

Student Financial Services Newsletter

SPRING 2024

TUITION EQUITY PROGRAM FOR NON-U.S. CITIZENS

Massachusetts has now expanded eligibility for in-state tuition to students who have attended Massachusetts high schools for at least three years and earned a Massachusetts high school diploma.

This expansion will ensure that many non-U.S. citizens are able to access in-state tuition and state financial aid programs. Students interested in this program must apply by first completing a *Tuition Equity Eligibility Form and Affidavit for High School Completers*. This form can be found on Mass.edu/TuitionEquity.

For more information on the Tuition Equity Law, program requirements, and frequently asked questions, please visit Mass.edu/TuitionEquity.

Student Financial Services is available to answer any questions regarding this new program. Contact FinAid@mcla.edu or call 413-662-5219.

DON'T WAIT - 2024-2025 FAFSA NOW AVAILABLE!

Have you applied for aid for next year? **The new, simplified FAFSA is now available!** Complete the FAFSA today on StudentAid.gov.

On December 30, the Department of Education soft-launched the new, simplified FAFSA form. This streamlined application will make applying for aid easier than ever.



Don't wait to apply for aid. **The priority deadline for financial aid is March 1, 2024.** Students can complete their FAFSA after this date, but funds are awarded on a first come, first serve basis.

FAFSA assistance is available! Schedule a one-on-one appointment at lnk.mcla.edu/fafsahelp or come to one of our upcoming FAFSA nights!

UPCOMING FAFSA HELP NIGHTS

- **February 5:** 5 pm – 7 pm in Murdock 108
- **February 7:** 5 pm – 7 pm in Murdock 108
- **February 8:** 5 pm – 7 pm in Bowman 205 (*Laptops Required*)
- **February 13:** 5 pm – 7 pm in Murdock 108

SAVE THE DATE!

- **January 25** – Add/drop ends
- **February 6** – Student loans disburse
- **March 1** – Priority deadline for FAFSA
- **March 1** – Summer financial aid application opens
- **March 1** – Returning student scholarships become available
- **March 5** – Grant aid disburses
- **March 11-15** – Spring Break
- **March 28** – End of “W” period
- **April 1** – Returning student scholarship deadline
- **May 1** – Summer bills are generated
- **May 15** – Summer bills are due

REFUNDS FOR SPRING 2024

If your financial aid or payments exceed your charges, you will be issued a refund. Refunds occur throughout the semester as funds disburse. MCLA will deliver most student refunds electronically through BankMobile Disbursements. **Not enrolled in BankMobile?** It's not too late! Learn more at lnk.mcla.edu/refunds.

Most student refunds will be disbursed in mid-March. Some refunds may disburse before or after, or in partial amounts.

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

If you are graduating/leaving MCLA and are a federal student loan borrower, your loans will be entering repayment. You will be contacted by the Office of Student Financial Services in April about completing online Exit Counseling.

For more loan repayment information, visit lnk.mcla.edu/managedebt.

SUMMER FINANCIAL AID

Taking summer classes to catch up or get ahead? You may qualify for summer financial aid. The application will be available on **March 1** at MCLA.edu/Aid

WITHDRAWING FROM MCLA?

Are you thinking of withdrawing fully or taking a leave of absence mid-semester? Prorated refunds occur up until the 60% point of the semester. The final date for proration is **3/17/2024**. (Prorations will not occur after this date and this deadline is separate from the course withdrawal deadline.) Our college refund policy is at lnk.mcla.edu/refundpolicy.

Are you withdrawing from only one class? Withdrawing from one class will give you a grade of a 'W' and no refund occurs. Please check with Student Financial Services to see how this may affect your academic progress for financial aid.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\)](#) Standard is used for continued financial aid eligibility. *Commitment Scholarship recipients must also be making satisfactory academic progress to renew their award.* This standard factors in GPA and credits earned. To learn more about SAP and the requirements, visit lnk.mcla.edu/sap.



RETURNING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, MCLA is proud to offer a variety of scholarships to returning students through the MCLA Foundation. There will be a wide range of scholarships for different academic and extracurricular interests.

The scholarship process will be live on March 1 through April 1 at mcla.awardspring.com. All students are encouraged to apply!

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS RESOURCES

While the MCLA scholarship process will not begin until March 1, it's not too early to start applying for other outside scholarships for next year. Check out a list of scholarships and our scholarship listing database at lnk.mcla.edu/scholarships.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

If you have any questions about billing and financial aid, Student Financial Services is here for you! Call us, email us, or just stop by the office. We are here for you every step of the way!

Student Financial Services

Eldridge Hall, Lobby Level
M-F: 8:30 AM – 4:45 PM

FinAid@mcla.edu
StudentAccounts@mcla.edu
413-662-5219
413-662-5230
MCLA.edu/Aid
MCLA.edu/StudentAccounts

ANNUAL LOAN BORROWING NOTICES

Each year, we send notices to students who have borrowed loans while at MCLA to notify them of their cumulative balances. **These notices are sent to encourage financial literacy.** You don't need to necessarily do anything with it, but we send them so you are mindful of your borrowing.

Loan borrowing notices will be sent to students in March.

