

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025

RED HAWK FAMILY

WELCOME, FUTURE RED HAWK!

Getting accepted is a cause for celebration!
Experience campus life firsthand at
Accepted Student Day —
and picture how far you'll go.
Sunday, April 6, 2025
or Sunday, April 13, 2025

MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY

Montclair State University

DREAM BIG, AIM HIGH

GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED AT OUR VIRTUAL FAMILY EVENTS

Join us for an upcoming virtual event designed for students, parents and guardians — available in English or Spanish.

Explore our beautiful campus, discover how we support students inside and outside the classroom, navigate financial aid packages, and much more.

To register, visit:

[apply.montclair.edu/
portal/parents](https://apply.montclair.edu/portal/parents)



Congratulations on your acceptance to Montclair State University! On behalf of our entire campus community, I am thrilled to welcome you and your family to the Red Hawk family. This is an exciting time, and we are so proud to have you join our vibrant and supportive community.

At Montclair, being part of the Red Hawk family means more than just attending classes — it means belonging to a dynamic and inclusive environment where your voice matters and your potential can soar. Our community is built on a foundation of connection, support and pride, and we are dedicated to helping you thrive in every aspect of your college experience.

Engagement is at the heart of what it means to be a Red Hawk. Whether it's participating in our 120+ student organizations, attending athletic events, joining a leadership program, or volunteering in the local community, you'll find countless opportunities to connect, grow and make a difference. These experiences will shape your journey and help you build lifelong friendships and skills that will serve you well beyond your time at Montclair.

We are also deeply committed to your holistic wellness and well-being. Your success is not just about academics — it's about thriving in all areas of life. From our fitness and recreation facilities to our robust mental health and counseling services, wellness workshops, and opportunities for reflection and self-care, we are here to support you in becoming your best self. At Montclair, we understand that taking care of your mind, body and spirit is key to achieving your goals.

As the Vice President for Student Development and Campus Life, I encourage you to embrace every opportunity and immerse yourself in the Red Hawk experience. This is your time to explore your passions, challenge yourself, and create memories that will last a lifetime. Together, we'll ensure that your journey is as enriching and fulfilling as possible.

Welcome to Montclair State University! We are excited to have you as part of the Red Hawk family, and we can't wait to see the incredible things you will accomplish.

Best always,
Dr. S

Dawn Meza Soufleris

Dawn Meza Soufleris, PhD
Vice President for Student Development and Campus Life
Montclair State University



COMMIT TO YOUR FUTURE

Top Reasons to Attend Montclair's Accepted Student Day

Ready to Join the Red Hawk family? Accepted Student Day is your chance to explore academic programs, campus resources and student life while imagining yourself as part of Montclair's dynamic community.

Get a Feel for Campus

Stroll through our vibrant campus and picture yourself as a Red Hawk. Tour residence halls, academic buildings and the Student Center while discovering leadership opportunities, clubs and activities that make campus life exciting.

Discover Standout Academic Programs

- **80+ combined 4+1 programs** — the most in New Jersey — saves you time and money by letting you earn both a bachelor's and master's degree in just five years.
- **Career-focused tracks** in Business, Education, Law and Pre-Med prepare you for a successful future.

Explore Majors (Even If You're Undecided)

Not sure what to study? No problem! Ask questions, explore different programs, and learn how **University College** — New Jersey's first program for undecided students — can guide you toward finding your passion.

Experience Red Hawk Pride

Feel the energy of our spirited campus. Meet mascots Rocky, Roxy and campus pupscot Pebbles. Discover varsity and club sports teams and more than 120 student clubs focused on arts, culture, community service and more.

Explore Financial Aid Options

Understand your financial aid package and discover how Montclair makes education affordable:

- **Red Hawk Advantage Award:** Tuition-free for eligible students on both Montclair and Bloomfield campuses.
- **Honors Program:** Offers up to \$2,000 in funding while fostering leadership and public service, with students living in a unique learning community at The Heights.

