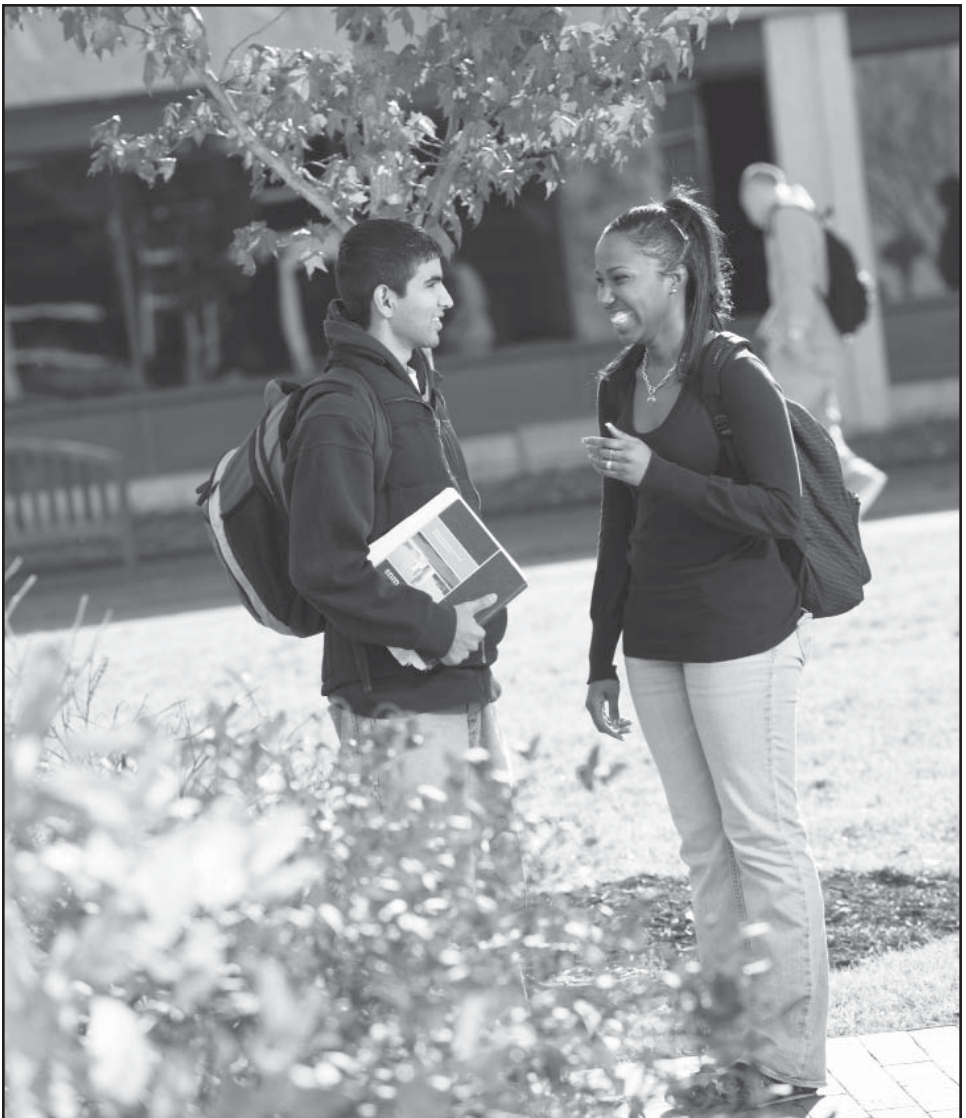


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arly preparation is a major contributor to a successful college career. The Freshman Focus Program at Howard Community College is designed with your success in mind. It helps alleviate some of the natural anxiety about college admission by taking you step by step through the entire process.

