

PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

FINANCIAL AID CHANGES UNFAIR

Editor Jeremy Cloud says government made a mistake in changing financial aid rules. Read what his thoughts are about the new rules.

OPINION, p. 2

CAMPUS LIFE

STUDENTS OFFERED HELP

OCCC has plenty of labs and areas on campus to help students succeed. Turn to the inside to find out where the offices are located and their hours.

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SPORTS

WELLNESS CENTER CLASSES

OCCC's Wellness Center offers classes suited for everyone, regardless of age or physical abilities. Get the full details on how and where to go to enroll inside.

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CAMPUS LIFE

ESL STUDENTS ENJOY TIME TOGETHER

ESL students meet with native students to speak English each week. Read more about the conversation groups.

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PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JANUARY 13, 2012

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Financial Aid flexibility out the window

Students won't be given as much academic leniency

WHITNEY KNIGHT

Online Editor
onlineeditor@occc.edu

Many students are unaware of recent changes that may impact their eligibility to receive financial aid, said Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner.

Turner said the U.S. government implemented the changes last year, and OCCC students were notified in mid-December via email.

"The government changed regulations somewhat to tighten up the flexibility that individual colleges have in interpreting the regulations and awarding people," she said.

Now, Turner said, students who receive financial aid will have their lifelong academic profiles looked at, including all classes taken at any date and at any institution — not just at OCCC.

"It doesn't matter if students had a bad semester 10, 20 years ago," she said. "It still counts under the new regulations."

In addition, Turner said, college officials will look at students' cumulative grade point average, meaning that bad semesters previously written off by OCCC's academic forgiveness policy will have to be included.

"We're trying to help students understand that they don't have the luxury of just coming in and having a bad semester, because everything is going to count now."

Turner also said that under the new policy, class withdrawals are considered the same as failing a course.

"Historically, if a student wasn't doing well in a class, we'd encourage them to go ahead and drop it to preserve their grade," she said. "Now, a withdrawal is the same as a failure [for financial aid purposes]."

Many OCCC students said they are upset about the revisions.

One student, who wished to remain anonymous,

See **FINANCIAL AID** page 9

Ice fountain



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Student Audri Malik passes by the fountain outside of the OCCC Leftwich Memorial Library Thursday morning, Jan. 12. Temperatures plummeted overnight on Wednesday, Jan. 11, causing some snow flurries and freezing.

STUDENTS WILL FACE FINES IF PARKED ILLEGALLY

Parking as easy as following rules

MIKE WORMLEY

Online Writer
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It is one of the most basic questions for any driver. "Where am I going to park?" Major Keith Bourque, Safety and Security coordinator at OCCC, said there are 3,170 parking spaces including handicap spaces on campus.

"Students can park in any of the yellow double parallel lines," Bourque said, indicating the regular spaces as opposed to the white handicapped spaces, the blue faculty spaces and red fire lanes.

The Campus Traffic and Parking Regulations brochure available on the campus security webpage states that students who park in faculty or employee parking spaces may be fined \$15. A fine of \$100 will be imposed on students who park in a handicapped spot or in a fire lane. They also may face fines from Oklahoma City.

The same brochure states that free parking decals can be obtained from the Records and Graduation Services front counter with possible fines of \$5 for not having the decal and \$3 for improperly affixing it.

Bourque said there are just a few basic rules to getting a good parking spot.

"The first two weeks are extremely busy so come early. Parking lots A, B and C fill up fast so it is generally easier to park in the back."

—MAJOR KEITH BOURQUE
OCCC SAFETY AND SECURITY COORDINATOR

"The first two weeks are extremely busy so come early," Bourque said. "Parking lots A, B and C fill up first so it is generally easier to park in the back."

Bourque said he doesn't foresee any slow downs due to the construction of the new John Massey Center and the theater.

"I don't know of anything that would affect parking," he said. "But, with two large construction projects, at any point, a semi could be blocking parking."

Bourque suggested using lots D, E and F on the west side, which reflects the advice that Lori Colbert, music major, had.

"It doesn't matter where you park," Colbert said. "Once you get in the building you can get to anywhere else in the building in five minutes."

See **PARKING** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Funding solution is a major problem

New financial aid rules target good, bad students equally

Hundreds of students are losing their financial aid this semester with few options for getting it back.

Why? Because the government has apparently decided the best way to save a little money is to stop helping students who have a history of academic difficulty.



JEREMY CLOUD

No, this isn't a prank or joke. Under the new satisfactory academic progress (SAP) regulations, students who have withdrawn from too many classes or had too many low grades are no longer eligible for federal aid.

Sounds great on paper, right? Why keep offering aid to lazy students that keep quitting in the middle of classes, or party instead of studying and flunk?

Unfortunately, it's far too complex an issue to address by so broad a solution.