JOIN US FOR ACCEPTED STUDENT DAY

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025 OR
SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025**

Discover your next steps in the enrollment process and connect with current students and future Red Hawks just like you!

Register at montclair.edu/admissions/asd.



5 Reasons to FALL-IN-LOVE WITH Montclair

1. You'll Thrive with a Focus on Well-Being



Students connect during Red Hawk Day, a Welcome Week tradition featuring carnival rides, club fairs and special activities.



Red Hawk women's basketball players share a joyful moment with Pebbles, the campus mini labradoodle, and Charley, the "Director of Pawsitivity."

At Montclair, success means thriving academically, socially and personally.

- **Academic Support:** Free tutoring, peer coaching and workshops through the Center for Academic Success and Tutoring.
- **Be a Strong Student Campaign:** This professor-led initiative promotes effective habits and practical strategies to help students stay organized, motivated and connected.
- **Wellness Resources:** Fitness centers, mental health services, therapy animals and innovative spaces like Nap Pods and Zen Dens.
- **Sense of Belonging:** Programs help all students feel connected to campus life.

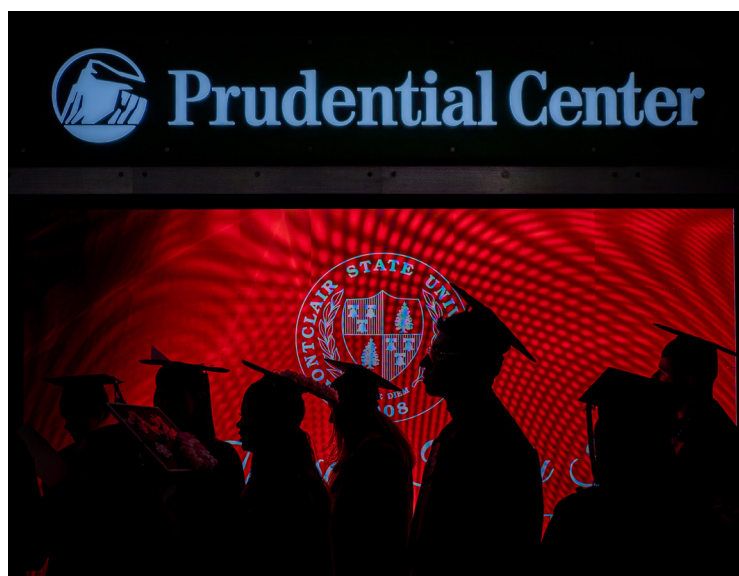
With 120+ student organizations, athletic events, leadership programs and volunteer opportunities, Montclair offers countless ways to connect, grow and make a difference.



2. YOU'LL ELEVATE YOUR POTENTIAL

With over 300 programs, including the most 4+1 bachelor's/master's options in New Jersey, Montclair prepares you to excel.

- **Prime Location:** Just 12 miles from NYC, offering internships with top employers from Broadway to Wall Street.
- **Career Support:** Advisors and mentors help students secure roles in leading industries. Over 7,000 approved employers recruit Montclair students, helping them explore passions, test career paths and build strong portfolios.



Proven Results: Montclair students graduate at higher rates than the national average.

3.

YOU'LL BE PART OF POSITIVE CHANGE



Montclair volunteers help with a Habitat for Humanity project in Paterson, New Jersey.

Montclair students make an impact locally and globally:

- Building homes, running food drives and engaging with nonprofits through programs like Bonner Leaders, NextGen Service Corps and AmeriCorps.
- Undergraduate learning experiences empower students to tackle the most complex challenges of our time.
- Montclair is the only public institution in New Jersey — and one of just 15 nationwide — recognized for its commitment to public purpose and equity with the prestigious Carnegie Leadership for Public Purpose Classification.



