

# MCLA

## Student Financial Services Newsletter

September 2021

### Attention Commitment Scholarship Recipients

If you are an entering freshman or transfer student for the Fall 2021 semester, you may have received a Commitment Scholarship in your acceptance letter to MCLA. If you did, congratulations! This award is renewable throughout your enrollment as long as you meet the criteria.

Students who received the Commitment Scholarship must earn at least 30 credits per academic year. Additionally, recipients must meet one other requirement that was determined by their high school/transfer GPA.

- Students who entered with a 3.0 or above GPA must maintain a 3.0 GPA.
- Students who entered with a GPA from 2.0 to 2.99 must maintain satisfactory academic progress (more info on the next page of this newsletter)

👁️ Keep an eye on your credits and your grades! Not sure if you're meeting your requirements? Just ask Student Financial Services!

### Financial Aid for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

We hope you are settling into the new academic year! While the fall semester has only just begun, the FAFSA for next academic year will be available on October 1, 2021!

The FAFSA can be completed on [StudentAid.gov](https://StudentAid.gov) and will use 2020 tax information. For an overview on how to apply, visit [link.mcla.edu/fafsa](https://link.mcla.edu/fafsa).



*To assist students in completing the FAFSA, Student Financial Services is offering virtual appointments through Microsoft Teams October 12 through October 15.*

Students or parents can schedule a virtual FAFSA appointment by visiting [link.mcla.edu/fafsa-help](https://link.mcla.edu/fafsa-help). These 30-minute, one-on-one appointments will help you start or complete your FAFSA. (Please note that you must have access to your FSA user IDs and any 2020 student and/or parent tax information.) The priority deadline for funding is January 1, 2022. The sooner you complete your FAFSA, the better! Schedule your FAFSA appointment today and contact us if you have any questions.

### SAVE THE DATE!

- **OCT 1** – 2022-2023 FAFSA opens
- **OCT 12** – Spring 2022 advising period begins
- **OCT 12 – 15** – FAFSA help appointments available
- **OCT 13** – Incomplete coursework deadline for Spring & Summer 2021
- **OCT 13** – Midterm warning notification
- **OCT 27** – Withdrawal from class deadline
- **OCT 31** – 60% point of semester\* (more info on next page of newsletter)
- **OCT 29 – NOV 16** – Spring 2022 pre-registration period
- **NOV 22** - Spring 2022 bills sent

### REFUNDS FROM FINANCIAL AID

If you have a credit balance after all your financial aid has been applied, you will be issued a refund. Some student refunds have already begun and will continue throughout the semester as different aid disburses. The majority of refunds for undergraduate students should be made available in mid-October. (Please keep in mind aid programs and outside assistance may have different disbursement dates.)

**Want to apply your refund to a future semester?** Inquire at Student Financial Services.

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## STUDY AWAY FOR SPRING 2022 ✈️

Thinking of studying away/abroad for the Spring 2022 semester? Visit [lnk.mcla.edu/studyaway](http://lnk.mcla.edu/studyaway) for more info. To discuss the financial aspect, email [C.Alibozek@mcla.edu](mailto:C.Alibozek@mcla.edu).

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING 💰

Keep your eyes out on your student email later this fall for an important announcement regarding additional pandemic relief funding.

## COLLEGE REFUND POLICY\*

Are you thinking of withdrawing fully or taking a leave of absence from the college mid-semester? Pro-rated refunds occur up until the 60% point of the semester. The final date for pro-ration is **October 31, 2021**. (Pro-rations will not occur after this date and this deadline is separate from the course withdrawal deadline.) Read more about our federal college refund policy at [lnk.mcla.edu/refundpolicy](http://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.

## TEMPORARY EMERGENCY BROADBAND RELIEF PROGRAM

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an FCC program designed to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic. This program can provide a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households.

For more information or to apply, visit [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](http://GetEmergencyBroadband.org).

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## SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE APPEAL FOR AID

If you or your family are directly impacted by the pandemic or other loss of income, you are able to complete a Special Circumstance Appeal for Financial Aid. Impact includes, but is not limited to, loss of employment, reduced income, and/or changes in expenses due to COVID-19.

If you believe this applies to you, complete the Special Circumstance Form at [lnk.mcla.edu/specialcirc](http://lnk.mcla.edu/specialcirc).

## 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](http://lnk.mcla.edu/sap).

## EXPANDED SNAP BENEFITS

In response to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the federal government has expanded college students' access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP benefits (formerly called Food Stamps). The federal government has also boosted the amount of SNAP. For someone who purchases and prepares their food alone, the SNAP benefit is **\$234 per month**. Right now, because of the pandemic, everyone who qualifies for SNAP gets the maximum amount for their household size. Visit [GettingSNAP.org](http://GettingSNAP.org) by Project Bread for more information on how to apply. Project Bread's counselors can tell you if you're eligible.



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## QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

Financial Aid Office  
[FinAid@mcla.edu](mailto:FinAid@mcla.edu)  
413-662-5219  
[mcla.edu/aid](http://mcla.edu/aid)

Student Accounts Office  
[StudentAccounts@mcla.edu](mailto:StudentAccounts@mcla.edu)  
413-662-5230  
[mcla.edu/studentaccounts](http://mcla.edu/studentaccounts)

## SPRING 2022 PRE-REGISTRATION & BILLING

Spring 2022 pre-registration is right around the corner! The advising period begins on October 12. Meet with your advisor early to discuss your spring schedule and to ensure you're on track to graduate! After the Spring 2022 pre-registration period ends, bills will go out for the new semester with a due date in mid-December.