

Dear Concurrent Enrollment Students and Parents,

Congratulations on your decision to begin your college career while completing your high school diploma. We are pleased that you have chosen to enroll in the Concurrent Enrollment Program at Minnesota State Community and Technical College. You are about to embark on a new educational experience, and M State would like to prepare you for this academic adventure. As an M State student, we would like to remind you that you are always welcome on any of our four campuses and have full access to our library, computer labs, writing center and tutoring services.

Because you are enrolled in a college course, you may find the course work more difficult and time-intensive than you have found with your high school classes. Grades and homework, therefore, may also be more challenging than that which you are accustomed. This information is not meant to discourage you, as much as it is to prepare you for the reality of taking a college class. The standard expectation for a college course is that students will study outside of class two additional hours a week for every credit they are taking, so a student taking a three credit course should expect to study at least six hours outside of the classroom.

Our commitment to our accrediting institution is to offer courses that are collegiate and academic, and meet outcomes required for all students in the Minnesota State College and University System. For this reason, the instructor for your college course is required to adhere to the college curriculum and rigors. To assure the requirements are being met and to offer assistance to your instructor, a mentor from M State will be visiting your class throughout the semester.

College students are entering into an exciting new phase of adult responsibilities and privileges. This phase comes with some federal and state data privacy protection that separates the role of parents from the student. The Federal Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that specific information related to a student's educational records may not be shared with anyone (including parents) other than the student. The law does not consider age, so even if you are under the age of 18, the privacy laws still apply. Faculty or staff may not discuss private matters or grades with a student's parents or guardian unless the student chooses to sign the written authorization.

The concurrent enrollment program is an excellent way to adjust to the demands of college before you leave home. We hope your experience will be a positive one. Again, feel free to utilize the many services we have available on campus if you need assistance. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Good luck on your future academic career and welcome to M State!

Sincerely,



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