

MONTCLAIR BOUND

GREAT THINGS START HERE

School Counselor
Workshops,
In-Person
and Virtual

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BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE NOW PART OF MONTCLAIR

Merger is among
changes in
academic
colleges, schools

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GRAND TOUR

Visit opportunities
provide campus
experiences

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JUMP-START TO COLLEGE

Montclair gets
students ready
for college before
they even begin

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FALL OPEN HOUSE

October 8
or
November 12

MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY



COUNSELOR IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

**Annual Counselor Workshop:
Friday, December 1, 2023**

**Virtual Counselor Mini-Workshop:
Student Panel: Life as a Red Hawk
November 16, 2023**

**Virtual Counselor Mini-Workshop: Learn
About the Disability Resource Center
October 17, 2023**

**Transfer Virtual Counselor Workshop:
For Community College Counselors
January 12, 2024**

Join the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and your colleagues at the annual School Counselor Workshops.

Whether you join us at our in-person or virtual events, you will have the opportunity to hear from faculty, staff and current students about what's new at Montclair.

Have a question? Contact Neris Fleming at 973-655-4219, counselor@montclair.edu.
For a full list of workshops and to register, visit montclair.edu/admissions/workshop.

All attendees of the in-person workshop will earn Professional Development hours.



ABOVE ORDINARY



Dear Colleagues,

As a new school year begins, Montclair – already the second-largest university in New Jersey – takes great pride in announcing that we once again achieved a remarkable milestone: We welcomed another record-breaking incoming class and the largest total enrollment in our 115-year history.

The Class of 2027 includes 4,186 new incoming students, pushing our total enrollment this fall to 22,000 students. Underscoring the University's mission of providing access to affordable higher education, the Class of 2027 is record-breaking in size, diversity and quality.

The newest students hail from 31 states and 12 countries. Nearly 45% of the incoming class identifies as Hispanic, further bolstering Montclair's status as New Jersey's largest Hispanic-Serving Institution.

Montclair's mix of strong academic support and inclusive student programming, which includes our **Office of Student Belonging**, creates a holistic experience that is proving to be a model for ensuring students stay on track to earn their degrees. Montclair students out-perform their anticipated graduation rate at one of the highest clips in the nation, allowing students to depart not only with a degree, but with considerably less debt than the national average.

We're happy to report several highlights:

- We officially merged with Bloomfield College on July 1, which is now formally **Bloomfield College of Montclair State University**. Students wishing to apply to Bloomfield can do so through Montclair's Common App or in-house application. Link to more information about the process from the QR code, right.
- I'm pleased to inform you that we have partnered with **SRAR (Self Reported Academic Record)** to allow your students to submit their profile in lieu of a high school transcript for admission review purposes. If your students are using SRAR for another college application, they can simply add Montclair and no other action is needed.
- **The Montclair Pledge:** We guarantee funding for eligible incoming first-year students to attend Montclair, allowing them to fulfill their dreams of earning a college degree without undue financial hardship. Combined with the Garden State Guarantee, this means students could graduate with little to no debt.



As always, my team and I are here to help you and your students learn about Montclair. Please email me at askthedirector@montclair.edu.

I hope to see you soon, either through a virtual or in-person Counselor Workshop later this year.

All the best,

Jordanna Maziarz
Director, Undergraduate Admissions



Alexa Quito Espinoza '23

First to Fly

“Being first-gen is all about storytelling,” says Jasey Bedoya, assistant director of Montclair’s First-Generation Initiatives. “Students share their experiences about what they went through and allow others to hear that they’re not alone in this journey to complete a college degree and get into their fields.”

That was the experience of Alexa Quito Espinoza '23. “I realized that being first-gen is not something that you should be ashamed of but rather something that you should celebrate,” she says. While earning her degree in Business Administration, Quito Espinoza’s achievements were recognized by the Delta Chi chapter of Alpha Alpha Alpha or Tri-Alpha, the national honor society for first-generation college students that is part of Montclair’s Office of Student Belonging.

Created in 2022, the **Office of Student Belonging** provides experiences that promote a strong connection to the University for students who are first-generation, freshmen, transfers, international and military-affiliated. The goal is to create an environment that recognizes and supports the needs of these populations in relation to their immediate and long-term educational and personal goals.

Learn more at montclair.edu/office-of-student-belonging.



INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS

Mekhi Rivers '22, one of many Red Hawks who are the first in their families to graduate from college, sees himself as a role model for his siblings. “I have a big family, so now a bar has been set,” he says, “now it’s time for them to achieve excellence as well.”

Montclair Joins First Scholars Network

Showcasing its commitment to providing life-changing educational opportunities, Montclair State University has been named to the **First Scholars Network** for 2023-2024, joining only 10% of American colleges and universities that have earned the designation.

The First Scholars Network is part of the Center for First-Generation Student Success, an initiative of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and The Suder Foundation. It is a four-phase approach that allows higher education institutions to advance first-generation student success through establishing communities of practice, gaining knowledge of resources, and establishing peer networks.

As an institution develops more comprehensive programming for first-generation students, it can advance to the next phase, with the ultimate goal to become a First Scholars Champion Campus.

Forty-four percent of Montclair’s incoming class are first-generation, making this a critical initiative to help ensure student success at the University.