Freshman Focus provides graduating seniors, who are HCC's incoming freshmen students, the opportunity to be tested, advised, and registered prior to the hectic pace and more limited course selection of General Registration. The program also enables incoming freshmen to learn more about paying for college, selecting a program of study, and participating fully in college life. Follow the simple steps described in this booklet and you will be completely prepared for your first semester of college by the time you graduate from high school!



STEP

1

MEET WITH AN ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

An admissions advisor will be visiting your high school on scheduled dates. Meet individually with the admissions advisor for your high school, attend one of HCC's High School Information Sessions, and/or contact us to arrange an appointment on campus (443-518-4599; TTY/STS use MD Relay). Check with your guidance office or go to the Freshman Focus website (www.howardcc.edu/admissions) for the dates when an HCC representative will visit your school. See page 3 for High School Information Session dates.

STEP

2

APPLY FOR ADMISSION

Now through March 15, 2012

Admission to HCC is ongoing. However, to participate in the Freshman Focus Program, you **must** submit your application by **March 15**. You are encouraged to apply as early as possible so that you can take advantage of all the program benefits. Submit your **application for admission, placement test response form, official high school transcript and extracurricular interest form** to HCC's Office of Admissions and Advising.

All forms and a mailing envelope are located in your packet of materials. You may also submit the Freshman Focus application online from HCC's website (www.howardcc.edu/admissions). The **application fee is waived** for Freshman Focus participants. Once you have submitted the required forms, additional information will be sent to you. If you are an international citizen, you must complete additional admission requirements. Please contact the Office of Admissions and Advising by phone or e-mail (443-518-4599; TTY/STS use MD Relay; hsinfo@howardcc.edu) and we will assist you.

STEP
3

WORKSHOPS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS

*Choose the best date for you: October 12, 2011,
November 17, 2011, February 9, 16, or 20, 2012*

Plan to attend a **High School Information Session**. This part of the Freshman Focus Program gives you the opportunity to learn more about HCC. Day sessions will include a campus tour. Attending a High School Information Session also provides an opportunity to meet other interested students and benefit from hearing the questions they ask and the answers they receive. Parents, guardians, other family members and friends are welcome. Select the High School Information Session best for you:

- **Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 8 a.m., DH-100**
- **Thursday, November 17, 2011, 7 p.m., RCF-400**
- **Thursday, February 9, 2012, 7 p.m., RCF-400***
- **Thursday, February 16, 2012, 7 p.m., RCF-400**

**This session is followed by a Pay for College information session.*

Open House

Monday, February 20, 2012, 1 p.m.

Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall (RCF-400)

Attend an information session, meet representatives from various departments, and take a campus tour.

College Parent Seminar

Saturday, April 21, 2012, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall (RCF-400)

College is not only a time of transition for students but for parents as well! This seminar is designed for parents to discuss transition to college, campus resources, and myths and facts about college. A panel of college staff from various offices including: Counseling and Career Services, Admissions and Advising, Records and Registration, Financial Aid Services, Disability Support Services, Student Support Services, Student Life, and Athletics will address topics of interest and provide plenty of time for questions and answers.

PAY FOR COLLEGE

Attend the Pay for College Information Session Thursday, February 9, 2012 (immediately following the high school information session)

STEP

4

and

Financial Aid Event of the Year

Saturday, February 25, 2012, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

When it comes to financial aid, scholarships, payment plans and other ways to pay, information is so important. Students and their families often make assumptions about available assistance without accurate information. Don't let this be the case for you! Learn the facts:

- **Attend the Pay for College Information Session**–This session is designed to provide you with a complete overview of federal and state financial aid, scholarship opportunities, HCC's payment plan, and other ways to pay for college.
- **Check out HCC's Pay For College Website and Web Calculator** – www.howardcc.edu/pay
- **Read the Pay for College and Financial Aid chapters in HCC's catalogue** – available in your high school guidance office and on the HCC website – www.howardcc.edu

Dates and deadlines really matter. Understand what must be submitted and when it must be submitted. HCC's **priority filing date** is **March 1**. Maryland residents who apply for financial aid by **March 1** will also be considered for Maryland State Scholarships. For the *best possible* financial aid package, file your forms and be sure your results are received in HCC's Financial Aid Services Office by the **March 1 priority deadline**.

