

Student Financial Services Newsletter

FALL 2024

PHASED ROLLOUT FOR 2025-2026 FAFSA

If you will be enrolled in college next year and plan to apply for financial aid, it's not too early to start thinking about the FAFSA!

The Department of Education (ED) has announced that the 2025-2026 FAFSA will begin a "phased rollout" on October 1 to a limited set of students and institutions before becoming widely available on or before December 1.

This phased rollout period is intended to improve testing and reduce errors for students and families.

As always, Student Financial Services will offer FAFSA appointments to students after the form is available to all. If you are notified by ED that you may do your FAFSA early and would like help, please stop by the office for more details!

MEAL PLANS & DINING UPDATES

There are new and exciting changes in Campus Dining this year. While the meal plan structure remains the same this year, the Centennial Room stations are being renamed and restyled.

Additionally, a VICKI (autonomous) cooler arrives in Sullivan Lounge with pre & post workout snacks and beverages. The grab and go options in the POD will also be expanded, with fresh salads, sandwiches, and snacks made daily. Lastly, students in the dining hall will have the option to purchase a to-go container for a small fee.

Are you living on campus? You have been assigned a meal plan based on your residency requirement, but you *may* be able to change it.

Are you a commuter but want a meal plan? Visit Student Financial Services to discuss what options are available to you.

Want to look at the different meal plans? Visit [MCLA.CampusDish.com](https://www.mcla.edu/campusdish).

Changes to your existing meal plan for the fall 2024 semester are permitted until the end of the add/drop period. New meal plans and additional Declining Balance may be purchased anytime during the semester.

SAVE THE DATE!

- **September 4** - Classes begin!
- **September 12** - Add/drop period ends.
- **September 24** - Loans disburse.
- **November 5** - Grants disburse.
- **November 14** - End of Withdrawal ("W") period.
- **November 25** - Spring 2024 eBills are sent.
- **November 27-29** - Thanksgiving break.
- **December 9** - Last day of classes.
- **December 11-16** - Finals period.
- **December 23** - Spring 2024 bills are due.

NEW FEDERAL TRANSCRIPT REGULATIONS

On July 1, new regulations to protect student borrowers took effect. One of the many changes affect transcripts. **Colleges may no longer hold transcripts for semesters where a student received federal aid and paid off everything owed to the school.** Affected students who owe balances to MCLA may still have holds on their account for tracking purposes, but these holds will be waived as needed to process transcripts.

STUDY AWAY FOR SPRING 2025

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. Once you decide on a program, contact Student Financial Services for financial aid options!

SCHOLARSHIPS

While the MCLA scholarship process will not begin until March 2025, 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.

Did you receive a scholarship from MCLA? Check your email to see if we need a thank-you note for the donor!

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 prior to **11/2/2024**. (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 progress.

COLLEGE WORK STUDY

If you were awarded Work Study as part of your financial aid offer, check the Portal for jobs! Additionally, be sure you are cleared with Human Resources before you start working. Visit lnk.mcla.edu/studentwork for details. Hired Work Study recipients cleared by Human Resources can expect to receive their paycheck bi-weekly via direct deposit.

If you don't have Work Study, don't fret! Other student employment opportunities are available. Visit lnk.mcla.edu/studentjobs and look for "trust fund" or "college funded" postings.

REFUNDS FOR FALL 2024

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.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standard is used for continued financial aid eligibility. *Commitment or Presidential 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
413-662-5230
MCLA.edu/Aid
MCLA.edu/StudentAccounts

TRAILBLAZER TUTOR CENTER

Academic Advising and Support proudly 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.