Students are often encouraged to drop classes they're struggling with to preserve their GPA. Adult students and students with undiagnosed learning disabilities might have a string of bad grades that came about through life getting in the way, or an inability to get the help they needed.

And, of course, everyone has a bad semester now and then, a semester where nothing seems to go right and every class just gets harder and harder.

But hey, that's what academic forgiveness is for, right?

Take a bad class over again, fill out the forms, petition to have the grade replaced, and life goes on.

And there's the first major issue with the new system: there is no academic forgiveness.

Under the new guidelines, everything counts. Got those D's expunged? Not as far as funding is concerned. Withdrew from that math class to escape an F? Withdrawal now counts as an F for funding calculation purposes.

Then the second problem looms and the sheer brutality of the new regulations becomes clear: there is no time limit on how far back the assessment goes.

Coming back to college after 10 years away? Well, if there were low grades or withdrawals on the transcript the first time out, funding may not be available.

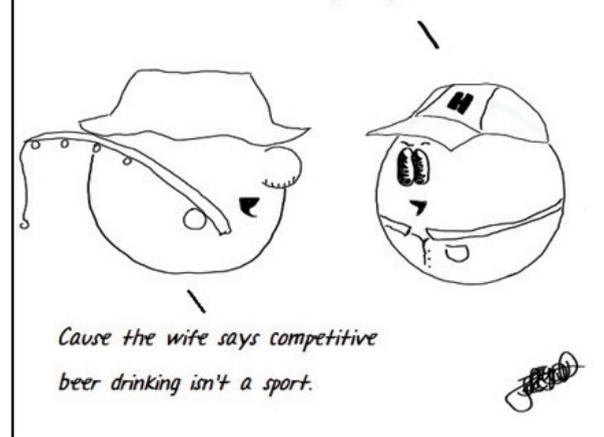
Oh, and the best part?

These new rules are already in effect. They went into effect in December when students were out and only the most alert would notice.

Bottom line here: the government has decided to inject some money into the economy by jettisoning hundreds, if not thousands, of potential skilled

BALLIARD BILL

Dude, fishing is just sitting in a boat staring at water for hours, hoping to get in a fight with a trout. Why do you do it?



JEREMY CLOUD

workers, writing them all off as a loss regardless of circumstance or current progress.

They have implemented these rules quietly and in such a way as to cut off the funding at the worst possible time, in the middle of a financial aid season.

And the regulations don't differentiate between good students who've had a hard time and bad students.

Really, people. This author calls for political action often. But they're messing with the funding now. So please, for the love of all that's sane, go find a congressman and bombard him or her with letters and email.

This needs to stop before college once again becomes the province of the elite, a privilege that the average person simply can't afford.

—JEREMY CLOUD
EDITOR

YOUR VOICE | Alphabetical listing will help students find where online classes are being taught

Moodle takes place beside ANGEL on college website

To the editor:

Happy New Year!

A new year often brings new changes and 2012 is certainly not going to be an exception. As OCCC begins a new spring semester, we also begin the visible change from ANGEL to Moodle. The first of those visible changes occurred today with the change of the page at online.occc.edu. This has been the "ANGEL log on page" for the past several years. However, this page has changed in an attempt to support our students during the LMS

change. The new page contains a link to the ANGEL log on page, a link to the Moodle log on page, and a link for help information. You will also notice a change on the college homepage to include Moodle on the quick links.

How will students know if their class is being taught in Moodle? On this new page, there is an alphabetical list of sections being offered by title.

There will also be an announcement in the ANGEL section directing the students back to Moodle for their course content. A student orientation will

be available in both systems to assist students as they learn to use them.

For your convenience, you may continue to access ANGEL directly from <http://angel.occc.edu> if you want to bookmark this page to save you a few mouse clicks.

We will continue to keep you updated as things progress. If you have questions, please feel free to let me know [at gwhisenhunt@occc.edu].

—GLENNÉ WHISENHUNT
DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR LEARNING

PIONEER

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The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the author's

name if the request is made in writing.

The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be fewer than 250 words. Students must list their major. OCCC staff and faculty must list their work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Spielberg, Jackson team up for animated delight

'Tintin' a thrilling adventure

In a time where most animated films are done in CGI, producer Peter Jackson and director Steven Spielberg have reminded moviegoers of the beauty of motion capture.

"The Adventures of Tintin," based on the comics of Belgian writer and artist Hergé, follows a journalist named Tintin and his dog Snowy as he tries to uncover the story of the Unicorn, a ship that sank 300 years ago and is rumored to have carried a secret, valuable cargo.

Tintin and Snowy meet Captain Haddock, the descendent of Sir Francis Haddock, captain of the Unicorn, who joins them to beat the deplorable Sakharine in a race for the contents of the ship.



I went to see "Tintin" with my boyfriend and I admit, we may have been a bit biased toward it before we even saw it.

