

## Program Guidelines

*Muskegon Scholars* is an NSF-funded scholarship program for Muskegon Community College students entering the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). In particular, we will be awarding scholarships to students you declare a major in a science, math, or engineering field. The grant will provide for education expenses incurred by the student beyond what that students is expected to pay based upon the FAFSA. (Known as the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC). We will be able to award up to \$4,100 to any one student. This value is based upon the estimated tuition, fees, and books for one year of full-time enrollment at MCC. A student can then have any Pell grant money refunded to them, so that if the EFC is under \$10,200 we will be able to award some money.

However, *Muskegon Scholars* will provide more than just a scholarship, it will be a community of scholars. The students accepted into the program will meet regularly to help each other with their course work, study skills, work, family, and school responsibilities, etc. There will also be an opportunity for the scholars to share their experiences via a web portal. These meetings will be facilitated by the program coordinators, Greg Marczak and Toby Moleski. There will be scheduled seminars where presentations will be made by educators from 4-year institutions and professionals from industry. The program coordinators will also assist the scholars with their scheduling of classes each semester.

### Program requirements

*Muskegon Scholars* is a program for students entering a STEM area major. The scholars will take their first two years of courses at MCC, but they will be expected to continue their education and complete a Baccalaureate degree (of Science or Arts). In order to focus the scope of the program those areas will be limited to a major seeking a B.S./B.A. in one of the following:

- Math
- Engineering
- Geology
- Physical Geography
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Pharmacy

### Math Entrance Requirement

Each of these majors requires multiple credits in upper-level science and math classes. As such, before a student can be allowed into the program, they must show an aptitude in mathematics. Therefore, the student must either place into Math 111 or higher upon taking the MCC math placement test or pass Math 050 with a B+ or higher.

## Mentors

Each participant is required to have a mentor within the Math and Sciences Department at MCC. The mentor will assist the participant with her/his adjustment to the rigors of a STEM curriculum. The program mentors will be

- Greg Marczak
- Toby Moleski
- Diane Krasnewich
- John Bartley
- Tom Wolters
- David Meade

## Course Work Requirement

As mentioned above, the scholars will be expected to transfer to a four-year degree granting, accredited institution. We expect the students to take a full-load each fall and winter semester while in the program. This is a minimum of 12 credits each fall and winter semester. The participants will be required to meet with their mentor before enrolling in classes each semester. We expect the participants to make satisfactory progress toward their chosen major. To ensure this, the participant must pass six (6) of the following courses while at MCC:

- |             |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| • ENGR 105  | • CHEM 102  | • MATH 162* |
| • ENGR 202* | • CHEM 201* | • MATH 215* |
| • ENGR 204  | • CHEM 202  | • MATH 274  |
| • PHYS 105  | • GEOL 101  | • MATH 283  |
| • PHYS 201  | • GEOL 102  | • MATH 295  |
| • PHYS 202  | • MATH 111  | • GEOG 101A |
| • PHYS 203* | • MATH 112  | • GEOG 215  |
| • PHYS 204  | • MATH 115  |             |
| • CHEM 101  | • MATH 161* |             |

\*\*Participants must take at least one course marked with an asterisk.

## Application procedures

Members of the community wishing to be a part of the *Muskegon Scholars* program must fill out a program application. The following will be required in the application

- Completion of the FAFSA
- Recommendation from a professional regarding the applicant's aptitude and interest in science
- Completion of the Math Requirement for admittance into the program (see above)
- Completion of the Scholarship application which will include a written essay.

## Timeline

The application will be due April 15. Award letters will be sent out May 15.