Even after you learn more, you may find you still need assistance in completing the financial aid and scholarship application process. The **Financial Aid Event of the Year** is scheduled for **Saturday, February 25, 2012**. This program is designed to assist you and your parents/guardians in completing the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** online. Walk-in hours are scheduled between **9 a.m.-1 p.m.** (Duncan Hall, DH-100).

Please contact the Office of Admissions and Advising for more information about these sessions.

PLACEMENT TESTING

Selected dates in March and April

Some form of post-admissions placement testing is required as part of the admission process at most colleges and universities. HCC is committed to student success and, in keeping with that commitment, the college has a placement test policy. Post-admission placement tests at HCC are required for most students. Test results enable us to place students in the appropriate math and English courses. (Placement test exemptions are possible and are explained below.)

Due to the large number of Freshman Focus participants, several test dates are offered. Seating is limited; therefore, you are requested to complete the placement test response form by indicating **first, second and third choices** of dates. **Consult the schedule on the placement test response form or the list of dates in the back of this booklet.**

If you scored **550 or higher** on the **critical reading** portion of the SAT, you will not have to take the English placement test. If you scored **550 or higher** on the **math** portion of the SAT, you will not have to take the math placement test *unless* you are seeking a placement higher than Pre-Calculus I. The reading portion of the English test is also waived for students with an **ACT reading subtest score of 21 or higher**. The writing portion is waived for students with an **ACT English/Writing subtest score of 21 or higher**. The math placement test is not required for students with an **ACT math subtest score of 21 or higher**. If you have SAT/ACT scores that exempt you from the placement test you must submit the official scores to the Office of Admissions and Advising. If you have taken **Advanced Placement (AP) exams** in math or English while in high school, you may be exempt from the math or English placement test and eligible for college credit. Official placement test results will be available during the Enrollment Orientation portion of the Freshman Focus Program.

A **practice packet** will be sent to you. It is *very important* for you to review this prior to your test date. **Practice questions** are also available on our website at: www.howardcc.edu/advising/testcenter/accuplacer.html

Special test accommodations can be arranged for students with disabilities. Please contact the Office of Admissions and Advising as soon as possible if you require testing accommodations.

CREDIT FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND EARLY ENTRANCE COURSEWORK

Howard Community College and the Howard County Public School System have articulation agreements for selected high school courses. Specific policies and procedures are in place for receiving college credit at HCC for these classes. Please consult with your high school guidance office or an HCC admissions advisor to find out if you have taken a high school class that qualifies for college credit.

If you have completed coursework at HCC through the Early Entrance Program or through another college's or university's concurrent enrollment or summer program, please be certain to inform an HCC admissions advisor.



STEP**7****ENROLLMENT ORIENTATION**

Tuesday, April 10 or Tuesday, April 17 or Thursday, April 19 or Monday, April 23 or Tuesday, April 24

You will be scheduled for an Enrollment Orientation in April. Students in particular majors may be assigned to specific enrollment orientation dates. Session dates for specific majors are listed on page 11. This session provides you with the information and materials you need so you can prepare to register. **Official placement test results and your assigned advising and registration date will also be provided.** You will be able to take the materials you receive home with you, consult your parents/guardians about the course schedule you would like and finalize your class selections. You will return on your assigned date and time for advising and registration. Information will also be provided at this session about college resources, career services and student activities. Refreshments will be provided at the end of the program. **Attendance at your assigned session is mandatory.**

ADVISING AND REGISTRATION**STEP****8**

Tuesday, May 1 or Wednesday, May 2 or Monday, May 7, or Tuesday, May 8, 2012 between 2:30 and 7 p.m. with a specific time assigned to you individually

