

# Metropolitan Community College Kickstart Online Institute (KSOI) Frequently asked Questions for Students

## 1. What is the Kickstart Online Institute (KSOI)?

The KSOI is a series of MCC general education courses that are scheduled for college-ready high school students to kickstart their college degrees while still in high school. All instructors are Nebraska Department of Education certified. These courses count toward most MCC degrees and are transferable, and may count toward high school credit.

## 2. How is a KSOI online class different from a “regular” MCC class?

The KSOI class content and college credit is the same as a regular MCC class taught on campus or online. Students earn college credit, and it is included on their MCC transcript. Regular MCC courses usually go for 11 weeks. **The biggest difference in the KSOI classes is they last 15 weeks.** The content and assignments are spread out over a longer time than a “regular” MCC class. Having additional time to consider and study content and complete activities may be helpful for many students to achieve a high grade in the class.

## 3. How is an online class different from an on campus course?

You will probably never physically meet your instructor or your fellow students when you take an online class. All the instruction is online, with printed instructions or content and videos. Students submit assignments via Blackboard. You complete all the work independently. The instructor will return assignments online, as well.

To achieve in an online course, you need to be very disciplined to log on to your course daily and hand in assignments on time. No one will be there to remind you. You should also be a good reader, as most material is printed. You should also be willing to participate in online discussions, and ask questions when you are not sure of something. Online courses are not for everyone. You also need to be comfortable using technology, including online discussion software.

## 4. If I have never taken an online class before, what do I need to do to be ready for a KSOI class?

Most online classes have software (Learning Management System – LMS) that helps the teacher provide materials, set up online discussions, and receive assignments. MCC uses LMS Blackboard for this purpose. When you log on to MCC’s Blackboard software, you will complete an orientation module before you begin the first KSOI class. This orientation will help you get ready to use Blackboard. When the class starts, you can get help from your instructor or contact the MCC help desk.

## 5. How do I register to take a KSOI class?

You must register for a KSOI classes using the directions on the KSOI website. Registration is only available in this way. Enrollments are limited, so registration is on a first come, first served basis.

**6. Can I enroll if I am under the age of 16?**

If you are under the age of 16, permission to enroll in a course will be on a case by case basis permitting dean approval. Secondary Partnerships will facilitate the approval process.

**7. Are there course prerequisites?**

Based on course prerequisite, placement tests may be required. Please attach to your registration a copy of your ACT or Accuplacer scores, if available. Placement assessment testing is also available at each MCC Testing Services location.

Visit <https://www.mccneb.edu/prospective-students/resources/testing/assessment-of-new-students.aspx> for more information.

**8. How much does a KSOI class cost?**

If you are a Nebraska resident high school student, the MCC tuition is half of the standard rate. A fee of \$5 per credit hour is additional for all students. In 2018-19, high school tuition and fees were \$37 per credit hour. All KSOI classes are 4.5 quarter credits, so each class for 2018-19 was \$166.50. The Board of Governors has not set the 2019-20 rate at this time. Payment for KSOI classes is due for the first semester September 15. Payment is due for the second semester February 5.

**9. How do I pay my tuition and fees for a KSOI class?**

Payment Options:

**Credit/Debit Card or ACH Transfer**

Online: Go to <https://www.mccneb.edu/Prospective-Students/Tuition-Financial-Assistance/Payment-Options.aspx> to pay tuition and fees by credit/debit card or ACH transfer online with Self Service. The Student must have an active student account and password. MCC accepts Discover, MasterCard, VISA, and American Express.

Phone: Pay tuition and fees by phone using credit/debit card by calling Student Accounts at 531-622-2405 or the Contact Center at 531-622-5231. You will need to supply your MCC student ID#, the credit/debit card number, expiration date, and CSV code at the time of payment.

In Person: Pay tuition and fees in person with credit/debit card at any MCC campus/center Student Services Office. You will need to supply your MCC student ID#.

**Cash, Check, or Money Order**

In Person: Pay tuition and fees with cash, check or money order at any MCC campus/center Student Services Office. You will need to supply your MCC student ID#.

Mail Check to MCC: Make the check payable to Metropolitan Community College. Include your MCC ID number on check. Mail to: Metropolitan Community College, Student Accounts, P.O. Box 3777, Omaha NE 68103.

**10. Are there any scholarships based on financial need to take a KSOI class?**

Authorized by the Nebraska Legislature in 2007, the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program pays tuition and mandatory fees for qualified, low-income high

school students to enroll in college courses from Nebraska colleges or universities, either through dual-enrollment or early enrollment agreements with these institutions. High school students may apply for funding under this program by completing the ACE Student Application, which is reviewed by the Coordinating Commission for award consideration. Qualifications, application and instructions are at this website <https://ccpe.nebraska.gov/ACE>.

#### **11. Are there any other scholarships?**

You may want to check with your high school counselor or principal on scholarships that are available from your school district or school foundation. Beyond the ACE scholarship referenced above, MCC does not offer any scholarships for KSOI classes.

#### **12. How do I make sure I can get high school credit for this class?**

Your high school makes the decision whether you can receive high school credit for KSOI classes or not. You should ask your school counselor or principal about earning high school credit for these classes.

#### **13. How do I get required textbooks?**

Students purchase textbooks for KSOI classes at the MCC campus bookstore on the South Omaha campus. You can also view the list of required textbooks for each class on the KSOI website, and purchase textbooks through a book vendor. Always make sure you are using the correct edition before purchasing through an outside vendor.

#### **14. How do I know if I am ready to take a college course?**

We would suggest that you ask your school counselor first. Usually, junior or seniors that are in the top 35% of their class are ready. If you have taken the ACT test, and you have received an 18 or above, you can probably handle introductory college courses. Other factors always make a difference, too. How busy are you with your high school courses and activities? You will spend about 4 hours a week on each KSOI class.

#### **15. What is a FERPA form, and am I required to file one?**

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), as amended, requires a written and dated consent from MCC students before disclosing personal identifiable information from a student's education/financial records to a third party in most circumstances. Under FERPA, MCC reserves the right to withhold such information from a third party unless a current valid release is on file.

Students who wish to grant parental, spouse, or third party access to their educational records may do so by completing an Authorization to Release Student Information Form. Parents will not have access to any student information, including tuition payment, unless a student completes a FERPA form.

To complete and submit the form go to <https://www.mccneb.edu/Current-Students/Student-Tools-Resources/Records/Family-Education-Rights-and-Privacy-Act-FERPA.aspx>

#### **16. How do I transfer MCC credits to another college?**

You may want to transfer your MCC credits to another college. You should check with the other college to see if MCC credits transfer. In most cases, MCC transfer at least as

an elective course, and in many cases, the credits will also count toward degree requirements. Transfer Nebraska and Transferology are two tools on the MCC webpage that help determine transfer decisions.

### **17. Do I qualify for MCC Disability Support Services?**

Metropolitan Community College has been serving students with disabilities since the late 1970s and currently serve the largest number of students with disabilities of all the post-secondary schools in Nebraska.

Students with disabilities who meet the academic and technical standards for participation are eligible to request reasonable accommodations to achieve equal access. Qualified students are accommodated when they disclose their disabilities and request accommodations. The [Disability Support Services Staff](#) at MCC is committed to providing access for students with disabilities.