

# Parents' 411

THE OFFICE OF STUDENT RETENTION



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MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
THE OFFICE OF STUDENT RETENTION

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## GREETINGS FROM THE RETENTION STAFF



*Morgan State University Retention Staff*

We received many positive comments from parents and students about the first issue of our newsletter. It was great hearing from you! We hope everyone found the information about financial aid to be useful.

The Office of Student Retention is dedicated to working with the academic colleges and schools of the University, as well as the various academic support programs to improve the quality of support provided to students from matriculation to graduation. This issue highlights some of the academic support programs and resources available on campus for your daughters and sons. We consider parent involvement to be critical to the success of our students. It is important that you know as much as possible about your student's college experience and the opportunities provided by Morgan State University.

Our staff, Dr. Tiffany Beth McMillan, Director, Sarah D. Adams, Retention Specialist, Dr. Denicia Fowler, Retention Specialist and Diane Wise, Administrative Assistant, is committed to providing you with the information that you need to support and assist your matriculating student. We look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions!

## THE ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Academic Development Center provides academic advisement and tutorial support to students in the Pre-College/Freshmen Studies Program and to students who have not declared a major. The inter-related programs of the Academic Development Center work collaboratively and cooperatively with each other and with other Morgan services and programs. The Center strives to be proactive by utilizing the resources of the University's best students, faculty, and staff to encourage students to develop to their fullest potential. The following is a brief description of each component of the Academic Development Center.

### Pre-College Program

The Pre-College Program is a six-week summer program designed to ease the transition from high school to college for students whose academic profiles and SAT scores confirm the need for early intervention. Students are admitted to the Pre-College program when their SAT score or high school GPA is below the minimum criteria for admission to the university. Maryland residents attend the Pre-College program free of charge. Non-Maryland residents pay room and board.

Students accepted into the Pre-College Program must successfully complete the Program in order to be

officially enrolled as a Morgan State University Freshman. Students who do not successfully complete the program requirements and are State of Maryland residents are recommended to enroll in the CONNECT Program in a State of Maryland Community College. (The CONNECT Program provides students a direct track from community college to a four-year degree.) Out of state students are encouraged to enroll in a Community College in their state.

### Freshman Studies Program

Students who are successful in the Pre-College Program must enroll in a follow-up sequence in the Fall Freshman Studies Program. The Freshman Studies Program controls the academic pace and intensity at which students begin the freshman academic year at Morgan State University. The Program limits the number of credits students may pursue per semester to 13 or 14 in order to ensure academic success. Students complete the Freshman Studies Program at the end of their freshman year and must earn twenty-three (23) credits before they exit the program. Typically, the Freshman Studies courses meet five days per week. The additional hours of class time are used for engaging students in alternative learning strategies such as tutoring and supplemental instruction.

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## THE ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER CONT' D

### Center for Centralized Academic Advisement (CCAA)

The Center for Centralized Academic Advisement is a crucial link in the retention of students at the University. The CCAA advises students who are Undeclared Majors. These are students who have entered the University undecided about what career they want to pursue. The CCAA also advises Pre-College/Freshmen Studies students. Each Undeclared/Undecided and Pre-College/Freshman Studies student is assigned an academic advisor in the CCAA. The advisor advises the student until s/he officially declares a major or s/he exits the Freshman Studies Program with a declared major.

### Placement Testing

All Morgan State University first-time freshmen are required to take the Freshman Placement Examination. The results of the placement test determine the courses that students will take during their first year, that is whether they will be developmental or college level courses. The Academic Development Center administers the University's placement test to assess students' level of preparation for college in the following areas: English, Reading Comprehension, and Mathematics.

### Tutoring

Campus-wide peer tutoring is an essential component of the Academic Development Center. The Center provides academic support to enhance and ensure students' overall academic success. As a result of the academic support and assistance, shared understanding, and advisement, students who have peer tutors

are expected to increase their academic achievement. Peer tutors are graduate students or undergraduate students who have at least a cumulative GPA of 3.0. **Tutors are available to assist students with Mathematics, English, Chemistry, Biology, History, Philosophy, Economics, Accounting and Statistics on Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 7:00 pm in the Banneker Communications Building, room 406.** Special attention is given to tutoring in English, mathematics, and the sciences.

The services provided by the Academic Development Center help Morgan students who need additional support and guidance, especially first-time freshmen, to succeed academically. The Center also helps students begin to identify the career path or major field of study which will be most appropriate for them. If your student is a freshman, sophomore or junior who has not selected a major, you should recommend that he/she take advantage of the Center's services.