Richard Steiner-Otoo, former Student Government Association president, credits his summer internship at the White House — where he was among the few public university students selected — as pivotal in solidifying his passion for a career in public service.

"The SGA helped me discover my true passion for helping people. I wasn't sure what that would look like at first, but being exposed to public service opportunities here on campus sparked my deep interest in it."

– Richard Steiner-Otoo '24, Geography, Environmental and Urban Studies



Montclair Theatre and Dance alumnus Josh Dela Cruz returns to campus to share insights from his acting career and inspire students.

"I was fortunate enough to be in a production every semester, which built my confidence as an actor and prepared me for a career in theater."

– Josh Dela Cruz '11, host of *Blue's Clues & You!*

4. You'll Experience Unforgettable Moments



Students enjoy carnival rides during Welcome Week, marking the start of a vibrant fall semester.



5

YOU'LL SHAPE THE FUTURE WITH RESEARCH

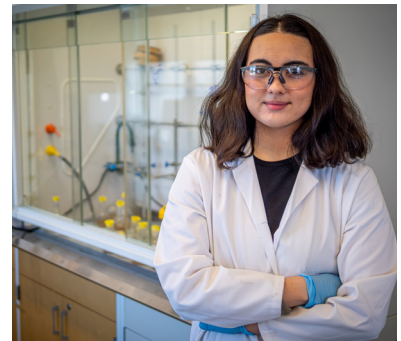
At Montclair, you'll have the opportunity to engage in research early in your undergraduate studies, tackling real-world challenges and driving meaningful change alongside expert faculty.

- **High-Research Recognition:** Montclair is proud to be classified as a high-research doctoral university (Carnegie R2), a prestigious designation that highlights our commitment to groundbreaking research and graduate studies.
- **Personalized Mentorship:** Collaborate with professors on impactful projects. A sampling of current research includes protecting coastal ecosystems, combating malaria and advancing classroom technology.
- **Top-Ranked STEM Opportunities:** In 2024, Montclair was named among the nation's best universities for women in STEM by the *Washington Monthly* College Guide. Montclair offers dozens of STEM degree programs ranging from Business Analytics to Pharmaceutical Biochemistry.

Student researchers waded into their work, studying water quality, pollution and innovative solutions.

Your Montclair journey will be filled with excitement, pride and lasting memories:

- **Campus Highlights:** Touch the Red Hawk statue, admire student art and enjoy NYC skyline views.
- **Signature Events:** Welcome Week, featuring carnival rides and club fairs; Homecoming, celebrating Red Hawk Pride; and World's Fair Day.
- **Creative Connections:** Access to industry leaders in performing arts, music and film.



Rachel Gushikem is among the student researchers addressing critical issues like curing malaria, advancing classroom technology, and protecting swimmers from jellyfish in New Jersey's coastal bays.

"Professors know that you're new and that you're learning. They're excited about being a part of your process, which makes it easy to have the vulnerability to try new things in the lab and be unafraid to ask the questions you need to ask to grow as a scientist."

– Rachel Gushikem, Biochemistry



Students relax under Montclair's blooming trees, enjoying the beauty of campus during a spring event.

ACCELERATE YOUR DEGREE WITH MONTCLAIR'S 4+1 AND SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAMS

4+1 Bachelor's/ Master's Programs

4+1 BACHELOR'S/MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Looking ahead? Our 4+1 programs let you save time and money by earning both your bachelor's and master's degrees in just five years. Montclair offers more combined programs than any other university in New Jersey, with over 80 options across every college and school on campus.

By pursuing a combo degree, students can:

- Get a head start on their careers.
- Save up to \$7,000 in tuition and fees.

Summer Bridge Scholars Program

SUMMER BRIDGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Jump-start your college experience with the Summer Bridge Scholars Program. From July 1 to July 31, 2025, incoming freshmen can earn six degree credits at a discounted rate across all of Montclair's schools and colleges.

It's designed to help you ease into college life, build connections with peers and mentors, and set the foundation for academic success — all before your first semester even begins.

