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The Parent Link is a quarterly publication from the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton that is dedicated to helping parents make informed decisions about higher education for their children. To receive The Parent Link each quarter, visit the UACCM homepage at www.uaccm.edu. Scroll down the menu on the left side and click on "Parents." From this page, you may register for future mailings, find helpful financial aid links, and stay up-to-date on approaching deadlines or upcoming parent nights.
From the Chancellor:

Dear Parents:

We are excited that your child is considering becoming a student at the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton. The faculty and staff at UACCM are very aware of the investment both you and your child are making in terms of time, energy, and money to achieve this important goal. We understand that the purpose of this investment is to increase opportunities for a prosperous future, and we also understand that as employees, we are here only because our students are here. They are truly the purpose of our work.

We will set high standards for your child, both in terms of academic achievement and personal responsibility. We will expect prompt and regular attendance of all classes for which they are enrolled, and we will expect them to complete all class work and homework as assigned. We will live up to our responsibilities by delivering quality educational opportunities and services, and will expect every student to live up to theirs. This will help ensure that both you and the student receive a proper return on your investment.

Please help us encourage your child to seek assistance when they need it. UACCM teachers are willing to provide guidance and assistance beyond regular classroom activities. Free tutoring services are available in the Math and Computer Labs, as well as the Writing Center, and study areas are located in the Kirk Building, Business Technology Center, the University Center, and the Library. The Plaza (food service) is a great place for breakfast, lunch, or studying with friends. Students who need assistance because of learning difficulties should contact the Disability Support Services Office in the Kirk Building, and students with personal issues that interfere with their opportunity for academic success should visit the Counselor's Office which is also located in the Kirk Building.

We encourage students to take leadership roles in the Student Government Association and numerous other student organizations on campus, and while our intramural program is relatively new, your child will find a variety of activities to participate in. We will kick off the fall semester with a Back-To-School Bash and more activities will follow throughout the year, providing students with the opportunity to make new friends and enrich their educational experience. I encourage your child to participate in school organizations and activities since increased interaction with faculty, staff, and other students provide a sense of belonging and increase the chance for success.

It would truly be a pleasure for me to welcome your child to UACCM.

C. Nathan Crook
Chancellor

The Parent Link is a quarterly newsletter published by the UACCM Admissions Office. To receive an electronic copy via e-mail, please visit the UACCM Web site at www.uacccm.edu and click on "Parents." From here you may click on "Join Our Mailing List" and register to receive updates or information concerning upcoming UACCM events.
Why consider a two-year college?

Many parents ask the question, "Why should we consider a two-year college for our child?" The answer is:

- lower tuition costs,
- more individualized attention, and
- a quality education.

At a two-year college, students planning to complete a bachelor's degree may earn the first two years of general education credits at less than half the cost of one year at a larger university. That's two years for the price of one! Two-year colleges also offer more individualized attention through small class sizes and a cozy campus atmosphere. Classes at UACCM have a maximum capacity of ten to thirty students, depending on the course, and offer the same quality of instruction offered by four-year universities. The general education credits earned from UACCM will transfer to any public university in Arkansas, guaranteeing your student a smooth transition from high school to college, and providing a solid foundation for future learning.

College Entrance Exams - What You Need to Know

College entrance exams are used by colleges and universities to determine admission to the college, placement for math and English courses, and scholarship eligibility. Colleges have one of two admission policies in place: open or selective. This information is usually available in the college's view book or on the admission application, and simply put, open admission policies mean anyone is eligible to enroll at that college, regardless of entrance exam scores of grade point averages. UACCM is an open admission college, but requires entrance exam scores to determine the best class placement in math and English courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>COMPASS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timed</td>
<td>Not Timed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written</td>
<td>Computerized</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scores mailed in 3-4 weeks</td>
<td>Scores received the same day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration one month in advance</td>
<td>No pre-registration required</td>
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<tr>
<td>$30 + testing fee</td>
<td>$15 testing fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offered 5 - 6 times per year</td>
<td>Offered every Thursday at UACCM</td>
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Not all universities accept the COMPASS Exam, so students should contact all of the colleges and universities being considered to determine which entrance exam scores are acceptable.

COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE: October - December

Ensure that your class schedule for the upcoming year includes all of the credits necessary to graduate and qualify for academic programs, such as Arkansas Scholars and Arkansas Academic Challenge.

Begin the college selection process by requesting information from all colleges being considered. Pay attention to application and financial aid deadlines.

Schedule campus visits at your top college choices and attend college fairs or parent nights to learn more.

ACT Testing Date - October 27, December 8 (register at www.act.org)
**Financial Aid: What Are Your Options?**

Now is the time to begin the financial aid process by researching scholarship and grant options. Your student's high school counselor is usually the best resource for financial aid information, including federal, state, and local options. UACCM also maintains a parent website that has links to a wealth of financial aid information at www.uaccm.edu.

**Grants.** When considering financial aid options, always look for the “free money” first. This refers to grants and scholarships, which do not have to be repaid. The most commonly recognized grant opportunity for students is the federal Pell Grant, although there are a number of other federal and state grants available. Application for grant money is made in February of each year by completing a FAFSA, available from the high school counselor or a college’s financial aid office. Grants are need based and will require that the student submit federal tax information for the household.

**Scholarships.** Scholarships are available from so many sources that the list can be overwhelming. Websites such as www.arkansasasscholarshipconnection.org and www.fastweb.com offer search engines to help narrow down the wide array of scholarships available to students. Also check with local businesses, civic and community groups for available scholarships. Many employers offer scholarships to employees and the children of employees. Most high school counselors maintain a list of available scholarships and students should make an effort to stop by the counselor’s office on a regular basis. Encourage your student to order application and financial aid packets from every college being considered. Familiarize yourself with the scholarship deadlines and don't miss them!

**Other Options.** Students also have other financial aid options that include student loans and work study programs. Student loans offer lower interest rates, flexible repayment terms, and deferred payments while the student is enrolled in college. Work study programs allow the student to work on-campus and earn a paycheck while attending classes. Each of these programs offer students options for paying for an education. The bottom line on financial aid is to seek out opportunities and apply for everything.

**Planning a College Visit? Questions to Ask.**

One of the most important choices that your student will make this year is what to do after graduation. For those considering college, the success or failure of each student depends largely on finding the right “fit.” Talk with your student to determine what aspects of a college is most important, then look for colleges with those qualities. Some questions that you might consider if:

**Size matters.**
1. What is the average size of the FRESHMAN courses?
2. Ask to see a Comp I or other typical first semester class while in session.

**Financial Aid is the determining factor.**
1. What is the priority deadline for scholarships?
2. What entrance exams are accepted?
3. Is superscoring used for scholarship determination?
4. Is there a separate scholarship application?

**Academics are key.**
1. Is admission open or selective?
2. What is the application deadline and fee?
3. Is an academic advisor assigned from the student's major field?
4. Is tutoring available? Is there a charge?