“The importance of this designation is monumental. We are now part of an elite cohort of colleges and universities that are laser-focused on supporting first-generation student success,” says Vice President for Student Development and Campus Life Dawn Meza Souffleris. “The ability to access training materials, understand best practices and to network with other institutions that have this designation will fully enhance the experience these students will have at Montclair.”

Programmatic goals include a comprehensive peer mentoring program that will pair new incoming students with current first-generation students as mentors, and working with the University’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) division to facilitate programming that will address the mental health impacts of being a first-generation student.

BETTER STUDENT OUTCOMES

Montclair students graduate at a higher rate than the national average.

WHITE

67.4% National
72.2% Montclair

BLACK

45.0% National
70.4% Montclair

HISPANIC

58.4% National
63.5% Montclair

Six-year graduation rate, first-time full-time freshman.

BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE NOW PART OF MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY



Students wearing their Bloomfield College of Montclair State University T-shirts enjoy the Round Up during the carnival, one of the opening events to celebrate the start of the fall semester.

Opening festivities of the fall semester at Montclair welcomed not only more than 22,000 Red Hawks but also 900 students attending the newly united Bloomfield College of Montclair State University. Students and faculty of both higher education institutions enjoyed a multiple-day celebration spread out across the campuses.

Bloomfield College officially became part of Montclair State University on July 1. As a result, Bloomfield's important mission will continue, with students benefiting from Montclair's lower tuition and fees and the support of the second largest public research university in New Jersey.

The renamed "Bloomfield College of Montclair State University" will continue to offer courses required for students to complete their majors and programs and will honor majors of current students over the next academic year. It will also retain its 13 NCAA Division II athletic programs and remain the Bears, for at least the next year, unless otherwise directed by the NCAA.

The merger process began in October 2021 when Bloomfield put out a call for an academic partner to help it avoid closing due to financial challenges exacerbated by the pandemic. Montclair responded because its mission aligned well with Bloomfield's mission of providing access to high-quality educational experiences to students from groups that are often marginalized, and it wanted to enable the historic college to remain a resource for the community.

What does the merger mean for your students? Students studying at Bloomfield College of Montclair State University still receive the close-knit community of a small liberal arts college, but with the low tuition, resources and support Montclair is known for. Students entering 2024 and beyond will graduate with a Montclair State University degree. For students applying beginning spring 2024, there is one combined application – both on the Common App and through apply.montclair.edu/portal/admissions.

Find Answers to Your Frequently Asked Questions:



MONTCLAIR UNIVERSITY CENTER AT UNION COLLEGE

Did you know students can now earn their Montclair State University degree at Union College?

The Montclair University Center at Union College in Scotch Plains provides students a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs with shorter sessions and personalized attention from a success coach, so students can earn their Montclair degree closer to home.

Degrees offered: BS in Business Administration, BS in Computer Science, MA in Educational Leadership and MBA.

Learn more at montclair.edu/campaigns/union.

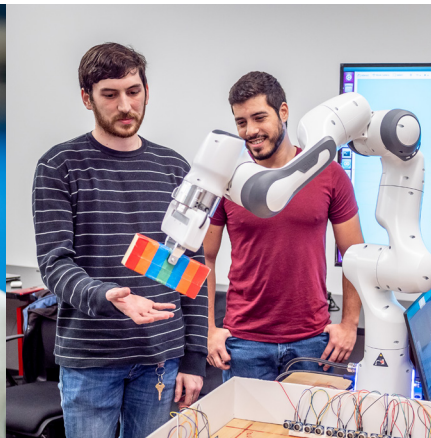


Learn more about our partnership with Union College:



WE'RE GROWING

Two new colleges created out of the College of Education and Human Services; College of Science and Mathematics adds School of Computing



New this fall, two new colleges created out of the College of Education and Human Services:

- **College for Education and Engaged Learning** to examine what learning looks like in the 21st century.
- **College for Community Health** to address the urgent challenge posed by health inequity in New Jersey and beyond.

A new **School of Computing** launching within the College of Science and Mathematics speaks to one of the most in demand occupational areas in the coming years.

College for Education and Engaged Learning



Vincent C. Alfonso, PhD, has been named inaugural interim dean of the College for Education and Engaged Learning.

The College will comprise the departments of Teaching and Learning, Educational Foundations, Educational Leadership, and the Teacher Education and Teacher Development doctoral program.

The College also includes the nation's first established Center of Pedagogy, and the Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health.

The mission of the College is grounded in developing academic programming that reflects the changing landscape of P-12 education, higher education and the needs of community partners, as well as in modeling positive supports and inclusive practices of diverse individuals to normalize the tenets of anti-racism, social justice, equity, diversity and belonging. Learn more at montclair.edu/ceel.

College for Community Health



Rashid Ahmed, PhD, has been named the inaugural dean of the College for Community Health.

The College will comprise the departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Counseling, Exercise Science and Physical Education, Family Science and Human Development, Nutrition and Food Studies and Public Health.

The University has created the new College to bring these highly accomplished departments together in order to make a greater collective impact. The College will leverage its current strengths, build new strategic relationships and expand its academic offerings to meet critical health workforce needs. Learn more at montclair.edu/cchl.

School of Computing

The School of Computing offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in the wide area of Computing. At the undergraduate level it offers degrees in Computer Science, Information Technology, Data Science and Applied Mathematics and Statistics.

