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Issue 43

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**MCC Title IV Code
002872**

**MCC TAP Code
2180**

**Brighton Campus
Financial Aid Office
Monday – Friday
8:45 A.M. – 4:45 P.M.**

**Phone
585-292-2050
Fax
585-292-3840**

**Damon City Campus
Registration & Financial
Services
Monday-Friday
9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**Phone
585-262-1670
Fax
585-262-1733**

**MCC Financial Aid Web Page
monroecc.edu/depts/finaid/**

**E-mail
financialaid@monroecc.edu**

**WITHDRAWALS, TUITION LIABILITY &, THE IMPACT ON
YOUR FINANCIAL AID**

Anytime a student does a course withdrawal, it could impact their financial aid in their current semester and in future semesters. In some cases, withdrawals can result in students having liability to the college. It is strongly recommended for students who are contemplating a course withdrawal to check with the MCC Financial Aid Office to evaluate its effect on their financial aid.

Complete withdrawals during a semester will have an impact on a student's financial aid. Students who do a complete withdrawal will have their financial aid adjusted according to the *Federal Return of Title IV Refunds Policy*. This may result in a student owing a balance to MCC.

In addition, the withdrawal from one or more courses during a semester or academic year, may impact a student's eligibility for both Federal and State Aid program for future semesters if the student does not meet *Satisfactory Academic Progress Guidelines*, required by the Federal and State government.

For more information on *Satisfactory Academic Progress Guidelines* and *Federal Return of Title IV Refunds Policy*, students should refer to pages 35 - 38 of the **2010/2011 MCC Catalog & Student Handbook**.

CHANGES TO THE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

With the passage of the 2010-11 NYS budget, the governor and legislature made several significant changes to the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

1. All annual TAP awards have been reduced by \$97.00. Fall awards will be reduced by \$37.50 and spring awards will be reduced by 49.50. For example, the minimum annual TAP award of \$500 for the 2009-10 award year is now reduced to \$413 for the 2010-11 award year.
2. Private pension and annuity income excluded on student's and parent's NYS tax returns must now be reported as income to determine eligibility for TAP.
3. Students who are currently in default on any federal student loan are not eligible to receive TAP or any other state-administered financial aid program.
4. New Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards have been established for students who are NOT enrolled in a remedial program of study. *See following article.*

FINANCIAL LITERACY

The MCC Financial Aid Office has recently begun a new initiative to promote Financial Literacy at Monroe Community College.

The first step in this endeavor has been to create a new section of the MCC Financial Aid Office web page, devoted to Financial Literacy and its related topics.

Financial Literacy is defined as a person's understanding of their own personal financial standing and their knowledge of money management skills to foster a strong personal financial foundation.

The web page includes information of basic Financial Literacy topics, such as budgeting, credit cards, and student borrowing.

Additionally, the web site also contains links to articles on Financial Literacy issues, as well as Financial Literacy resources, such as Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Rochester and Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) Program.

If you have not done so already, please visit the Financial Literacy section of the MCC Financial Aid web page. It can be accessed from the MCC Financial Aid web page by selecting "Financial Literacy" from the "Resources" drop down menu at the top of the page.

LOAN ENTRANCE COUNSELING

Students who are borrowing a student loan at MCC for the first time are required to complete a Loan Entrance Counseling Session. To meet this requirement, students must complete the loan entrance counseling session online at www.monroecc.edu/depts/finaid. From there click on the "Loan Entrance Counseling" and begin the process.

Once the student completes the online Loan Entrance Counseling, they must print the confirmation form at the end and submit it to the MCC Financial Aid Office.

Students who do not complete the Loan Entrance Counseling, will not have their Direct Loans processed.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DEFAULT ON A FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN?

Failure to repay a loan according to the terms agreed to when you signed a promissory note. For loans received through the Federal Direct Loan Programs, a student is considered to be in default when they fail to make a payment for 270 days.

The consequences of default are severe. Your school, the lender or agency that holds your loan, the state, and the federal government may all take action to recover the money, including notifying national credit bureaus of your default. This affects your credit rating for a long time. For example, you might find it very difficult to borrow money from a bank to buy a car or a house.

In addition, the Internal Revenue Service can withhold your U.S. individual income tax refund and apply it to the amount you owe, or the agency holding your loan might ask your employer to deduct payments from your paycheck. Also, you're liable for loan collection expenses.

Students who are in default on their federal student loans are ineligible to receive federal student aid (Pell Grant, SEOG, FWS, ACG, & Student Loans) until the default status is cleared. In many cases, default can be avoided by submitting a request for a deferment or forbearance. To clear a defaulted status, the student should contact their loan servicer to determine what steps can be taken.

REMINDER: The tuition due date for the 2011 Spring semester is DECEMBER 15TH, 2010

NEW SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS STANDARDS FOR TAP RECIPIENTS

Effective for the 2010-11 academic year, New York State has established a new set of Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards for students who receive NYS TAP awards. These standards are used to determine if a student may continue to receive financial assistance through the Tuition Assistance Program for future semesters.

The standards include a qualitative component, measured by the student's GPA, as well as a quantitative component, measured by the number of credit hours earned towards the student's degree

Below are two charts, the first chart summarizes the previous standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress and the second chart summarizes the NEW Satisfactory Academic Progress standards.

Students who are considered to be in remedial programs, such as EOP or enrolling in 9 or more credits of remedial coursework during their first year of enrollment, will be allowed to follow the previous SAP standards.

Previous Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards						
Before Being Certified for This Payment	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
A Student Must Have Accrued at Least This Many Credits	0	6	9	18	30	45
With at Least This Grade Point Average	0	0.5	0.75	1.3	2.0	2.0

NEW Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards						
Before Being Certified for This Payment	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
A Student Must Have Accrued at Least This Many Credits	0	6	15	30	45	60
With at Least This Grade Point Average	0	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0

Under the previous Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards, a student expecting to receive their 4th payment of TAP, the student must have earned 18 credit hours and have a minimum GPA of a 1.3. Under the new Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards a student expecting to receive their 4th payment of TAP, the student must have earned 30 credit hours and have a minimum GPA of a 2.0.

REMINDERS FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who are transferring to MCC from another institution for the 2011 Spring semester and wish to receive financial aid, should do the following:

1. Add MCC's Federal School Code (002872) to your FAFSA. Students can do this online* at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling the federal processor at 1-800-433-3243.
2. Change the school code on their TAP Application to MCC (2180) for the 2010 Spring semester. This can be done online at www.hesc.com.
3. Complete the Loan Entrance Counseling. This must be done even if you had completed a loan entrance counseling session at your prior institution. Loan Entrance Counseling can be done online at www.monroec.edu/depts/finaid.

4. Submit any and all documents requested by the MCC Financial Aid Office.

*Making corrections to your FAFSA online requires the use of a federal PIN. PINs were sent to all aid applicants by the Department of Education. If you lost or did not receive a PIN, you can request one online at www.pin.ed.gov.

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In addition, the Internal Revenue Service can withhold your U.S. individual income tax refund and apply it to the amount you owe, or the agency holding your loan might ask your employer to deduct payments from your paycheck. Also, you're liable for loan collection expenses.

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2. Private pension and annuity income excluded on student's and parent's NYS tax returns must now be reported as income to determine eligibility for TAP.
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