

Getting Started at Moraine Valley - The Basics

Step One: Complete the FAFSA

Go to www.fafsa.gov. If you haven't already and plan to use financial aid money to help pay for classes at Moraine, be sure to complete the FAFSA as soon as you can.

- ❑ **Complete the FAFSA** (the Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA opens on October 1st of each year and needs to be filled out each year while a student is in college.
- ❑ On the FAFSA, you'll be asked to list a code for each school you're applying to. Moraine's school code for the FAFSA is 007692. Listing this code will ensure that your financial aid information gets to Moraine.

Step Two: How to Register

Go to www.morainevalley.edu/admissions.

- ❑ **Complete the admissions application.** Click on either 'degree-seeking student' or 'certificate-seeking student,' based on what you plan to complete at Moraine.
- ❑ **Access your MVConnect student portal.** Once you've completed your application, Moraine will create a username and password for you to access MVConnect. You'll be able to use this portal to search for classes, plan your degree program, see payment information, and much more.
- ❑ **Payment.** Review the details on how to pay for classes here, but know that you won't actually register for your classes until you go through New Student Orientation (details below) - you'll learn more about how payment works then.

Step Three: Placement Testing

Go to www.morainevalley.edu/academics/testing-services/placement-tests.

- ❑ **Placement Testing Exemptions:** There are a few ways to get an exemption from all or part of Moraine's placement testing. For most students, having either a 3.0 unweighted GPA, successfully completing a 4th year of math, or earning a 480 or above on the SAT English and/or a 520 or above on the SAT Math may earn you one of these exemptions. See the website above for more details.
- ❑ **Placement Testing:** Use your MVConnect account OR visit Moraine in person to sign up for your placement tests, if needed. Check out the details under 'How Do I Register for Placement Testing?' on the site above.

Step Four: New Student Orientation

Go to www.morainevalley.edu/student-success/orientation/new-student-orientation.

- ❑ There are two parts two orientation at Moraine - online and in person. Once you've completed Moraine's application and accessed their student portal, you can complete the online part of orientation.
- ❑ During your Moraine orientation, you'll meet with an advisor who can give you personalized information on the right classes to sign up for based on your potential major or interests.

Got More Questions? Our Moraine admissions rep, Peg Heenan, is awesome! Contact her at heenanm6@morainevalley.edu or (708) 974-5312

Getting Started at Moraine Valley - Frequently Asked Questions

Moraine says they need my final transcript - how do I get that?

Moraine will want your final high school transcript upon completion of your final semester in high school. Your final transcript is something we send to them directly; here's how it happens:

At the end of the semester, seniors will receive a senior checkout sheet that they'll take around to all of their teachers (as well as a couple of other places in the building) for signature. Part of this senior checkout sheet includes listing where you want your final transcript to go. You'll write in Moraine and return this form to your counselor on the last day of school.

When should I do all of these steps to get registered for Moraine?

If you're graduating from high school in May, plan to start the steps on the previous page around spring break. Your goal should be to have everything done by around graduation or shortly after. If you're graduating a semester early, start these steps in November and plan to have everything wrapped up around the end of first semester.

How do I figure out what classes I might want to take?

This is something you'll do at orientation with a Moraine advisor, but you can get a head start by looking at next semester's online course catalog. On Moraine's site, go to the 'Academics' tab, then 'Search for Classes' to see when different courses are offered.

Students who plan to attend college full-time will typically take 4-5 classes per semester. Be careful if you decide to take more than 15 credits per semester or five classes - most college classes are simply more time consuming than high school classes.

How do college credits even work?

College classes are typically assigned credits based on the number of hours they meet per week. Most classes will be either 3, 4, or 5 credit hours. Students who attend college full-time can expect to take about 15 credit hours per semester. Most associate's degrees (what you would earn from Moraine) are 60 hours in length, something that would take you four semesters or two years. Similarly, a 4-year bachelor's degree is about 120 credit hours in total.

How do college degrees work?

Not sure about the differences between the different college degrees? Don't worry - we weren't either at your age. Here's a quick primer: *associate's degrees* are typically earned from a community college like Moraine and will typically take a full-time student two years to complete. *Bachelor's degrees* are four-year college degrees and will typically take a student an additional two years beyond an associate's degree. Finally, *graduate or professional degrees* are something you'd earn with schooling beyond that first four-year degree and can take anywhere from an additional 2-4+ years.