

Connect With My Future Program offers free college for those who qualify

Boosting Michigan's skilled workforce and offering free education to those lacking a college credential, Jackson College and Michigan Works! Southeast have come together to offer free certificate programs through Connect With My Future. The program is designed for those who:

- Have some credits and want to return to college
- Are unemployed or recently laid-off and seeking training opportunities
- Need to complete a high school diploma or equivalency
- Interested in attending college for the first time

Prospective students can complete a short-term credential in 12 months or less. Certificate programs include corrections, emergency medical technician-basic, production technician, medical assistant, digital marketing and Microsoft® Office Specialist. Those without a high school diploma are eligible for expanded services to help them obtain a high school equivalency certificate while pursuing a certificate.

"Jackson College is pleased to work with Michigan Works! Southeast in offering



this new opportunity," said Tina Matz, director of workforce training, Corporate and Continuing Education. "Our hope is that the program will help many finish a college credential, within in-demand careers that they can complete in about a year or less."

"We are committed to ensuring that our businesses have the skilled workers they need to succeed in our changing economic climate," said William Sleight, director of Michigan Works! Southeast. "We encourage job seekers to contact our office to see if they qualify for this opportunity."

Call the Michigan Works! Southeast Jackson Service Center at 517.841.5627 to get started, or visit www.jccmi.edu/connect-with-my-future/.

WELCOME to fall

Fall certainly looks different in the pandemic. While most learning continues online, we have welcomed some students to housing, a few in-person classes as well as a few ground-based, hands-on labs – each with extensive life safety measures in place. Students are adjusting to the changes in learning platforms and adhering to our safety requirements.

Without question, periods of change and consequent adaptation require each of us to lead as our best selves. Additionally, it's a tumultuous time both globally and domestically; those issues have been especially apparent this year. Optimally, we all would be working to make the world a better place... a better place to live, to learn, to raise a family, and to leave a legacy.

To this end, all Jackson College classes **focus on helping students to be their best selves**. General education principles guide the development of an informed and educated person, one who recognizes and appreciates diversity, thinks critically, behaves ethically, demonstrates proficiency in fundamental skills, contributes to society and helps to realize our democracy.

All classes follow these General Education Outcomes (GEOs):

1. Write clearly, concisely and intelligibly
2. Speak clearly, concisely and intelligibly
3. Demonstrate computational skills and mathematical reasoning
4. Demonstrate scientific reasoning
5. Understand human behavior and social systems, and the principles which govern them.
6. Understand esthetic experience and artistic creativity
7. Understand and respect the diversity and interdependence of the world's peoples and cultures

In addition three Essential Competencies are embedded in each program of study:

1. Think critically and act responsibly
2. Work productively with others, recognizing individual contributions to group success
3. Exhibit technological literacy

Many look to higher education as a path to a meaningful career and income. While this is absolutely important, higher education is at its best when it produces thoughtful, responsible citizens who give their best selves each day in their job, their family and their community. Through challenging times, Jackson College remains firmly committed to this calling. Let's work together to make this world, our country, and our communities a better place.

Dan Phelan, President & CEO



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Remember **FOAM** 4 ways to stop spread of COVID-19

Jackson College science chair and virologist Dr. Matthew Badtke has monitored the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the summer he revised a public health course to cover the virus and the public health response. He offers an acronym, FOAM, to remember four steps to fight the spread of the virus.



Face mask. The mask is critical. A traditional cloth mask is good and will reduce the number of particles you will pick up and spread. For someone in a medical setting, working in a hospital, an N-95 or higher mask may be needed, but for most people, cloth or disposable masks work fine.

Outdoors. Remain outdoors as much as possible, because confined spaces are the most likely to result in transmission of the virus. It's very rare for there to be large scale outbreaks from outside activities.

Airflow. If you have to be inside, try to increase airflow. Can you open the window, or run a fan? The more air is moving, the less chance for viral particles to accumulate.

Measurable distances. Remember to stay 6 feet or 10 feet away from others, keeping space at all times, whether inside or outside.

This virus is unlike others in that even a person who has no symptoms (asymptomatic), who is not sick, can still be contagious. As winter approaches and people spend more time indoors, it's important to maintain vigilance with safety measures to stop the spread.

students face **CHALLENGES**

Jackson College students, like others across the nation, have adapted quickly to changing times during this COVID-19 pandemic. And they have **carried on like champions** in the face of adversity and change. Many juggle online learning with busy home lives, economic hardship, and technology issues. Still, they persist.

Read more about how students are not just coping, but succeeding...



CHELSEY

STUDENT PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS

Chelsy Bromley enrolled in college after years of factory work to improve her future.

Doing her best in her classes so she can be admitted to the nursing program is important. When the pandemic hit and all classes moved online, Bromley was concerned.