I love animated movies, and my boyfriend was adamant we see it, because if both Jackson and Spielberg (whom he regards as gods of the silver screen) were attached, it had to be amazing. Fortunately, "Tintin" met our expectations.

The story is loaded with action, from Tintin flying a plane through a thunderstorm to Captain Haddock reliving the swashbuckling stories of Sir Francis.

Writers Steven Moffat, Edgar Wright, and Joe Cornish also left room for plenty of humor, particularly with the bumbling bobbies Thompson and Thomson (voiced by Wright's close friends Simon Pegg and Nick Frost).

The motion capture surprisingly blends photorealism with cartoonishness well.

My only other experience with a full motion capture movie was "The Polar Express," and it tried so hard to be photorealistic, I felt it may

as well have been done live-action.

For a movie whose main demographic is children, it certainly doesn't talk down to them. In the first 15 minutes of the movie, an informant leaves a clue for Tintin in his own blood before succumbing to a gunshot wound.

The movie makes no secret of Captain Haddock's alcoholism and the villains don't hesitate to kill anyone who stands in their way.

Overall, "The Adventures of Tintin" is a visually enhancing, action-packed, wonderfully told story that appeals to both children and adults.

Rating: A+

—MARY MCATEE
STAFF WRITER

COUNSELOR'S Corner

"My problem lies in reconciling my gross habits with my net income."

— Errol Flynn

The Federal Education Act of 1965 paved the way for the system of college financial assistance that we have in place today. First implemented in 1972, the grants you now know as Pell were designed to help those with the most financial need afford to go to college.

The premise then and now is that educated people tend to make more money which allows them to pay more taxes and spend more within their communities. This give-and-take cycle allows those with needs today to "pay it forward" for those coming up behind them.

Millions of individuals, this writer included, have benefited from federal financial aid over the years and received college degrees because of it. However, millions have also received aid, especially loans, and have not kept their part of the agreement, which is to complete a degree.

The dollars invested in student loans that are not paid back and on grants that do not lead to degrees is in the billions. In a social and political climate in which many programs compete for fewer dollars, people take notice of such things.

The result is that we currently are experiencing tighter, more rigid rules and regulations regarding financial aid.

More simply put, it has become harder to qualify for eligibility and easier to lose eligibility. Student Support Services teamed up with Financial Aid in an effort to help our students be as successful as possible so that you can complete your educational goals. There are three requirements for maintaining eligibility:

Select a degree program and take appropriate courses to complete it. If you have attempted a large number of hours without a specific focus, you may reach the maximum limit and lose future aid before completing a degree;

Maintain an adequate GPA. We encourage you to seek help as quickly as possible if you have academic difficulty (or personal issues that might cause grades to suffer). Unlike the rules for academic status, there is no forgiveness in federal financial aid regulations.

Complete your classes. In the world of financial aid, withdrawing looks the same as failing. It doesn't matter if you earn a 4.0 GPA each semester if you don't also complete 67 percent of your classes.

If you don't already check your OCCC email on a regular basis, we encourage you to get into that habit. This will help you know your status and how to keep yourself on the right track.

—MARY TURNER
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

RESTAURANT REVIEW | South OKC restaurant offers karaoke and great burgers

Bill's Grill serves up tropical flavor

Bill's Island Grill is a Hawaiian-themed restaurant in the south Oklahoma City area, at 1013 SW 89th Street.

I went to Bill's on Monday, Jan. 9, and was pleasantly surprised by the experience.

You don't get a very high expectation from the sign by the street when you come up to it.

It's very easy to miss, even if you're looking for it: you expect a big, flashy sign, possibly in the shape of a palm tree or a giant pineapple.

This isn't the case, as the sign is small, and a little plain.

Conversely, the interior is bright and cheerful, though it looks like a flea market exploded.

A lot of funny signs

are everywhere, and there is the single largest ceiling fan I've ever seen in my life. Each of the blades had to be 10 or 15 feet long and bright yellow.

The waiters and waitresses were friendly, and very fast, despite all the other people in the restaurant.

The food itself was delicious and plentiful, save for the "Island Rice," which tasted like rice pilaf to my non-professional standards. It was good, but there was not very much of it.

My party had an order of volcano nachos, and it was large enough to be a meal by itself. It was loaded down with slightly charred chicken, beans, cheese, salsa, peppers,

and olives. If you want dessert though, skip on the appetizers. They are huge.

The burgers are thick and juicy, with a slight char to the outside that gives it lots of flavor. Feel free to ask what's good, because they are telling the truth.

According to my mother, who ate with us, the fish and chips were better than what they serve in England.

I would personally suggest the "Big Kahuna," but only if you like a lot of meat.

The "Big Kahuna" is a large hamburger with ham, grilled onions, American cheese, barbecue sauce, and tomatoes. My mouth is watering just writing about it. It was delicious.