At the graduate level it offers degrees in Computer Science, Information Technology, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Applied Mathematics, and Statistics.

A number of 5-year combined degrees are also offered that allow students to combine an undergraduate area of study with a graduate area of study in a different area of Computing.

Constantine Coutras, current chair of the Department of Computer Science, is the inaugural director of the School. Learn more at montclair.edu/school-of-computing.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Bloomfield College of Montclair State University

College of the Arts

College for Community Health

College for Education and Engaged Learning

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

College of Science and Mathematics

Feliciano School of Business

John J. Cali School of Music

School of Communication and Media

School of Computing

School of Nursing

The Graduate School

University College

ACCOLADES

**Best
Colleges for
Your Money**
Money

**No. 7
U.S. for Social
Mobility**
*U.S. News &
World Report*

**America's
Top Colleges
and
Best Value
Colleges**
Forbes

**No. 4 N.J.
Nation's
Best Colleges**
The Wall Street Journal

**Best Bang
for Your
Buck**
*Washington Monthly
College Guide*

MONEY MATTERS

A Commitment to Affordability

A Montclair education provides students the very best return on their investment. With more than 72% of our students receiving some form of financial aid, our commitment to affordability will make it easier for students and their families to make a smart and practical financial investment.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Freshman applicants are automatically reviewed, no separate application necessary.

TALENT BASED PERFORMING ARTS AWARD

Students admitted to our prestigious performing arts programs in Dance, Musical Theatre, Music and Theatre are eligible for talent-based scholarships.

GARDEN STATE GUARANTEE (GSG)

GSG is a financial aid program that provides up to four semesters of free tuition for New Jersey students enrolled in their third and fourth years of study at in-state four-year public universities.

THE MONTCLAIR PLEDGE

We guarantee funding for eligible incoming first-year students allowing them to fulfill their dreams of earning a college degree without undue financial hardship. This groundbreaking program aligns with Montclair's mission to provide an affordable world-class education and a pathway to success for every student. Combined with the Garden State Guarantee, this means students could graduate with little to no debt.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Montclair offers merit-based Presidential Scholarships for high achieving, incoming first-time freshmen. Presidential Scholarships are highly competitive. Individual award amounts vary based on high school achievement including, but not limited to, unweighted high school GPA, class rank and standardized exams (if submitted).

Students will automatically be reviewed for a Presidential Scholarship when they apply to the University.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND (EOF)

EOF scholars receive holistic support – including an EOF grant – and attend a free summer academy to start earning credits toward their degree. New Jersey students should indicate their interest in the program on the admissions application.

SCHOLARSHIP UNIVERSE

This new tool will provide students with a personalized list of external scholarship opportunities. Students can apply directly through the tool.

OTHER WAYS TO SAVE

Montclair also offers unique opportunities that allow students to save time and money, including our **Summer Bridge Scholars Program, Five-Year Bachelor's/Master's Programs** and **Early College Programs**.

Learn more at montclair.edu/admissions/cost-and-financial-aid.



VISIT OPPORTUNITIES

OPEN HOUSE:

Join us on October 8, 2023, or November 12, 2023, to meet faculty, staff and students, tour our campus and learn about all that Montclair has to offer you. From admissions and financial aid sessions to faculty presentations, we're excited to show you what being a Red Hawk is all about.

Interested in our Bloomfield campus? Join us on Saturday, October 21 for the Bloomfield College of Montclair State University Open House.

Register at montclair.edu/admissions/open-house.

CAMPUS TOURS:

Join us for a walking campus tour led by our knowledgeable and friendly student ambassadors. Tours are offered Monday through Friday at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and select Saturdays.

Learn more at montclair.edu/admissions/visit-us.

ADDITIONAL VISIT OPTIONS:

- Self-Guided Tour
- Virtual Tour
- Webinars

Register today:
montclair.edu/visit



1. Picture yourself soaring in Red Hawk Country with a guided tour.
2. Go at your own pace with a self-guided tour.
3. Zoom around campus, into residential halls and classrooms with a virtual campus experience.
4. Kick back and relax with our video viewbook and interactive campus map.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

At Montclair, our distinctive approach continues to draw students to us, propelling us to become New Jersey's second largest institution of higher learning and one of its most diverse.

We're big enough that we can offer more than 300 programs across 13 colleges and schools at all degree levels – and yet, with a student to faculty ratio of 18-to-1, small enough to give our students personalized attention to help achieve their potential, as learners and as doers.

We're all about innovation, so it's no surprise that we offer degrees and programs you won't find anywhere else, including our **Discovery Program** for Undeclared majors. Students also can participate in programs in **Pre-Medical, Pre-Law, Honors** and **Student-Faculty research**.

Students can simultaneously pursue their bachelor's and master's degrees in more than 80 combined

degree programs, including our 4+1 MBA programs – more than any other institution in the state.

New for 2023-2024:

- BA Medical Humanities Combined BA/MPH in Public Health
- BS Business Administration Combined BS/MPH in Public Health
- Business Analytics (major)
- Spanish Language Journalism (certificate)
- Strategic Human Capital Management (concentration – Business Administration)
- Sustainable Food Practices (certificate)

Visit montclair.edu/academics/all-programs for our full list of programs.