"Online classes are difficult for me. For chemistry, I was extremely worried because I'm not good at math at all." But she found a way to succeed, becoming study partners with another student. They had Zoom sessions three or four times a week. "We helped each other; things I would mess up she would understand, and I would help out with what she didn't understand."

Bromley finished the chemistry class with a 3.5-grade point average and an 88 percent – just 2 points shy of a 4.0. Still unsure about online learning, she knows that with work and asking for help, she can reach her goals.

"It's worth it, even if you think you can't do it, really you can. It's hard, you have your hard times, but you have got to keep going," she said. "I love the fact that it's challenging and that I'm doing something that I normally wouldn't do. It will be beyond beneficial for me when I'm done."

BABY ARRIVES DAY AFTER SEMESTER ENDS

Going to college to prepare for a new career while preparing for a new baby: Candice Fulcher can do it all!

Fulcher completed her winter and spring semesters while expecting her fifth child. Her new baby seemed to understand Mom's goal – one day after turning in her last assignments for spring, her baby girl was born! "It was a little stressful, being pregnant and giving birth while the coronavirus was going on. It was stressful with everything being online. But the teachers were always there and ready to help," she said. "I was so concerned with getting done with finals. I finished up the night before I had her!"



CANDICE

Fulcher was a stay-at-home mom when she thought it was time to go to college and do something for herself. With an interest in helping others, she chose medical assisting. The move to online classes wasn't difficult, but managing classes with children at home was challenging. Her professors helped.

"Being out the college 'loop' for 10-plus years, I was nervous going back, but I always felt very welcomed by all. I have become friends with many women in my program."

She needs only her practicum/externship experience to graduate and become a medical assistant. "I thought that would be a good fit for me, and so far, I love it!" she said.

PUTTING HIS HEART INTO IT

Hao Huynh doesn't back down from a challenge. Coming to the U.S. from Vietnam with his father in 2015, they moved to Jackson. He's the first in his family to graduate high school and will be the first to earn a college degree.

during pandemic

A challenge came when he had to write a research paper for psychology. He worked with Dr. Ted Miller to understand research and how to cite sources correctly to avoid plagiarism. He now seeks out several professors. "I have a whole army at Jackson College to help me with editing!" He became a student ambassador at the International Student Institute in winter semester. When the pandemic hit, he was faced with another unknown – online learning.

"I was very concerned. I sent an e-mail to every professor I know; they said that we will do this, and we will get through this together. They clearly explained and told me what I should do." In the future, he'd like to transfer to a university to study psychology and plans to become a Buddhist monk.



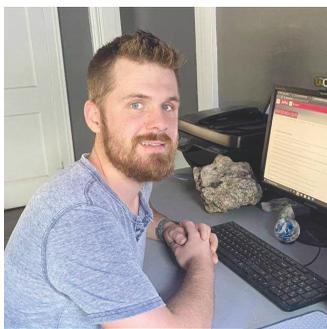
HAO

STAYING FOCUSED ON GOAL

Robert Hall knows about being busy. With two children at home, two jobs and going to college full time, there is little time left over.

Hall, of Hudson, is studying business and in his third semester. Going to college is something he had wanted to do for a while.

When the COVID-19 pandemic started, Hall thought he would enjoy having all of his classes online. "Being able to focus entirely on my school work was pretty nice, but I did miss the in-person classes," he said. Enrolling in a humanities class with Professor Kris Pursell, he gained a new appreciation for art. "This class was full of information, and the instructor did a fantastic job making the class interesting and interactive."



ROBERT

"Right now, we are all going through this pandemic together; I feel for our students and our teachers. I am very impressed with how our instructors have been handling this. All of my classes have been interactive and the instructors knowledgeable."

GIFT EXTINGUISHES FEAR AFTER FIRE

A freak fire left student Gwendolyn Block reeling. Would she be able to continue her schooling? Assistance from the Jackson College Foundation helped her stay on track.

It was an ordinary August day when Block's boyfriend, Michael Clark II, returned home. As he pulled in the driveway, somehow the car caught on fire and was destroyed, with flames also damaging their house. Luckily, only a corner of the house was damaged.

Gwendolyn and their son were out of danger at her parents' home. "We don't know how it happened, but I'm so thankful it wasn't worse. We could have lost everything," she said.

Block e-mailed her nursing professors to explain and let them know she may be late in buying her books due to the unexpected expenses. Her instructor reached out to the Jackson College Foundation, who responded by purchasing her books and giving her \$250, a lifeline during troubled times.

"I am so incredibly grateful for the help that the Foundation provided, it really helped us during a tough spot," Block said. "That meant so much more than I can even express. It made me confident going into a program that I waited a very long time for; it's very appreciated."



GWENDOLYN

YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP STUDENTS THROUGH THIS TOUGH TIME

Now more than ever, college students can benefit from a helping hand. Jackson College's commitment to student success remains stronger than ever. That may mean lending help in a crisis so that overwhelmed students can focus on their education and come ready to learn.