JOIN THE MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY ON ZEEEEE

ZeeMee is a free app that connects you with other prospective and admitted students, helping you build your Montclair network before you even step on campus.

Here's what you can do on ZeeMee:

- Chat with other students who share your interests and passions.
- Use the **Friend Finder** tool to explore potential roommates for the future.
- Participate in live social events and build connections early.
- **Accepted students** get exclusive access to the **Admitted Student Chat** and can take a roommate finder quiz to find their ideal match.

Get started today and make Montclair feel like home! Learn more:
montclair.edu/admissions/zeemee



Nicholas Burgess '24 interned with Morgan Stanley, the global investment bank and financial services company, while earning his undergraduate degree in Business Management. Now, he's staying at Montclair for an additional year to earn his Master of Business Administration (MBA).

"I've always wanted to get an MBA. To be able to do it while earning my undergrad degree, and finish it within a year, is everything you could ask for. The program is everything and more."

— Nicholas Burgess '24

HOW MONTCLAIR HELPS STUDENTS SAVE MONEY ON COLLEGE



At Montclair, ensuring students can afford a college education is a top priority. We offer a variety of financial aid options to make higher education accessible and affordable. Below are the types of financial support available to students and their families:

RED HAWK ADVANTAGE AWARD

- Guarantees funding for eligible incoming New Jersey first-year and transfer students.
- Covers up to four semesters of free tuition and fees at Montclair or Bloomfield.
- Who qualifies? Families with a federal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) between \$0 and \$65,000.
- Combined with the Garden State Guarantee, students could graduate with little to no debt.

GARDEN STATE GUARANTEE

- Provides up to four semesters of free tuition for New Jersey students in their third and fourth years of study at in-state, four-year public universities.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

- Freshman applicants are automatically reviewed; no separate application is required.

TALENT-BASED PERFORMING ARTS AWARD

- Offers scholarships for students admitted to Montclair's prestigious performing arts programs in Dance, Musical Theatre, Music and Theatre.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- Highly competitive, merit-based awards for high-achieving, first-time freshmen.
- Award amounts vary based on academic achievements, including unweighted high school GPA, class rank and standardized test scores (if submitted).
- Students are automatically considered when they apply.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND (EOF)

- Includes a free summer academy, allowing students to earn credits toward their degree.



SCHOLARSHIP UNIVERSE

Our scholarship-matching tool makes it easier for enrolled students to discover external scholarships that fit their needs. With ScholarshipUniverse, you can:

- Access a database of well-vetted and reliable scholarship opportunities.
- Apply to as many scholarships as you want—there's no limit.

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

TUITION AND FEES

Montclair remains one of New Jersey's most affordable universities, offering students access to record institutional aid while maintaining high-quality education.



Learn more about
Tuition and Fees.

WHAT'S IT REALLY LIKE TO LIVE ON CAMPUS?



Our students share must-know tips to make your back-to-school transition seamless.



LIVING ON CAMPUS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If you're preparing to live on campus, you might be wondering what dorm life is really like. We asked current students to share their best advice, from what to pack to how to make the most of your campus experience.

Meet Your Guides

- **Minyae McKenzie, Senior**
Major: Social Media and Public Relations
- **Navila Gomez, Senior**
Major: Business Administration, Entrepreneurship
- **Danny DeRonde, Sophomore**
Major: Exercise Science

Packing Tips:

- **Minyae:** Bring only what you absolutely need – think minimal dishes, one notebook and a rolling cart for laundry.
- **Navila:** Don't bring your whole closet; if you didn't wear it at home, you won't wear it here.
- **Danny:** Skip the extra furniture and air fryers. Pack essentials like a laundry bin, extension cords and a TV.

Advice for Meeting New People:

- **Minyae:** If you want to make new friends, go to the Student Center either on the first or third floor – this is where all the commuters go to hang out. Just about everyone there wants to be social. I've made a lot of friends by hanging out there between classes.