** Additional dates and times may be added.*

You will meet with an advisor on Tuesday, May 1 OR Wednesday, May 2 OR Monday, May 7 OR Tuesday, May 8 between 2:30 and 7 p.m., at a specific time assigned to you individually—for example, May 2 at 5 p.m. You will also choose and register for your classes. A combined schedule and bill listing your courses, the amount of tuition and fees due, and the date by which your bill must be paid will be given to you at this time. **Placement testing must be completed to participate in this segment of the Freshman Focus Program unless you qualify for an SAT, ACT, AP, IB or other waiver. This part of the program is also mandatory. You must arrive at your scheduled time.** Parents/guardians are welcome. Financial Aid Services representatives will also be available.

STEP**9****BILL PAYMENT**

By July 11, 2012

Deadlines matter! Your registration for classes is not complete until tuition and fees are paid in full. The payment deadline is **July 11**—special arrangements will be made for students applying for **financial aid** and **scholarships** and for those who take advantage of the college's **tuition payment plan**. More information about ways to pay is available on **HCC's Pay for College website** (www.howardcc.edu/pay) and at the **Freshman Focus Pay for College information session on February 9** and/or the **Financial Aid Event of the Year on February 25**.

STEP**10****PURCHASE BOOKS AND SUPPLIES**

It is a good strategy on your part to **purchase your books as early as possible**. Fall semester books are usually available in the bookstore by **mid-August**. The bookstore is located on the first floor of the Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall (RCF-113), or check out our **online bookstore** at www.howardccbooks.com.

STEP**11****ATTEND NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION**

Monday, August 20, 2012 (evening session)*

or Wednesday, August 22, 2012 (day session)*

** These are tentative dates and may be subject to change. You will be notified as soon as possible. The **daytime** session is strongly recommended for Freshman Focus students.*

During the summer you will receive information regarding New Student Orientation. This program provides you with the opportunity to meet faculty and other college staff interested in your success. You will also have the chance to learn your way around campus, locate your classes, meet other students, and receive information on a wide variety of topics important to new students.

STEP
12

BEGIN CLASSES

*Monday, August 27, 2012**

** This is a tentative date and may be subject to change. You will be notified as soon as possible about any changes. (Please note: Weekend classes start on August 25).*

Keep this booklet handy and use the checklist in the back to keep track of important dates. Mark the dates on your calendar, share the information with your parents/guardians, and, most importantly, **plan to participate.**

We look forward to helping you begin the first year of a successful and satisfying college career!



FRESHMAN FOCUS CALENDAR & CHECKLIST

Dates and deadlines matter! Please remember these.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 15, 2012

Meet with an HCC admissions advisor at your school or at the college. Submit your Freshman Focus application, official high school transcript, placement test response form and extracurricular interest form.

OCTOBER THROUGH FEBRUARY

Workshops and Information Sessions

Wednesday, October 12, 2011	8:00 a.m.	DH-100
Thursday, November 17, 2011	7:00 p.m.	RCF-400
Thursday, February 9, 2012	7:00 p.m.	RCF-400
Thursday, February 16, 2012	7:00 p.m.	RCF-400
Monday, February 20, 2012	1:00 p.m.	RCF-400

Financial Aid Date

February is the *strongly suggested* month for submitting financial aid and scholarship forms.

Paying for College Information Session

This session will be held in The Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall, 4th floor, immediately following the high school session.

Thursday, February 9

Financial Aid Event of the Year

Duncan Hall, Room 100

Saturday, February 25 (walk-in 9 a.m.-1 p.m.)

MARCH THROUGH MAY

Financial Aid Priority Date

March 1, 2012—Maryland State Scholarship application deadline (FAFSA must be submitted by this date to qualify). It is also HCC's Scholarship Priority Date. HCC's Financial Aid Application and the FAFSA must be submitted by this date to be considered for the **best** possible financial aid package.

