

Memo

To: ECMC Scholars Program Host Site Coordinators

From: Lori Auxier, Director of Student Success

Date: May 1, 2018

Re: 2018/2019 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Why are there so many changes to the ECMC Scholars Program for the 2018/19 academic year?

Answer: As outlined in the MOA, it is ECMC's expectation that the students enrolled in the ECMC Scholars Program will use the financial support and mentorship to complete a postsecondary degree or certificate within six years. Furthermore, it is our expectation that the information gleaned from an on-going relationship with these students - both in high school and afterwards - will help us refine and improve our program for future generations of students. In order to better serve our students, and ensure they complete postsecondary education, ECMC has made changes to strengthen the program and increase accountability for all parties involved.

Question: What if our institution decides not to participate in the 2018/19 ECMC Scholars Program?

Answer: That is a decision for the institution to make. If an institution does not want to continue participating in the program, please notify ECMC of your decision no later than May 4, 2018. ECMC will honor its commitment to fund the class of 2019 and recommends (but will not require) the institution to follow the revised program as outlined in the MOA.

Question: I noted in the MOA, students are required to attend certain events; however, we cannot require a student to attend a single-time event outside of the school day. What happens if the student does not attend?

Answer: Students must meet all of the requirements outlined in the student-based MOA. If the student fails to meet the requirements, the student must be removed from the program. The student MOA is included in the initial student application and the student must agree to meet all program requirements prior to submitting their application for consideration.

(Page 2 of 4)

Question: What is iGrad? Can anybody use it?

Answer: iGrad is an online platform where students will complete assigned topics/courses designed to increase their knowledge level about managing money, paying for school and finding a career. Students will be notified by ECMC about the required assignments and how to access iGrad through a portal that is specific to students participating in the ECMC Scholars Program. There is no fee associated with iGrad for the school or the student. As outlined in the MOA, mentors should be available to assist the ECMC Scholars to complete the requirements, if needed.

All students can access www.igrad.com for free; however, not all tools and resources are available to an individual user (as in comparison to what is available through the ECMC-specific portal).

Question: I noted in the new MOA students are now required to complete 20 hours of community service. Is that ECMC-specific hours? Or, can students submit hours earned for another program?

Answer: Students can submit hours earned for another program.

Question: I noted in the new MOA, we can only enroll up to 15 students in the class of 2020. We've always enrolled more. Why the limit?

Answer: The corporate intent of the program is to follow a set group of students for the duration of the program (2 years - secondary and 6 years - postsecondary) to determine the effectiveness of the ECMC Scholars Program. ECMC cannot effectively evaluate the program when there are more students enrolled in the program than outlined in the MOA.

Question: We have more than 15 students enrolled in the class of 2019 because our former Scholarship Advisor said it was ok. What do we do now?

Answer: As outlined above, enrollment must be limited to 15 participants. Please use your own grading rubric to determine what 15 students you will include for the class of 2019 and notify studentsuccess@ecmc.org of the students chosen no later than May 15, 2018.

Question: For the eight workshops required during the 2018/19 academic year, do we have to follow the workshop schedule outlined in the MOA? Or, can we create our own?

Answer: All schools are required to follow the schedule and curriculum outlined in Exhibit C of the MOA. No substitutions may be made and the program is designed to benefit both juniors and seniors. Each institution will be provided a copy of the "Realizing the College Dream" curriculum referenced in the workshop schedule.

(Page 3 of 4)

Question: What is Kaleidoscope? How do I access it?

Answer: Kaleidoscope is the new ECMC Scholars Program database that only students have access to. Host site coordinators will not have access. The class of 2018 must update their contact information via Kaleidoscope online at www.tinyurl.com/ecmcaccount no later than **May 30, 2018**. As outlined in the MOA, current participants are required to update their account on a quarterly basis. There are also other Kaleidoscope-based requirements outlined throughout the MOA that students must adhere to. ECMC's goal is to collect accurate, timely information in order to facilitate direct communication between ECMC and each program participant. If students have questions regarding their Kaleidoscope account, they can email ecmcscholars@mykaleidoscope.com directly.

Question: I noted that ECMC expects the 2017/18 activity fund reimbursement form (with supporting documentation) to be submitted by June 30, 2018. What if I cannot make that deadline?

Answer: For reporting purposes, this deadline must be adhered to. If there are extenuating circumstances that prohibit you from meeting this published deadline, prior arrangements must be made by emailing studentsuccess@ecmc.org no later than June 15, 2018. Additional information will be provided in late May regarding how to submit the 2017/18 activity fund reimbursement form via Survey Monkey.

Question: What is the Fab Life game?

Answer: Fab Life is an interactive financial literacy game which is designed to teach students about personal finance using real-life scenarios. ECMC will provide this game to your institution at no cost.

Question: What if a student cannot complete the FAFSA? Can they complete the ORSAA instead?

Answer: The student is presented with the question as to whether or not they are eligible to complete the FAFSA. If yes, they will answer a series of other questions. ECMC's goal is to ensure that all who are eligible to apply, complete the FAFSA. If they are not eligible to complete the FAFSA, that's ok. Oregon students are encouraged to complete the ORSAA.

Question: Are students required to attend the ECMC-based webinars?

Answer: Yes, students are required to attend. ECMC also encourages host site coordinators, mentors and parents/legal guardians to participate, as well. ECMC will also record webinars so they can be reviewed at a later date, if necessary.

(Page 4 of 4)

Question: Are students required to submit a parent/legal guardian letter of support?

Answer: Yes, students are required to submit a parent/legal guardian letter of support as part of the student application. In an effort to make it easier for the parent/legal guardian, ECMC will provide a standard document that only requires a signature.

Question: Are students required to take the ACT or SAT? What about taking a Placement Test instead?

Answer: Great suggestion! ECMC has updated the MOA to reflect the addition of a Placement Test in lieu of the ACT or SAT, if appropriate.

Question: Can activity funds be used to purchase cap and gowns if rentals are not available?

Answer: Great suggestion! ECMC has updated the MOA to reflect the addition of purchasing caps and gowns, if rentals are not available.

Question: Can activity funds be used to pay for the CSS profile?

Answer: Great suggestion! Activity funds can be used to pay for the CSS profile if the student does not qualify for a fee waiver. For more information regarding fee waivers, <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/pdf/css-profile-fee-waivers.pdf>.

Question: Why are stipends not available for the 2018/19 academic year?

Answer: In our research, ECMC determined that stipends were only available to host sites in the state of Virginia for the 2017/18 academic year (and before). To be equitable to all participating host sites, stipends will not be paid to Virginia as host sites located in Oregon and Connecticut are ineligible to receive them.