

Student Financial Services Newsletter

FALL 2023

FAFSA CHANGES FOR NEXT YEAR

While the 2023-2024 academic year has just begun, the financial aid process for next year is just around the corner! Due to new federal guidelines, the FAFSA will be changing for the 2024-2025 academic year.

This new, simplified FAFSA will be available in late December! While many of these FAFSA changes are behind the scenes, the process will be more streamlined for students with less questions to answer and automatic transfers of IRS data.

When the new FAFSA becomes available, the Office of Student Financial Services will be on standby to help you! Keep an eye on your MCLA email so you know when the FAFSA is live. One-on-one help sessions with a staff member will be offered in January.

GOOD TO KNOW CAMPUS RESOURCES

The Student Financial Services Office isn't the only department to provide aid to students. Check out these two great campus resources!

Community Food Pantry - The food pantry is committed to eliminating food insecurity among college students. Located on the 2nd Floor of the Amsler Campus Center in Room 206, the pantry is accessible daily from 7:00 am to 12:00 am. No appointments required!

Personal Hygiene Pantry - Health Services has started a Personal Hygiene Pantry that provides the necessities of life that most people take for granted such as shampoo, deodorant, band aids, toothpaste, and other personal care hygiene products. If you find yourself in need of personal care items, stop by the MountainOne Student Wellness Center between 8 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm during the week.



SAVE THE DATE!

- **September 14** - Add/drop period ends.
- **September 26** - Loans disburse.
- **October 24** - Grants disburse.
- **November 16** - End of Withdrawal ("W") period.
- **November 20** - Spring 2024 eBilled are sent.
- **November 22-24** - Thanksgiving break.
- **December 8** - Last day of classes.
- **December 12-15** - Finals period.
- **December 20** - Spring 2024 bills are due.
- **Late December** - 2024-2025 FAFSA becomes available.

REFUNDS FOR FALL 2023

If your financial aid or payments exceed your charges, you will be issued a refund. Refunds occur throughout the semester as funds disburse. In most cases, MCLA will deliver student refunds electronically through BankMobile Disbursements. Students will be notified when a refund is coming or if there is money waiting. **Not enrolled in BankMobile?** It's not too late! Learn more at lnk.mcla.edu/refunds or contact Student Financial Services!

STUDY AWAY FOR SPRING 2024

Studying away or abroad can provide life-changing experiences! If you are interested in learning more, visit lnk.mcla.edu/studyaway or contact Academic Affairs for details. If you decide on a program, contact Student Financial Services for financial aid options!

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

While the MCLA scholarship process will not begin until March 2024, it's not too early to start applying for outside scholarships. Check out a list of scholarships and our scholarship listing book at lnk.mcla.edu/scholarships.

WITHDRAWING FROM MCLA?

Are you thinking of withdrawing fully or taking a leave of absence from the college mid-semester? Prorated refunds occur up until the 60% point of the semester. The final date for proration is **11/4/2023**. (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 progress.

COLLEGE WORK STUDY

If you were awarded Work Study as part of your financial aid offer, make sure you are cleared with Human Resources before you start working! Visit lnk.mcla.edu/studentwork. If you need help finding a position, stop by Human Resources on the top floor of Eldridge Hall. Hired students cleared to work can expect to receive their paycheck bi-weekly via direct deposit.

TRAILBLAZER TUTOR CENTER

Academic Advising and Support offers tutoring to enrolled students through the Trailblazer Tutor Program, located in Mark Hopkins, Room 108. Tutoring services are free and available to all MCLA students!

Students interested may sign up for a tutor or apply to be a tutor by visiting lnk.mcla.edu/tutor.

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.

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

SPRING 2024 BILLS

Student Financial Services will bill for the Spring 2024 semester on November 20. Students can expect to receive an eBill on or around that date. For a billing overview and a checklist, visit lnk.mcla.edu/billing.

Want to plan ahead? Estimates can be prepared upon request by contacting Student Financial Services.