## THE ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

### VISION

The Academic Enrichment Program (AEP), a service of the Office of Residence Life, provides unique resources for students. The program focuses on giving all students, especially the University's first year and most challenged students the opportunities, facilities and services which will enable them to maximize their potential and succeed. AEP aims at increasing student interest in social, cultural, psychological and academic topics supported by Residence Life, the Counseling Center, Student Activities, Academic Affairs and other components of Morgan. The Program's

ultimate objective is to structure a living environment that complements, supports and enhances the Morgan student's academic pursuits, fosters retention, and enriches the total college experience.

### SERVICES

Tutors, computer labs, study groups and workshops prepare students for academic success. **AEP has over 40 staff members in the computer and tutorial labs. The labs are located in Blount Towers, Cummings Hall, Harper-Tubman House, O'Connell Hall, and Rawlings Hall. The lab hours are Sunday-Thursday noon to midnight, and Friday and Saturday noon to 8pm. (See lab locations.)** The study groups and peer tutoring cover Math, English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and History. Workshops are offered in the areas of study skills, stress management, note taking, exam preparation and other areas that equip students to deal with the challenges of college life. The peer tutors who work with the students not only help students with their studies, but also are role models who demonstrate to them that you can be an honors student and work part-time while enjoying a well-rounded university experience.

The AEP works with students participating in the Pre-College/Freshmen Studies Program (See above article.) and the ACCESS-SUCCESS Program, a six-week summer bridge program for first-time freshmen. This enables the AEP staff to get to know and begin mentoring incoming freshmen as soon as they enroll at the University. The AEP is involved in mentoring programs at area Baltimore City high schools as well, reaching out to your sons and daughters while they are still making decisions about attending college.

Ultimately, the Academic Enrichment Program seeks to encourage and enrich the academic experience of Morgan students, helping them to surpass their academic goals and fulfill their future career and life aspirations.

## STRAIGHT FROM THE STUDENTS

By Lauren Glover  
Senior, MSU

### Life as an Academic Enrichment Program Tutor

There are so many things that hold great importance in the life of a college student: money to buy over-priced books, numerous exams in one week, maintaining relationships with significant others, and a number of other "life issues" that plague us everyday. For some, maintaining good grades while participating in other aspects of college life is virtually impossible...unless there is someone to help. This is where the Academic Enrichment Program comes in.

As an Academic Enrichment Program tutor, I see an innumerable number of students who have poor grades and are not doing well in their classes. They come to our labs in search of someone to help them with their chemistry homework, someone to make sense of their biology lab, someone to help them start their history paper, and many other reasons.

I tutor English, French, Speech, Philosophy, and the like. I often get students who have a paper that needs editing or just need someone to help them with their introductory paragraph. "If I can just get started, I'll be fine", most of them say. One young woman came to the lab in Blount one Thursday night in search of an English tutor to help her with a research paper. It had been a long week for me, and I had plenty of work that I had to complete before the night was over.

The young woman had been making frequent trips to her home in Prince George's County, MD, to check on her mother, who was quite ill, to make sure that she was doing well. Therefore, she had not been attending most of her classes. She was completely distraught. She had fallen disastrously behind in her studies. I told her that I would help her in any way that I could. We talked for a while longer, and I was able to convince her to go to the Counseling Center on campus. I have only seen her once since that evening. She told me that her mother was doing a little better, and that she had really enjoyed her time at the Counseling Center. It had helped her put her problems in perspective and she was excited about how much better her grades were getting. She looked at me with tears in the brims of her eyes and said, "Thank you so much. You'll never know... Thank you."

Through working with the Academic Enrichment Program, I have developed a deeper appreciation for others. Just like me, the students here just want someone to listen, someone to care, and someone to offer a helping hand, even when we feel we don't need it. That is the job of an AEP tutor. We must go the extra mile to help fellow students and make sure that they know we sincerely care about their success, not just academically, but in an overall sense. We do more than just tutor. We care.

### DON'T ASK - DON'T TELL

Did you know that your son's or daughter's grades may not be disclosed to you? Do you know why? The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), protects the privacy of student records. The ACT applies to all institutions that are recipients of federal funding. Consequently, Morgan State University cannot release personally identifiable information in education records, or allow access to those records without prior consent from the student. The consent must be in writing, signed by the student, and dated. Your son or daughter must specify the records to be disclosed, the identity of the recipient, and the purpose of the disclosure. However, the University may, in certain circumstances, disclose such information to the parents of a "dependent student" as defined by the Internal Revenue Code. For further information, please go to [www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html)

## COMPUTER LABORATORIES ON CAMPUS

Computer laboratories are located throughout Morgan's campus. Students can select the location which best meets their needs by accessing Morgan's web site:  
[www.morgan.edu/computing/computers.asp](http://www.morgan.edu/computing/computers.asp)

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### MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY RETENTION STAFF - FALL, 2005

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