

The Online Programs Newsletter

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MU's EPPIC Values

- Exploration
- Public Mission
- Professionalism
- Inclusion
- Integrity
- Compassion

Look for more details about our EPPIC values in this and future newsletters.

Greetings from the Director of Online Programs

Welcome to the spring semester! As always, we welcome our new students beginning this term and hope your time in our online programs proves fulfilling. To our students beginning online courses in the summer and fall, we hope you are excited to begin this new chapter of your life.

We are pleased to have launched our online Bachelor of Education in Special Education program this fall. This is our eleventh online degree-completion program and our second fully online undergraduate program in education. We are excited to add education programs to our online program offerings to help students pursue their passions in education.

As a reminder, there are many courses offered online over the summer beginning in May, June, and July. Please be sure to reach out to the online programs office with interest in taking summer courses or with any additional questions!

Rebecca Boyer
Director of Online Programs



Summer Session - Important Dates & Changes

As an Online Programs student, your academic plan typically includes summer classes. You will need to contact our office if you wish to opt out of summer classes, knowing it will delay your graduation.

This year there is one summer semester with three mini-mesters. The summer semester runs from May 6 to August 9. You will need to check the web schedule for the exact dates of your classes.

The last day to drop/add or register for a class is the day following the class start date.



Meet the Early Childhood Education Coordinator

What is your name and title?

Aileen Hower, Associate Professor of Literacy, Graduate Coordinator for the M.Ed. in Language and Literacy with Certification Program, Coordinator for the Early Childhood Education Online Degree Completion Program

How long have you been at MU?

I have been at Millersville University for 7 and a half years.

Can you tell us about your family?

I am married to my husband for 24 years this June. We have three children, a junior in college, a freshman here at MU studying Psychology, and our daughter who is a sophomore in high school. We have been living in central PA since 2011, and call York county home.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I love swimming and reading. I enjoy attending all of my daughter's athletic events. I am really all in on literacy, so spend a lot of time volunteering with many literacy organizations.

How did you get interested in education and teaching education and specifically literacy?

I became interested in becoming a teacher when I was assigned to teach my own class during graduate school. I started at a private school and obtained my teaching certification while I was at that school through a Master of Arts in Teaching program. I fell in love with literacy when I was teaching English to students who struggled to read and write.

What do you like about working with the Online Early Childhood Education students?

I love working with adults. I know how hard they work, how devoted they are to their education, and to becoming a teacher. I so appreciate their insights from their life and work experiences. It makes classes so vibrant and engaging with their passion and knowledge.

Do you have any advice for our online students?

You are Millersville University students! You should take advantage of all of the resources on campus and no call or email is ever anything but a honor to take.

Four Online Learning Tips for Student Success

1. **Create a schedule and manage your time wisely.** Keep a semester & a weekly calendar. On the first day of the class, read the course syllabus and enter all due dates in your calendar, along with reminders for due dates. Commit to studying or participating in your online class for at least 3 hours per week for every credit hour the course is worth.
2. **Stay organized and be thorough.** Have a designated study space that is free of distractions so you can focus on your work. Prepare as if you have to teach the information you are studying.
3. **Remain engaged throughout the whole course.** Prepare & review for every lesson and attend in person/virtual class sessions. Analyze all returned quizzes and tests as well as any instructor feedback & develop a plan for improvement.
4. **Know where to turn for help.** Make use of your instructor's and your advisor's office hours. All of MU's student resources, including Learning Services and the library are available to online students.

EPPIIC: Integrity



Millersville University steadfastly defends freedom of thought, ideas and discourse as core to authentic and honest scholarship. Our commitment to integrity is measured by

action and responsibility and engenders a culture of trust, rich with opportunities for rigorous applied learning and meaningful civic engagement and public stewardship that are responsive to the needs of our vibrant and evolving metropolitan region. Moreover, the University

consistently lives by and practices its institutional principles, standards and beliefs.

2024-2025 FAFSA Update

The FAFSA Simplification Act was passed by Congress and represents a significant overhaul of the processes and systems used to award federal student aid. This includes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, the need analysis that determines aid eligibility, changes in terminology, and many policies and procedures for schools that participate in federal student aid programs.

Despite the well-intentioned reforms, the transition to the new financial aid framework has presented challenges for students and families nation-

wide. While the intention behind these changes is positive, the rollout from the Department of Education (ED) and Federal Student Aid (FSA) hasn't been without its challenges. Some of the prevalent issues include:

- Implementation & Rollout Delays
- Technical glitches
- Communication gaps

The transition to the new FAFSA Simplification Act has presented unforeseen challenges, resulting in delays in processing financial aid applications. Students and families may experience

frustration and uncertainty as they await decisions on their aid packages. Additionally, technical glitches and system updates have further exacerbated delays, impacting timely access to critical financial assistance.

Despite these challenges, it's important to recognize the long-term benefits of the FAFSA Simplification Act and Future Act. While the initial implementation phase may be challenging, the streamlined process will ultimately make it easier for students and families to access financial aid in the future.

2024-2025 FAFSA Update - Your Next Steps

1. **Complete the FAFSA application:** Don't wait! The sooner you submit your FAFSA, the sooner you'll know what financial aid you qualify for. Our Financial Aid team is here to help you through the process and answer any questions you may have.
STUDENTAID.GOV/FAFSA
2. **Stay Informed:** Keep an eye out for updates and communications from our FA office. They'll continue to provide resources and support to ensure a smooth transition to the new financial aid system.
millersville.edu/fafsa-changes
3. **Reach Out:** Have questions or need assistance? Don't hesitate to

reach out to the Financial Aid team. They're here to help students, families, and stakeholders navigate the complexities of financial aid and ensure that everyone has access to the support they need to succeed.

Call: 717.871.5100

Email: fa.mail@millersville.edu

Stop by: Lyle Hall, 2nd floor

Withdrawing from a Class

There is a drop/add period at the beginning of each semester. Please check the appropriate academic calendar for the drop/add deadlines for each semester. If you are registered for a course that begins and/or ends earlier or later than the standard semester, these deadlines will vary. For deadlines for specific classes, go to millersville.edu/

registrar/scheduleandregistration/drop-add-withdraw and choose the appropriate semester.

If you need to withdraw from a class after drop/add has ended, you will need to complete a Request to Withdraw via MAX. You may or may not be entitled to a refund depending on the date you withdraw from the class. There is a link to the Request

to Withdraw form at the previously mentioned website.



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Millersville's Online Programs are designed for adult learners who wish to complete their degree. We offer degree completion programs in the following programs:

- Bachelor's in Business Administration
- Bachelor's in Public Relations
- Bachelor's in Design in Interactive & Graphic Design
- Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education
- Bachelor's in Special Education
- Bachelor's in Emergency Management
- Bachelor's in English with a Writing Studies Concentration
- Bachelor's in Marketing
- Bachelor's in Management
- Bachelor's in Nursing
- Bachelor's in Social Work

We're on the web:
Millersville.edu/onlineprograms

Meet the OP Staff - Makeda Ellis



Can you tell us about your family? I am married and have a spunky 7-year-old stepson.

What do you like about working with Online Programs and its students? I have always enjoyed assisting students through the application process. It can be tricky to navigate the admissions process online while in another location. Having the opportunity to answer their questions is something that I look forward to doing.

Do you have any advice for our online students? Pace yourself. Know that we are here to support you. Please ask questions and access all available resources.

What is your name & title? Makeda Ellis- Online Programs Admissions Counselor.

How many years have you been at MU? This is my second year at MU and have been in admissions for over three years.