Welcome to the Fall Semester!

In academia, the fall signals a brand new start! For those of you who are new to MWCC and to the Rx Program, we welcome your enthusiasm and plan to match it as we offer our many services designed for your success. We hope you will get to know your Rx advisors, other new students, and returning students. We’re all part of your team!

We certainly haven’t forgotten about our returning students. It was a bit quiet without you this summer, but we know you will soon share your summer stories with us. This is a big year for many of you beginning your healthcare programs, completing your pre-requisites, or graduating this year. The Rx Program is here to provide you with ongoing support as we applaud your successes.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will be introduced to two new staff members. Paula Clapp is our professional math tutor who is eager to meet and assist you. Be sure to sign up early for math tutoring appointments. You can learn more about Paula on page 3.

The other new member of our team is ReX, a former student who has agreed to share his wisdom and experiences on creating and maintaining a successful college career. See the first Dear ReX column on page 2.

As always, we remain committed to supporting your successes in any way possible and look forward to helping you reach your goals. See you soon!

Your friendly Rx Program staff,

Gaurav Gloria Catherine Lisa
Heidi Paula ReX

Shout Outs!

Congratulations to the following students for acceptance into selective healthcare programs for the 2014 – 2015 academic year!

CLS
Francesca Ramos
Dental Hygiene
Sarah Brooks
PTA
Chelsea Gordon Caitlin Keefe
Samantha Stewart
RN
Charlotte Asanji Brandy Badzinski
Madeline Chertes
Kara Costa
Stephanie Lopez
Maria Chatoya

Note: This was the information available to us at the time we went to print.

Program Services
- Academic Advising
- Personal Counseling
- Career Counseling
- Transfer Counseling
- Disabilities Services
- Individual and Group Tutoring
- Seminars
- FYE Courses
- Supplemental Instruction
- Cultural Activities
- Grant Aid
- Equipment Loans (laptops, calculators, & more)

Program Staff
- Gaurav Khanna Director
- Catherine Maddox-Wiley Retention Specialist
- Lisa Diamond Transfer Counselor
- Heidi Wharton Academic Counselor
- Gloria Correa Management Assistant
- Paula Clapp Math Professional Tutor

Seminars For Excellence

Start the semester with the Study Skills Warm-Up Week and Transfer Exploration. All sessions meet from 12:30pm – 1:30pm.

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Goal Setting</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>Writing for College Success</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>Time Management</td>
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<td>Active Learning Strategies</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
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<td>Transfer for Healthcare Majors</td>
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Advice From an Experienced Student

Hello Readers: I’m ReX, a former MWCC student now earning a bachelor’s degree. I’ve navigated my way through college by trial and error, so I thought I could share what I’ve learned with you. If you need my help, submit your concern or question to the Rx Program by September 9, and it may appear in the October newsletter. Remember, someone may have the same question that you do. Read on for the first Dear ReX question.

Dear ReX:
I was so excited to start college, but in the third week of the semester, I had to take my four-year old to the emergency room one night and didn’t get my English 101 paper in on time, and the professor wouldn’t accept it because it was assigned the first week of class. And to make matters worse, my car broke down, and I’ve missed a week of classes. Should I just quit?

Yours truly,
Rita Xavier

Dear Rita:
Life happens, and sometimes our plans and intentions can be derailed by unexpected circumstances. There’s usually a way to soften the impact. Before you withdraw, consider how you can set things right:

*Meet with your professors during their office hours to explain your situation and ask if and how you can make up the lectures and assignments. If extra credit assignments are offered, do them!

*Talk with classmates and ask if they will share notes and information. Let them know that you will gladly return the favor.

Sorry to say, Rita, but something like this may happen again, but you can prepare by following a few steps:

*Expect the unexpected and make a Plan B. For instance, stay ahead of the homework. Have a back-up daycare plan. Get the phone numbers of classmates in your town for transportation assistance.

*Seek advice and assistance as soon as possible to avoid missing out on the homework. Have a back-up daycare plan. Get the phone numbers of classmates in your town for transportation assistance.

Communication

You will receive a weekly e-letter filled with important announcements, reminders and deadlines. We recommend that you check your MWCC email several times a week. Additionally, the Rx Program’s newsletters will be mailed to your home each month. Watch for tips and details about upcoming events.

Friendly Reminders

Rx Advisors

The Rx advisors are here for you! Catherine, Lisa, and Gaurav are available on the Gardner campus, and Heidi is at Devens. We encourage you to get to know all of the Rx staff, so feel free to meet with any of the counselors.

Tutoring

Be sure to sign up for tutoring assistance, even if you don’t think you need it right now. It’s easier to stay ahead of what you are learning if you use tutoring at the beginning of the semester. Paula is the Rx math tutor available for individual appointments. For assistance in other subject areas, the Academic Support Center is a great resource, providing professional and peer tutoring.

Computer Usage and Equipment Loans

The Rx Program offers free technology support. Active students are eligible to use computers and free printing as well as borrow laptops, calculators and voice recorders. Students are expected to follow usage policies.

Professors’ Expectations: How To Put Your Best Foot Forward

Professors are people too! They have at least two interests: their subject matter and their students. Show your professors that you are a true student, not just a warm body sitting in the classroom. You’ll enjoy the course and the outcome more if you commit yourself from the beginning.

Attend class: Be present physically and mentally. Sit near the front. Be an active listener. Focus on what the professor is saying and doing.

Participate: Engage in classroom discussion. Respond to questions. Show enthusiasm. It will help you focus even if the course doesn’t interest you.

Do the work: Hand in quality assignments that show you put in great effort. Be on time.

Value your reputation: Do your own work. Be honest. Respect the gift of education.

Interact: Meet with your professors during their office hours. Know your professors’ email addresses. Keep them informed of any special circumstances you may have or situations that come up during the semester.

Need help implementing these strategies? See an Rx advisor for ideas.

Introducing Paula Clapp Rx Math Tutor

Paula Clapp received her bachelor’s degree in special education from Fitchburg State University in 1985 and then taught in the public schools for 24 years. Paula has always loved math, especially algebra, and has worked as a professional math tutor in the Academic Support Center at MWCC. Her special education background helps her guide students in finding their learning styles and understanding math in different ways. Paula says, “I consider myself an "algebra nerd" and really do love solving equations!” Paula is married and has two children, ages 12 and 14, whom she home-schooled. Other members of the Clapp family include Tiger, a cat, and a Maltese named Fred. Paula tries to spend much of summer on Cape Cod and at the beach. She spends time with family, scrapbooking and making jewelry.

We encourage students to stop by, welcome Paula to the Rx Program and get on her calendar.

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Orientation Day</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Kick-Off Event North Cafe 12:30-1:30</td>
<td>Full Semester Last day to add/drop classes for 100% refund</td>
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<td>18</td>
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September 16—Full Semester: Last Day to Drop Classes for 50% refund