Upcoming MCAP dates/events

The 2009-2010 MCAP schedule is posted on the MCAP website at http://www.manchester.edu/OAA/Programs/LearningSupport/MCAP.htm. Meeting times are yet to be determined and will be posted in upcoming newsletters. Juniors who participated in the MCAP program are invited to return, but must complete the application found at the website. If you know juniors or seniors at your high school who should be involved in the program, please give them a copy of this newsletter or direct them to the website!

Summer To-Do List

Juniors:
- Visit college campuses to narrow your short list.
- Learn about degree programs at the schools you’re interested in.
- Sign up for the S.A.T. or A.C.T. for fall.

Seniors:
- Celebrate your recent graduation!
- Visit the school that you’ve chosen and make residence decisions.
- Register for classes and review your financial aid package.

From the Coordinator

It was a great first year for the Manchester College Achievement Program! We’re grateful for all of the faculty, staff, mentors and participants who were part of the program this year and look forward to an even better second year. While students and staff had an opportunity to voice their suggestions for program revisions and share what worked well in end-of-year evaluations, please contact the Outreach Coordinator if you have additional ideas!

- Kim Myers  kmmyers@manchester.edu  (260) 982-5591

Faculty Thoughts

Students really can control whether or not they succeed in college. A wide array of people and programs are available to support them, but ultimate success depends on each student.

What actions lead to success at college?
- Attending each class and paying attention
- Preparing for classes by reading all the materials ahead of time
- Listening carefully and asking questions of the professors
- Dropping by the professors’ offices between classes – to ask questions or just to chat
- Taking full advantage of the academic support resources
- Using the free tutors for classes that are especially challenging
- Keeping a calendar and carrying it all the time

Students who do these things are successful. Period. It is amazing how simple habits for success really are. But, like everything in life, barriers to success can pop up. A barrier to success can be a simple invitation from a friend to make a run to the Dairy Queen rather than finish the paper that is due in class the next day. Watching too much television can hurt success. Getting involved in too many clubs can also be problematic.

It is especially important for first year students to study hard, attend classes, and earn good grades. The reasons for this are several:
- Students whose grade point averages (GPAs) are good in the start of college will almost always graduate with good GPAs. Those who don’t study hard at the start will spend several years trying to improve their cumulative GPA.
- Once habits are set, it’s hard to change them; so if students establish good study habits and time management habits in the first year, those good habits will carry through to graduation

Many people and programs are available at college to help students succeed academically. The professors are committed to student learning, and they will work as hard as each student does to help that student learn. They don’t (and they shouldn’t) work harder than the student because ultimately learning is the student’s responsibility. Second, a number of academic support services are available to help students. Many campuses have a writing center, tutoring services, honors program, Career Services, counseling, and more. Students can typically use most of these services for no extra charge. Third, coaches expect their student athletes to give as much attention to learning as to other activities. Fourth, the people who supervise student workers (faculty & staff supervisors) also help students learn the habits needed for successful employment. Student workers get good lessons in how to be a good employee. The supervisors expect them to report to work on time, to work hard while they are on the clock, and to notice things that need to be done, even without being asked. Student work programs are another way that students learn how to be successful students.

- Jo Young Switzer, President, Manchester College