



June 14, 2012

MSCC Sets Mandatory Orientation Sessions for June 26, July 10, Aug. 2

Beginning this summer, all first-time, degree-seeking students at Mid-South Community College will be required to attend one of three New Student Orientation sessions before classes begin on Monday, Aug. 20.

Orientation will be held on June 26 and Aug. 2, 1-5 p.m. both days, and July 10, 5:30-8 p.m. Registration deadlines for the events are June 19, July 3, and July 26. Seating is limited for each session, so students are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible for the one they want to attend.

Students may register online by clicking on the Orientation Sign-In Summer 2012 link on MSCC's home page, www.midsouthcc.edu, or by calling the Learning Success Center at (870) 733-6766. All participants will receive a custom-designed MSCC T-shirt.

Students who think they might need financial assistance to pursue higher education should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before attending NSO. For help completing the form or for questions about assistance, please call the Financial Aid Office at (870) 733-6729 or email finaid@midsouthcc.edu.

"New Student Orientation will provide an involved, in-depth look at what it will be like to be a student at Mid-South Community College," said Jeremy Reece, MSCC Director of Enrollment Services. "The sessions will offer an opportunity for students to meet knowledgeable and helpful representatives from campus organizations, student support offices, and academic areas who will provide valuable information about our institution and the overall college experience."

NSO provides new students at MSCC with an opportunity to meet other students beginning their college experience, to visit with an academic advisor who will assist in course selection for the upcoming semester, and to tour the campus to become familiar with the buildings, services, and surroundings.

All students who have not attended college since graduating from high school or since earning a GED are required to participate. Concurrent high school students (who took college classes while in high school) who have not attended a post-secondary institution since their high school graduation are also required to attend.

“One of the goals of orientation is to give our students a more individualized experience so that they can make connections early and start developing relationships with fellow students, staff, and faculty,” Reece said. “When students step on our campus that first day of class, they will know where important people and important services are located so they can get engaged earlier.”

Reece said students who interact early with fellow members of the college community are more likely to succeed in their coursework and achieve their educational goals.

“An engaged student is a successful student,” Reece pointed out. “‘Engaged’ could mean they are a member of the Greyhounds basketball team, they are a member of Phi Theta Kappa, they participate in tutorial services in the Learning Success Center, they are in Triple S (TRiO Student Support Services), they are working with Career Pathways, or they are involved with the Arkansas Student Education Association.”

“We want students to be connected with one or more groups on campus. If you surround yourself with like-minded peers, there is a higher likelihood that you are going to be successful on campus because you have people who can serve as resources for you. We’re trying to create those kinds of connections before the semester starts.”

To be eligible to participate in New Student Orientation, students must have applied to MSCC and received a letter confirming their acceptance. Other required documents include immunization records, an official high school transcript or GED® certificate, and a copy of placement test scores (ACT, SAT, COMPASS, or ASSET).

Students who do not have ACT scores of 19 or better or who do not have placement test scores must take the COMPASS exam before they can enroll. All first-time, award-seeking college students are required by Arkansas law to complete a placement test before registering for classes.

Students who meet all of the enrollment criteria will work with an advisor or advising team to develop a class schedule for the fall semester.

Transfer students, students who have been readmitted to MSCC, and non-degree seeking students (those students who are just taking classes for personal enrichment or to transfer to another college or university) are not required to attend New Student Orientation, but they may participate by registering for one of the sessions.

For more information on New Student Orientation and/or training and educational opportunities at the college, please call the Admissions Office (870) 733-6728.

A comprehensive, accredited community college, MSCC continues to offer one of the lowest tuition rates in the region. At only \$80 per credit hour for Crittenden County residents, Mid-South is an educational bargain for students seeking one-year certificates, two-year degrees, and transfer courses.