Placement Testing (Weekday testing will take place in the Test Center, 3rd floor Student Services Hall [RCF-339-370]; Saturday testing will take place on the first floor of Duncan Hall)*

Choice of dates:

Monday, March 26	Walk-in between 3-5:30
Tuesday, March 27	Walk-in between 3-5:30
Wednesday, March 28	Walk-in between 3-5:30
Monday, April 9	Walk-in between 3-5:30
Tuesday, April 10	Walk-in between 3-5:30
Wednesday, April 11	Walk-in between 3-5:30
Monday, April 16	Walk-in between 3-5:30
Tuesday, April 17	Walk-in between 3-5:30
Wednesday, April 18	Walk-in between 3-5:30
Saturday, April 21	10 a.m. or 1 p.m.
Monday, April 23	Walk-in between 3-5:30
Tuesday, April 24	Walk-in between 3-5:30
Wednesday, April 25	Walk-in between 3-5:30
Saturday, April 28	10 a.m. or 1 p.m.

***You must review the practice packet prior to your test date.** Most portions of the test are untimed. The test generally takes 2-2½ hours. Students who think they will need additional time are strongly encouraged to come at an earlier time. Test accommodations can be arranged for students with disabilities.

College Parent Seminar

Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall, 4th floor
Saturday, April 21, 2012, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Freshman Focus Enrollment Orientation

**If you have chosen one of the majors listed below as your program of study, please attend that Enrollment Orientation session. All other students are assigned by last name. It is imperative that you attend on your assigned date. (April 10 enrollment orientation located in DH-100, all others in RCF-400.)*

Business Majors: Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.

Education Majors: Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.

STEM Majors: Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.

Nursing/Allied Health Majors: Thursday, April 19, 6:30 p.m.

Last Names A-E: Monday, April 23, 3:30 p.m.

Last Names F-K: Monday, April 23, 6:30 p.m.

Last Names L-R: Tuesday, April 24, 3:30 p.m.

Last Names S-Z: Tuesday, April 24, 6:30 p.m.

Advising and Registration

Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall, 4th floor;
Individually assigned times between 2:30-7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Monday, May 7, 2012

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

These dates are also posted on HCC's Admissions website at www.howardcc.edu/admissions. To reserve a seat for a High School Information Session or for more information, contact HCC's Office of Admissions and Advising at 443-518-4599 (TTY/STS use MD Relay) or hsinfo@howardcc.edu

JULY

Bill Payment Deadline

July 11, 2012–Bills must be paid by this date.

Arrangements will be made for students applying for financial aid and scholarships and those who decide to use the tuition payment plan.

AUGUST

Purchase Books–Mid-August

New Student Orientation–August 20* or August 22*, 2012

Fall Classes Begin–August 27, 2012*

**Tentative dates that may be subject to change*

Participating students *must* attend the **testing, enrollment orientation, advising and registration segments** of the Freshman Focus Program in order to benefit from the early registration privileges. Students are *strongly encouraged* to attend a **High School Information Session** and the **Pay for College session**.



For further information about the
Freshman Focus Program, contact your High School
Guidance Office or Howard Community College's
Office of Admissions and Advising
Freshman Focus Voicemail: 443-518-4599
TTY/STS use MD Relay
hsinfo@howardcc.edu
www.howardcc.edu/admissions



Check Out
HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S
WEBSITE
www.howardcc.edu

Howard Community College maintains an open door policy of admission. Persons who have the maturity and ability to benefit from the college's learning programs will be admitted on a space available basis without regard to race, sex, age, religion, ethnic background, marital status, sexual orientation, political persuasion or disability. No student will be denied initial admission to the college on the basis of previous educational experience, except as prescribed by law.

The college welcomes the opportunity to serve individuals with special needs. Students with disabilities who require special accommodations to participate in the Freshman Focus Program should contact the Office of Admissions and Advising as soon as possible.