The Jackson College Foundation has reached out with assistance in many forms. But the need is great. Donors' support during this time can mean the difference between persisting and dropping out.

Would you consider a gift to help our students, as you are able? To donate, visit www.jccmi.edu/givenow or call 517.787.0244.

Earn 3 credits in 3 weeks with new intersession classes

Intersession classes will be offered online over the break between fall and winter semesters, beginning Dec. 21 and ending Jan. 8.

"Intersession provides an additional opportunity for students to get ahead in their studies, or catch up on academic coursework during the holiday break. It is our hope to not only reach our traditional students but students all over the state of Michigan who want or need to take academic coursework during the holiday break," said Zakary McNitt, registrar.

In this current environment, it's important to offer multiple options that allow students to progress toward their educational goals. For students returning home to Jackson for the holidays have an opportunity to complete transferable courses at Jackson College's cost.

Courses to be offered include art, business, communications, history, music, and sociology. Full course descriptions are available on the college website at www.jccmi.edu/programs.

Because the intersession is not a standard term, students cannot use financial aid. To learn more, visit jccmi.edu/intersession. Registration will begin Nov. 16.



Jackson College supports the Michigan Free-Tuition Program for Front Line Workers

Jackson College joins with other community colleges across the state to support the Futures for Frontlines program unveiled by Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Futures for Frontliners offers Michiganders, who worked in essential industries during the April 1-June 30 period, but do not have a college degree, free tuition to their local community college to pursue an associate degree or a skills certificate on a full-time or part-time basis while they continue to work.

Those without a high school diploma or equivalency will be eligible for services to help them prepare for and complete this credential, or a GED, and then continue earning a degree, diploma, or certificate, and/or participate in the College's job training program. The application period runs through Dec. 31 of this year.

"We believe strongly that those who were required to work during the state shutdown this past spring, so that the rest of us could stay safe, are heroes and deserve our deep gratitude," President Daniel Phelan said. "Many of these men and women were out in the community every day putting their health and lives on the line. We are proud to provide these frontline workers with access to a tuition-free education at Jackson College in order to pursue their career and personal dreams – it is one way we can say, 'thank you!'"

▶ To apply and learn more about Futures for Frontliners, visit www.jccmi.edu/futures-for-frontliners/

Cross country keeps on running

In a season like no other, Jackson College's men's and women's cross-country teams are enjoying the opportunity to continue to train and prepare for their upcoming competitions!

"Practices have been going great. The runners are super excited for the season," said head coach Serafin Llerena.

The Jets women are coming off a strong year that saw them compete at Nationals. The women finished third in the conference, while the men took fifth. The women have four returning – Madeline Humphreys, Harmony Harpster, Lydia Anuszkiewicz and Alysia Gutierrez. They add their experience alongside newcomers Olivia Hubbard (Parma Western H.S.), Krissy Johnson (Hanover-Horton H.S.) and sophomore

Haley Presley (Mason H.S.), who also plays softball for the Jets.

Several of the men's team moved on after last season, with only Jesse Heistan and Logan Connolly returning. They will be joined by newcomers Tony Duby (Clio H.S.), Andrew Swihart (Hanover-Horton H.S.), Tyler Landis (Homer H.S.), Richard Haislip (Hanover-Horton H.S.), Austin Hertzfeld (East Jackson H.S.), Andrew Frohm (Vandercook Lake H.S.) and Talin Khanna (Ann Arbor-Pioneer H.S.).

"This is probably one of the best teams we have had so far, they get along and work well together. I would say the morale of both teams is very high. We're looking forward to a great season" said assistant coach Andrea Ortell.



JACKSON COLLEGE pottercenter Virtual Series

series will be **THE HIT MEN**, Oct. 9, 10, 11, featuring hits of some of music's biggest names, from those who performed with them! Performances will continue through January 2021 and include a variety of music, from a Capella to Sinatra, from salsa to bagpipes! (See full schedule online at www.jccmi.edu/pottercenter/).

With performing arts venues closed, the Potter Center at Jackson College will offer a free Virtual Series for the community this fall!

"We were looking for ways to engage our patrons, to let our patrons know we are still thinking of them," said Sandra Phelan, operations coordinator. "Fall tours have been canceled with the continued shutdown. This is a way to offer entertainment and to help people stay connected with the arts."

Shows will be available for three days from the premier date on YouTube. Leading the

Young people can enjoy the Catapult Magic Shadows performances available through October and November. An America's Got Talent finalist, this magical production features incredible dancers who work behind a screen to create shadow silhouettes of shapes from the world around us.

▶ Visit jccmi.edu/entertainment-events/ for a link to performances.

We Are Jackson College • Oct. 2020

Jackson
COLLEGE

Together we inspire
and transform lives.

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League
FOR INNOVATION
IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jackson College became a board member in the League for Innovation in the Community College in October 2019.

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Higher Learning
Commission

Jackson College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlc.commission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

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