in the hope of inspiring other ESL students and motivating them to try even harder to achieve their goals. Secondly, we wish to foster a better understanding and appreciation of ESL students among the Mission Community by highlighting the achievements of our students.

The first episode is already up and running and it features Zhen Yong, a truly outstanding portrait artist from Hong Kong. Zhen hopes to take art classes at Mission next semester and is at present in my ESL 930 Grammar class where he is doing exceptionally well. You can listen to his story on our channel and find out where you should go to buy his paintings, many of which have been sold to private collectors from Norway, The Netherlands and Singapore just to name a few.

The url for our channel is www.ccone.org/donna/MYO/myo.xml. I should point out here that this is a temporary site. I am in touch with our webmaster, Ken Oda, who has promised a more permanent site for our files and I will keep you informed of any new developments.

In the mean time, please subscribe to our channel and listen to the story of Zhen Yong. I hope that like me, you will be amazed by what this unassuming artist has achieved and gain a deeper respect for our ESL students, many of whom have indeed already conquered the world even as they try to master the English language.

ROUND MIDNIGHT

By David Piper, Counselor / Instructor

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Round 1: | Lots of fun, ought to go home 'fo the morning come. |
| Round 2: | Brand new, party don't start 'til they get past you. |
| Round 3: | Morning in the wee, don't leave now, all we drinking is tea. |
| Round 4: | A body at the door, music too loud, neighbors in an uproar. |
| Round 5: | Trying to keep it live, everybody fading, party in a nose dive. |
| Round 6: | Need me a fix. You say got nothing but regular old mix. |
| Round 7: | I know it ain't the Reverend. Collar turned around, dice show eleven. |
| Round 8: | Got to work late. Boss in the doorway looking real straight. |
| Round 9: | Not feeling real fine. Staying out late must be outta my mind. |
| Round 10: | Got a call from a friend, talking real loud 'bout doing it all again. |



Is your major...

**Engineering, Computer Science,
Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics,
BSNursing, Kinesiology or a related major?**



**Do you plan to transfer and
earn a bachelors degree (BA/BS)?**

**Are you a US Citizen or
Permanent Resident?**



**Do neither you nor your parents
have a bachelors degree?**

**Would you like to go on field trips,
participate in cool activities,
and learn more about your major?**

If you answered yes, then check out MESA!

APPLY TODAY!

Main Building, room C1-118, (408) 855-5482

mesa@wvm.edu

www.missioncollege.org/student_services/mesa

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9-6pm, Wednesday 9-7pm, Friday 9-2pm