View full list of programs:



CLASS OF 2027 STATS

4,186
NEW STUDENTS
ENROLLED
(first-year)

6
TOP SIX CHOICES
OF MAJOR:
Business Administration,
Biology, Psychology,
Computer Science,
Film and Television,
Educational Foundations

3.3
AVERAGE GPA
of Class of 2027

45%
of Class of 2027
identify as Hispanic

44%
FIRST
GENERATION

31
REPRESENTED
STATES,
plus 12 countries
and all 21 counties
in New Jersey

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Faculty and students are working with communities to find solutions to pressing problems

From a young age, Melissa De Almeida was determined to become a teacher in the same Spanish and Portuguese working-class neighborhood of Newark, New Jersey, where she grew up. “It’s always been my plan,” she says. “I find it important to have a teacher who looks like you, who comes from the same background as you, sometimes even speaks the same language as you. It can make a big difference in your education.”

Wanting to make an impact made her college choice an easy one: Montclair State University offers the renowned **Red Hawks Rising Teacher Academy**, a pipeline for diverse teachers and a nationally recognized program addressing the shortage of teachers of color.

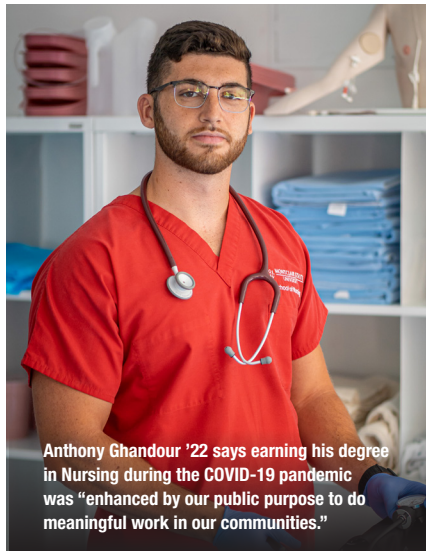
This partnership with Newark Public Schools and the American Federation of Teachers is among the ways the University faculty, students and partners are working to make the world a better place – and defines, as Montclair President Jonathan Koppell says in his public remarks, what it means to be a university with a public purpose, one that not only creates transformational opportunities for students, but also partners with communities to find solutions to pressing problems.

These opportunities can be seen in the ways professors and their students work together with community partners to tackle such wide-ranging issues as unequal educational and health outcomes, environmental and social justice, poverty, and the catastrophic effects of climate change. A **new minor in Native American and Indigenous Studies** finds strength in partnerships with New Jersey tribal communities, helping language revitalization efforts and ongoing environmental concerns.

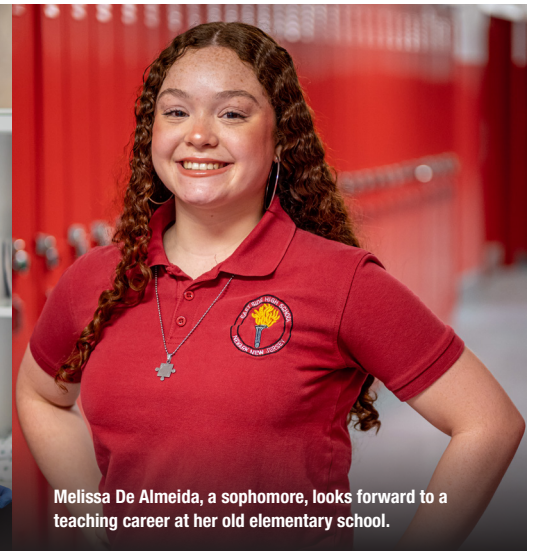
Within academic majors and minors, a sampling includes efforts to keep New Jersey’s water safe and mitigate flooding; to eliminate racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality; to coordinate prevention of substance abuse, HIV and AIDS; and to tackle human trafficking. **The Center for Community Engagement** and programs, including



Farrah Fornarotto, a senior majoring in Anthropology, with minors in Archaeology and Native American and Indigenous Studies, paints a garden sign with the Munsee language word for “carrot.”



Anthony Ghandour '22 says earning his degree in Nursing during the COVID-19 pandemic was “enhanced by our public purpose to do meaningful work in our communities.”



Melissa De Almeida, a sophomore, looks forward to a teaching career at her old elementary school.

AmeriCorps and **Bonner Leaders** provide opportunities for service-learning projects that recently focused on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Montclair is also part of the **Volcker Alliance** and its **Next Generation Service Corps**, a national network of higher education institutions committed to preparing undergraduate students for public service.

“Our students love to connect the theory to practice to see what it’s like to do this work out in the real world. They get excited about it and that excitement also gets transferred to the community. I think it’s a great marriage,” says Bryan Murdock, associate vice president for Community Partnerships.

10 REASONS TO MONTCLAIR



1. WE'RE JUST 12 MILES FROM NYC.



- Located in one of the largest, most exciting metropolitan areas in the world, Montclair's location provides countless opportunities for internships and hands-on experiences with local governments, businesses, nonprofits, schools and health-care organizations.
- Internships in NYC and beyond, including some of the biggest names: ABC Television, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, CBS Television, Coca-Cola, CNBC, Disney, Fox News, Hackensack Meridian Health, Johnson & Johnson, KPMG, Madison Square Garden, MetLife Stadium, New York Jets, New York Mets, New York Red Bulls, NBCUniversal, NJTV, Quest Diagnostics, SIRIUS XM Radio, Sony Music Entertainment, Viacom/MTV and Z100.

