Prepare to meet with An Advisor

When you enroll in college, we create a partnership to help you achieve your educational and career goals. This guide prompts you to be prepared to understand what the demands of college will be and what to expect as you make your transition to college. Quality academic advising allows you to accomplish those goals in a timely manner while being in control of your own educational endeavors. Taking time to consider and plan your educational experience is essential to getting off to a good start. Your readiness is critical to having a successful experience.

Please consider the following prior to meeting with an advisor:

1. Your reasons for attending college and your time availability.

The New Student Orientation site is a good place to start for familiarizing yourself with the college, its academic programs and its resources. It has a wealth of content and checklists to guide you.

www.mxcc.edu/nso

2. How you are financing your education.

Students receiving financial aid are expected to review the Financial Aid webpage: www.mxcc.edu/financial-aid to understand the types of financial aid and how the process works including understanding the Satisfactory Academic Progress guidelines for maintaining eligibility to receive aid awards. The website also houses comprehensive financial and scholarship information which is useful for all students.

3. Your comfort level and willingness to utilize computer technology.

It is the expectation of the college that you will use computer technology to submit written assignments and learn the college's online learning platforms and various course management software packages.

We encourage students to take the Smarter Measure Assessment: it is a self-diagnostic tool that assesses student's likelihood for succeeding in learning online as well as to use online tools in onground courses.www.mxcc.edu/distance/take-a-smartermeasure-test/

4. If you are transferring or have earned College Careers Pathway (CCP) or Advanced Placement credits.

To assure quality advising we need to review the OFFICIAL transcript from your previously attended institution. Your transcript should be forwarded to the Records Office in advance of your advising meeting for evaluation of transferrable credits. This includes any courses taken while in high school as part of the UConn Early College Experience, College Career Pathways, or Community College High School Partnership programs.

During your conference with an advisor, we will work with you to identify and select courses based on your level of proficiency in reading, writing and math and those which are required by your chosen educational pathway. We will ask questions that facilitate selection of appropriate courses. The advising process should be

a conversation. Ask questions to clarify information and take notes. Faculty and staff advisors are here to assist you in the decision making process; you ultimately are responsible for your education.   The name and contact information of your assigned Primary Advisor will be available to you via MyCommNet within a few weeks. If you are enrolled in a degree program, the Program Coordinator will be your Primary Advisor.

Questions you should be prepared to discuss and answer are:

- What are your reasons for attending college?
- Are you planning to be a part-time (11 credits or fewer) or full-time (12 credits or more) student?
- Are you working?   How many hours per week do you plan to work?
- How many hours per week do you devote to other obligations? (such as family, childcare etc.)
- Do you have a sense of a curriculum / program/ major/ career direction? (If not, the college has professional staff who can guide you once classes begin)
- Have you reviewed the virtual college catalog and schedule of courses to see what courses are interesting and available?
- If you are interested in taking online courses, do you have the necessary computer skills and computer access?
- How long has it been since high school? What kind of student were you in high school?
- What are your academic concerns?