Getting to Know Your Roommate:

- **Minyae:** Reach out before move-in day, grab lunch or attend events together.
- **Danny:** Take walks, explore campus and just talk – you'll bond quickly.

Myths About Dorm Life, Busted

- **Minyae:** Living on campus is a social game-changer – the best decision I've made.
- **Navila:** I thought I'd get tired of campus life, but it feels like home and my roommates are like family.
- **Danny:** It's not a suitcase school – there's always something to do, even on weekends.

Final Tips for Success

- **Minyae:** Fill out the roommate agreement to avoid misunderstandings.
- **Navila:** Get involved on campus – it's the best way to grow and discover yourself.

YOU BELONG HERE

Montclair is committed to ensuring every student feels a sense of belonging in the Red Hawk community. "When students find their niche, they feel more confident and stable," says Dawn Meza Soufleris, vice president for Student Development and Campus Life.

Our inclusive and vibrant campus offers:

- **120+ clubs and organizations:** Student government, academic and cultural clubs, the student newspaper and radio station, Greek Life and service groups.
- **1,000+ annual events:** From festivals and outdoor movie nights to service trips that give back to the local community.
- **Campus recreation:** Intramural sports, fitness classes, and even s'mores nights around the fire pit help students connect and unwind.

Commuters, We've Got You Covered

More than 50% of Greek Life and student government leaders are commuters! Montclair offers "Pit Stops" with study tables, charging stations and places to relax, ensuring commuters stay connected and engaged.

Get Involved and Thrive

Join a club, attend events or explore an on-campus job – getting involved leads to more school pride, stronger professional skills and a deeper connection to your campus.

Make Montclair your home. Jump in, get involved and find your place in the Red Hawk family.



MONTCLAIR: A NATIONAL LEADER IN EXCELLENCE, OPPORTUNITY AND STUDENT SUCCESS



TRANSFORMING FUTURES THROUGH SOCIAL MOBILITY

Montclair is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as a national leader in increasing social mobility, ensuring that all students have access to life-changing opportunities.



EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS AND AFFORDABILITY

- ✓ Named among the **Best Colleges in America** (*Money*)
- ✓ Recognized for offering the **Best Bang for Your Buck** (*Washington Monthly*)
- ✓ Ranked among the **Best Schools for Women in STEM** (*Washington Monthly*)



NEW JERSEY'S LARGEST HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION

Montclair serves more Hispanic and Latine students than any other university in the state, earning distinctions as:

- ✓ **A Top 100 College for Hispanics** (*Hispanic Outlook on Education*)
- ✓ **A Top Degree Producer** (*Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*)



Hunter Ayala celebrates his achievement with joy after crossing the Commencement stage.

"Family has always been the most important thing to me, growing up Peruvian and Colombian. Both my parents worked so hard to give their son the opportunity to be a first-generation college student. When it came time to choose a school, Montclair was the obvious choice. It wasn't just affordable – I received the Presidential Scholarship for high-achieving, first-year students – but it also allowed me to continue experiencing the kind of diversity that has always been such an important part of my life."

– Hunter Ayala '23, Business Administration



Ready to soar as a Red Hawk?
Submit your New Student Deposit
now to secure your seat.

montclair.edu/admissions/commit



Access Red Hawk Family
online for direct links to helpful
resources, including financial
aid, student life and our Summer
Bridge Scholars Program.

montclair.edu/redhawkfamily

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

FAFSA Deadline:

Students who haven't yet submitted their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) should do so as soon as possible. Applications filed after **February 1** will receive financial aid notifications on a rolling basis.

Deposit Deadline:

To ensure timely class registration, scholarships and more, students are encouraged to submit their deposits by the deadline: **May 1**.

Housing Deadline:

For guaranteed housing, submit the Housing Deposit by **May 1**.

CONTACT US

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