Montclair embraces a variety of approaches to cultivate a culture of wellness on campus: everything from group therapy, peer counseling and telehealth to meet the demands for counseling, to arts and crafts, mediation events and petting furry animals to help students de-stress.



2.

Students of all backgrounds, beliefs and identities fall in love with the Montclair campus.

- Montclair is dedicated to helping students feel a deeper “sense of belonging” to the Red Hawk community. The aptly named Office of Student Belonging, pulls together groups of individuals that research shows need additional support and better connections to fully immerse in the college experience.
- Montclair established the first comprehensive transition program and college certificate for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The program knocks down barriers to inclusion, providing comprehensive support so that all students can fully embrace campus life.

3.

Recognized nationally for providing “more bang for the buck,” Montclair is also honored as a “Top Gap Closer” for increasing graduation rates for minority students.

A commitment to engaging a creative and connected community is preparing these students for academic and professional success, and encouraging an ever higher level of scholarship and research.



- A Hispanic-Serving Institution, Montclair has become a destination school for diverse and first-generation students, with 45% of the incoming class identifying as Hispanic or Latino. It is also a Fulbright HSI Leader for helping students and faculty benefit from a variety of on-campus Fulbright initiatives.

4.

Our highly regarded School of Communication and Media – dubbed “Hollywood East” – is the nation’s most technologically advanced university media production facility.



Our radio station, WMSC 90.3 FM routinely wins awards for its student-produced programming.



Legendary trumpeter and composer Wynton Marsalis hit a high note among students at the John J. Cali School of Music, where top artists-in-residence regularly visit to provide hands-on instruction.

- Montclair students have a reputation for high-impact reporting. They’ve traveled around the world, covering stories like the Arab Spring in Tunisia and the refugee crisis in Greece. They’ve won the student Emmy humanitarian award for work that highlights global human issues – twice – for reports that also won for best news on the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the growing impact of climate change in New Orleans and Louisiana.
- A deep network of connections in film, television, music, theater and performing arts continually open (stage) doors, with guest artists sharing their talents on campus.
- Nearly two dozen recent graduates worked on Steven Spielberg’s remake of *West Side Story* as dancers, actors, singers or behind-the-scenes production assistants.

5.

Student researchers are tackling some of the world's toughest scientific and engineering challenges, everything from finding a cure for malaria to building technology for classrooms and protecting swimmers from jellyfish in the coastal bays of New Jersey.

- As a comprehensive public research university, Montclair provides opportunities for students to work in labs early in their undergraduate studies.

Emily Cepin, a senior Earth and Environmental Science major, works in a Montclair science lab gaining insights into today's climate crisis by extracting pollen fossils from rock sediment formed 56 million years ago.



Anthony Condegni, a senior Computer Science major, creates virtual reality games for elementary students to enhance their coordination, memorization and problem-solving skills.

6.

STUDENTS SOAR WITH SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT.



Ciara Allen always knew she wanted to go to college. "The question for me was: 'How could I afford it?' My mom had been saving for college since I was young but it was still more expensive than either of us expected." Allen graduated in 2022 with a BFA in Acting thanks to significant financial support. "Montclair State University has molded me into the person that I wanted to be," Allen says. "Confident, independent, outspoken and unapologetically myself."

- A central tenet at Montclair is that education should be accessible to everyone. More than 72% of Montclair students receive some form of financial aid.



7.

RED HAWK PRIDE AND TRADITIONS ENHANCE CAMPUS LIFE.

- Students make friends and gain leadership skills from Greek Life, 18 varsity sports teams and more than 120 clubs and cultural organizations.

8. University professors and students explore the world ... and new possibilities.



- Recent trips included: The men's soccer team playing on international turf, winning two games against a pro team in Germany, the Wind Symphony performing in Prague and students across disciplines creating and performing multimedia projects in Dundee, Scotland. Among other subjects that sent students traveling were the geology of Wyoming and Montana, biology and genetics in Japan and special education programs in Helsinki.



9. Campus Pride, considered the preeminent resource for LGBTQ+ leadership development, diversity inclusion and advocacy within higher education, recognizes Montclair as the "best of the best" for LGBTQ+ students.

10.

WE HAVE THE CUTEST CANINE PUPSCOT, PEBBLES!

- Pebbles, a mini chocolate labradoodle, helps spread Red Hawk pride and bring that feeling of "home" to campus.

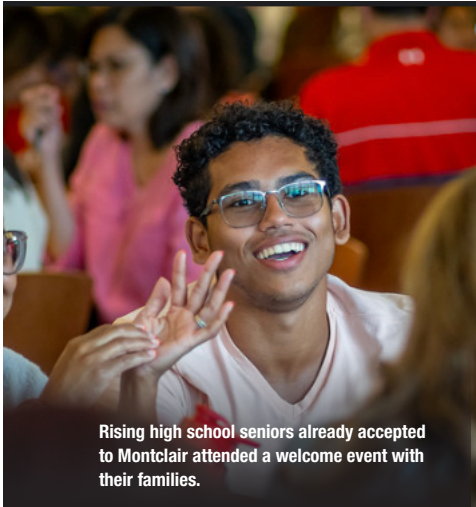


The beloved mascot, Rocky the Red Hawk, takes our new – and already beloved – pupscot on a walk.



WITH EARLY BIRD ADMIT, FUTURE RED HAWKS SOAR SOONER

High school juniors are invited to apply early to Montclair and learn about their acceptance, scholarships



Rising high school seniors already accepted to Montclair attended a welcome event with their families.



Robmine St. Philippe traveled to Montclair from San Diego, California, for the Early Bird Junior Admit welcome event. Her aunt gifted her a bouquet of flowers to celebrate her acceptance to the University.

“We know applying to college is a very stressful experience for students, and we also know there are thousands of students who have Montclair as their top choice before senior year,” says Director of Undergraduate Admissions Jordanna Maziarz. “So, why not give them a chance to apply early and find out if they’re admissible? Early Bird admissions gives qualified high school juniors a chance to know they’re admitted to a high-quality university and takes a lot of stress out of the college equation before they start senior year.”

There’s also the added benefit of learning about scholarship monies early. “Since we also give students their scholarship awards as part of Early Bird, students also have a rough idea of what their cost of attendance might be; this does not include need-based aid they might be eligible for based on the FAFSA,” Maziarz says.

Robmine St. Philippe is a rising high school senior in California who already knows she’ll be moving across the country for college. In fact, she’s already been accepted by Montclair State University, where she plans to pursue a major in Nursing.

On August 16, she was on campus – one of nearly 1,590 students who have been admitted to Montclair to start in fall 2024 – at a special welcome for Early Bird Junior Admit students and their families.

The group represents high-achieving students, who for a variety of reasons, including getting a jump-start on the college application process, applied and were accepted to Montclair in their junior year of high school.

At the welcome event, they met with deans and faculty members from Montclair’s 13 schools and colleges about the various academic program options. They learned more about the next steps in the admissions process and how to navigate financial aid. And they had fun meeting others who have been accepted into the Class of 2028 and join in a campus-wide scavenger hunt.

Students came from eight different states for the welcome event, with St. Philippe from San Diego coming the farthest. Why Montclair? She says she learned about the University from its fun and engaging social media content and is excited to begin.

In total, the admitted Early Bird Juniors come from 31 different states, 13 countries, with the average GPA of 3.67. They’ve also learned about their scholarship awards early, with \$5.6 million already earmarked for these students.

The students are also eligible to enroll in college-level courses through the University’s pre-college and summer bridge programs.

Students interested in applying to the University for fall 2025 may do so via the Common App or the Montclair application beginning in April 2024. Students who are not admitted through the Early Bird program are offered personalized telecounseling appointments with an admissions counselor to discuss how they can strengthen their application before reapplying to Montclair, Maziarz says.

Learn more at montclair.edu/admissions/junior-admission.



Students can join the Montclair community on ZeeMee.

- Meet and chat with other interested students
- Match on shared interests and passions
- Try Friend Finder to see potential roommates for the future
- Participate in live social events
- Once accepted, join the exclusive Admitted Student Chat

Download ZeeMee:

colleges.zeemee.com/colleges/montclair/interested



Peer leaders from left, Sofia-Vesti Graine, Hospitality, Sports, Events and Tourism major; Tim Orlando, Political Science; Anacia Sessoms, Visual Arts; and Domonique Wright, Exercise Science; helped guide incoming freshmen in the Summer Bridge Scholars Program.

JUMP-START TO COLLEGE

How does the University help students succeed?
By getting them ready before they even begin.

Anacia Sessoms recalls what it was like in 2021 to be an incoming freshman at Montclair State University. After months of remote and hybrid learning, “I was excited to meet new people from different countries, different towns, different states,” she says. So, to get an early start on her college experience, Sessoms enrolled in Montclair’s Summer Bridge Scholars Program, an integral part of Montclair’s summer early and pre-college experiences.

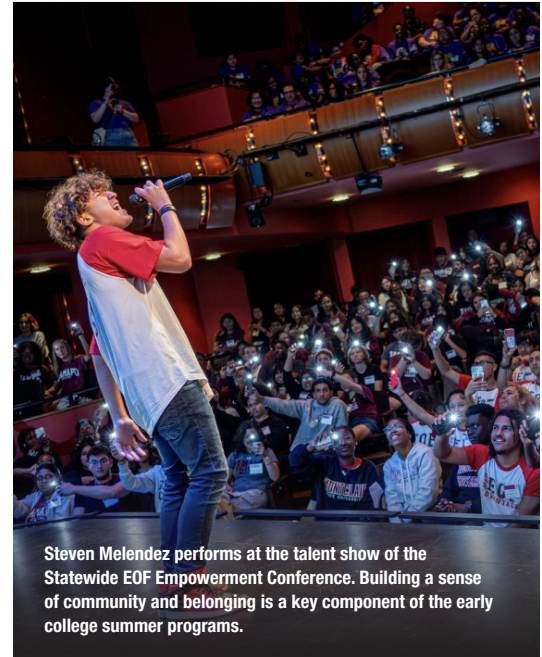
This past summer, the Visual Arts major was among the peer mentors helping incoming freshmen get used to the college routine. The summer program features residential and commuter options, including hybrid learning, with the freshmen earning college credits at a discounted rate. “It was a full-circle moment,” Sessoms says, “especially having an impact helping students who come to me for advice.”

A key takeaway for the incoming freshmen is understanding the full gamut of resources that Montclair has available, everything from counseling, the dean’s office, financial aid to academic support. Peer mentor Tim Orlando, a junior Political Science major, says, “It’s stuff that as a college student, even myself, you take for granted a little bit and you don’t realize how important, how valuable these resources the University offers are. We’ve given these freshmen the tools that can benefit them throughout their academic years.”

EOF: Building Community

Montclair’s Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) prepares incoming scholars with classes and a host of co-curricular activities, including learning about financial literacy, career development, community service and leadership development.

“With all of the touch points that we create and develop, by the end of the five-week summer program, the scholars are fully connected to the



Steven Melendez performs at the talent show of the Statewide EOF Empowerment Conference. Building a sense of community and belonging is a key component of the early college summer programs.

community, and they’re ready for the fall semester. When the fall semester starts, they’ve made those connections to make that transition a lot easier,” says Assistant Provost for Special Programs, EOF and Academic Success Daniel Jean.

Montclair students graduate at a higher rate than the national average and more than 70% of EOF scholars, many who come from under-funded school districts, graduate within six years. EOF Director Rahjaun

Gordon attributes this to the quality mentoring, tutoring, resources and advising the scholars receive beginning with the Summer Academy when they are able to take six college credits for free.

Hispanic Student College Institute: College Advice for Families

Rising high school juniors and seniors of Hispanic/Latinx descent and their parents are invited to Montclair each summer to learn about college admissions, enrollment, financial aid and academic offerings – information presented in both English and Spanish – at the annual Hispanic Student College Institute (HSCI).

Brandon Castillo, a rising senior from West New York, New Jersey, said he learned about HSCI from his English teacher and especially enjoyed learning from the Montclair student mentors. “They shared how they navigated college life. They’re also young, so I have more in common and can have one-on-one conversations with them. I loved the advice they gave me.”

Exploration in Health Careers

Montclair’s Health Careers Program prepares highly motivated and academically capable students from financially and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds for admission to health professions schools (medical, dental, optometry, podiatry, osteopathic and veterinary) and other careers in the sciences and health.

Students Can Earn Credit While Still in High School

Early College Scholars are rising high school juniors and seniors who complement high school study with Montclair coursework. The students earn transferable college credits, experience the rigors and expectations of college-level classes, learn alongside University students and engage in courses taught by University professors on campus or online.

Learn more at montclair.edu/campaigns/early-college-programs.

HIGH MARKS

Montclair faculty prevent injustices in the legal system, fight human trafficking, promote environmental justice and reduce online hate and extremism, among many other endeavors.

A dynamic research institution, Montclair continues making news with groundbreaking research. Among some of the highlights: One of the first and largest studies to document the psychological, academic and

economic impact of COVID-19 on college students; studies revealing the increased use of hate speech terms on Twitter; and research on neutrons and dark matter, jellyfish invasions, safe drinking water and climate change.

Numerous faculty members are often-turned-to voices on important issues. Among our nationally renowned experts:



Justice Studies Professor **Jason Williams**, an activist-scholar examines the experiences of young Black men with the American criminal justice system.



As a Liberty Science Center guest astronomer, Montclair State University Professor **Marc Favata** explored the ways we can “listen” to space and time.



Biology Professor **Meiyin Wu**, an aquatic ecologist runs the only state-certified testing lab for cyanotoxins in New Jersey, and leads teams throughout New Jersey’s freshwater lakes to regularly monitor algal blooms that make swimming, boating, fishing – and drinking – unsafe.



Professors **Robert Reid** and **Pauline Garcia-Reid** work with a diverse group of community stakeholders in Paterson, N.J., to reduce substance abuse and empower teens and young adults to make healthy life choices. Their highly successful program uses multi-tiered prevention strategies, including culturally tailored curricula about substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, and viral hepatitis.



Biology Professor **Paul Bologna** researches an invasive species of tiny jellyfish with venom so potent that a sting can send victims to the hospital, writhing in pain. These tiny creatures are not only a health threat but a risk to the recreation-driven economy of the Jersey Shore.



HOW TO CHOOSE A MAJOR: ADVICE FROM ACADEMIC ADVISORS AND PEER MENTORS

Resources to help students discover their paths, follow their hearts and choose a major they'll love

Daniel Aguirre knows what it's like to start college without a clear path of study. A transfer student, he was thinking about communications, then changed to teaching. "There were so many things that I thought I wanted to do. At one point, I even thought I wanted to be a dancer," he jokes.

Aguirre eventually chose a path he loves, a new offering in the School of Communication and Media: Social Media and Public Relations. "It is a journey and sometimes it takes some thinking about and evaluating what you really want to do. I advise students, 'Do what you love, not what other people want you to do.'"

Choosing a major is among the most important decisions a college student will make, and Montclair has a large team of advisors and staff dedicated to helping them find the right fit. For the past five years, University College – the first and still the only program in New Jersey that supports undergraduates – has helped more than 3,100 students successfully declare their major.

"A lot of times students don't realize that some of the extracurriculars they are involved in or are passionate about are things that could turn

into careers and majors," says University College Academic Advisor Johayra "Joy" Granados-Roldán.

Talking about those passions is the beginning of the process in helping students discover their path. "When I meet with my students, I review with them things that they may not even realize that could potentially be a career," Granados-Roldán says. That includes talking about the activities they enjoy and providing assessments that lead to tracks of study.

"Students are sometimes just aware of the options that are within their personal network," adds Academic Advisor Hope Lennon. "They know teaching is an option. They know business as an option. Maybe a parent is a police officer. They typically think of those things and they rarely think outside of the box just because they don't know that those options exist."

Learn more at montclair.edu/university-college.

2+2 = TRANSFERRING MADE EASY

Montclair State University partners with community colleges with a 2+2 Program that guarantees admission for students who complete an associate degree.

Students work with advisors from both schools to keep them on track to earn their AA/AS and bachelor's degrees.

Participating two-year colleges are Bergen Community College, Brookdale Community College, County College of Morris, Hudson County Community College, Middlesex County

College, Ocean County College, Passaic County Community College, Union College and Westchester Community College.

JOINT ACADEMIC AGREEMENT WITH HUDSON

An academic agreement between Montclair State University and Hudson County Community College – which shares a Hispanic-Serving Institution designation with

Montclair – allows associate degree students to plan their total baccalaureate experience at the beginning of their college career and seamlessly transfer into corresponding bachelor's degree programs at the University. Hudson students transferring to Montclair must be in good academic standing and have the minimum GPA required for their program of study. The students must also go through Montclair's transfer process and meet all requirements and deadlines pertaining to the application for admission.

ARTS DAYS

Prospective students can explore all of Montclair's arts and find dates for interviews, auditions and portfolio days for Art and Design, Communication and Media, Dance, Music and Theatre at montclair.edu/artsdays.



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Office hours at both Montclair and Bloomfield: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS CONNECT UNIVERSITY AND NYC

Summer enrichment classes allow high school students to explore careers, passions and interests in the city and on campus



Tori Mcklaine interviews University President Jonathan Koppell about the new Pre-College Summer Programs. "I had 100% confidence that if we invited high school students to come and sample what we had to offer at Montclair that it would not be hard for us to attract very bright, engaged students. I have no doubt that this is going to grow in the years ahead," Koppell told her.

Tori Mcklaine still has her senior year of high school in South Jersey. But when she joins the Class of 2028 at Montclair State University, where Mcklaine has already committed to play Red Hawks soccer, she has a game plan to beat the freshman jitters.

"No matter how scary the experience may seem, the people surrounding you can make a difference," Mcklaine says.

Pursuing their passions and career paths in film and TV production, social media marketing, business innovation, Python and robotics, and art and architecture, nearly 100 high school students came to Montclair in July for new one-week Pre-College Summer Programs.

Classes taught by Montclair faculty were complemented by access to the corporate and cultural resources of New York City. It was the best of both worlds as students experienced what it's like to live and learn on campus and how the University is connected to the vibrant metropolitan region. NYC field trips included Google headquarters, creative agencies and the hit musical *Hamilton*.

A Sampling of Montclair's Pre-College Summer Programs

Intelligent Systems: Python and Robotics

Aspiring engineers learned to program in Python and designed and built their own robot systems, their efforts spotlighted in a robotics demonstration and competition.

Film and Television Production Aspiring storytellers scripted, shot, edited and starred in their own narrative films, gaining hands-on training across the production process.

Business Entrepreneurship and Innovation Working in teams, students redesigned public spaces for the town of Montclair using 3D printers in the University's innovation research MIX Lab.

Social Media Success: Influencing, Marketing and Creative Strategy For the socially savvy, the program saw students creating content, working with influencers, and understanding and analyzing social media data.

Summertime in the Big Apple: Exciting Excursions in New York City With New York City just 12 miles away, students

commuted daily to the city to produce digital photographic essays about their experiences in art, food and culture.

Three other programs allowed for longer experiences at Montclair, including:

Pre-Law Summer Academy Students worked in teams preparing a case in an environmental law contamination suit while learning about issues that impact Native American and Indigenous people in New Jersey and across the globe. The program was sponsored by Montclair's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Rutgers Law School and Seton Hall Law School.

Italian Immersion Summer Program An immersive experience in Italian language and culture that allowed students to earn college credits.

Model United Nations Summer Academy Students learned to solve real-world problems from a former U.N. diplomat and also earned college credits.



Stella Haupt-Lucas – holding her autographed playbill – proves she was indeed in the room where it happened.

Learn more at montclair.edu/early-college-program/pre-college-programs-for-high-school-students.

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montclair.edu/admissions

APPLICATION DEADLINES

FRESHMAN APPLICATION DEADLINES

Early Action:
December 1, 2023

Nursing
February 1, 2024

Scholarship
Consideration
March 1, 2024

Preferred:
March 1, 2024

TRANSFER APPLICATION DEADLINES

Spring 2024:
November 15, 2023
Fall 2024:
April 15, 2024

DEPOSIT DEADLINES

Freshman Students
May 1, 2024

Transfer Students
Spring 2024:
December 5, 2023
Fall 2024:
June 1, 2024

COUNSELOR EVENTS

Counselor Workshop
December 1, 2023

Virtual Counselor
Mini-Workshops
October 17, 2023
November 16, 2023

Transfer Virtual
Counselor Workshop
January 12, 2024

KEY DATES

FAFSA Priority Filing
Deadline
February 1, 2024

Montclair Fall
Open House
October 8 or
November 12

Bloomfield College
of Montclair State
University
Open House
October 21, 2023

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