Bill's also features a full bar, karaoke on Thursday, and two pool tables.

In all, the restaurant was great, but you should keep an open mind when you go in. Some of the signs may offend.

Rating: A

—ROBERT BOLTON
COMMUNITY WRITER

Watch Casey R. Akard's video review of Bill's Island Grill by scanning this code with your smartphone.



Students qualify for Vice President Honor Roll

Students are eligible to be on the Vice President's Honor Roll by achieving a GPA of 3.5 while carrying at least 12 hours. Part-time students are eligible if they have maintained a 3.5 GPA for two consecutive semesters.

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“It is my great pleasure to congratulate those who have qualified for the Vice President's Honor Roll. You have shown a continual striving for and achieving of excellence. My best wishes for you in your future endeavors. I know you will do us proud.”

—FELIX AQUINO
OCCC VICE PRESIDENT
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



Students make Presidential Honor Roll

Students are eligible to be on the President's Honor Roll by achieving a GPA of 4.0 while carrying at least 12 hours. Part-time students are eligible if they have maintained a 4.0 GPA for two consecutive semesters.

Euvia Abdullah, Christopher Ackon-Mensah, Bruce Adams, Sharon Adams, Rita Addo, Lois Adkins, Elham Aghillou, Olalekan Ajala, Casey Akard, Funke Akinwale, Rita Akubueze.

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Matthew Babiak, Kyla Baker, Courtney Baker, Mickey Banks, Mark Barber, Kayla Barto, Scott Batary, Gloria Baumann, Morgan Beard, Dawn Beck, Haley Behrens, Sara Belmir, Erin Benear.

Charlene Bentley, Jack Beyer, Aaron Bills, Christy Bingham, Cale Black, Russell Blackmon, Jessica Bloye, Devin Blunck, Paula Boatner, Brandon Bolt.

Brandee Boyd, Robert Briggs, Cynthia Brosius, Meghan Brown, Hannah Brown, Chelsea Brummer, Nicole Bryan, Ashley Burchett, Shereena Burnett, Kelly Butner, Sharayah Buttry.

Andrew Cadaret, Jesse Caldwell, Shanon Caldwell, Michael Calhoun, James Camp, Jeffrey Campbell, Benjamin Canizales, Sheri Carr, Debra Carrick, Corby Carter, Trent Cason.

Ana Castillo, Anu Chacko, Matthew Chalender, Kwai Sum, Trevor Chan, Nathan Charlton, Yumeng Chen, Mahbuba Chowdhury, Devin Clark, Kenneth Clark, Kate Clark, Crystal Cleveland, Lauren Coats, Belinda Colby.

Jordan Coleman, Melinda Collum, Mitchell Conant, Christopher Conklin, Steven Cooperman, Candy Corbin, Carolyn Crafts, Daniel Cranford, Elisabeth Crawford, Lane Crawford, Shae Cribbs, Jennifer Crow, Kathy Cum-

ings, Catherine Currier, Paul Curtis.

Annie Dang, Rebecka Day, Shannon Decker, Sonam Dhungana, Kritana Dhungana, Brianna Dick, Annette Dillingham, Hanh Dinh, Phuong Dinh, Xuan Do, Sophia Do, Jerret Donaldson, Sara Dooley, Todd Droscher, Jeremy Droscher, Stacy Duffee, Glenna Durrett, Amy Duty.

Kaitlyn Eager, Erikka Eaton, Monica Edson, Sarah El-Fouly, LaDonna Elliston, Nadia Enchassi, Ouiame Er-rahmouni, Cammy Eschler, Kristen Etherton, Kandi Evans, Clarissa Everly.

Lee Fardadfar, Caley Ferguson, Rebecca Fesler, Pamela Fields, Geri Finn, Jason Fisher, Colleen Fitzgerald, Taryn Flores, Guillermo Flores, Leah Flores, Deborah Foraker, Lauren Fountain, Jason Franks, Chong Frashier, Tina Friar, Heather Fry, Maureen Fuller.

Brian Gallagher, Joe Garcia, Sydney Garcia, Cristina Garcia, Bailey Gardner, Karen Garlitz, Joshua Garner, Veronica George, Nancy Gibson, David Gil, Cody Glueck, Andrew Goett.

Brandon Goff, Joshua Gordon, Kristen Goss, John Graham, London Graves, Lauren Gray, Amanda Grayson, Shawna Green, Dylan Greenwood, Steven Grissom, Lauren Grotts, Valerie Gulikers, Gustavo Guzman.

Elizabeth Hall, Samantha Hames, Cynthia Haney, Miranda Hannon, Rami Hannon, Nicholas Hardersen, David Hardgrave, Jennifer Hardwick, Karl Hardy, Eric Harmon, Haley Harris, Ella Harry, John Hart, Crystal Harvey, Heather Hasenmyer, Amber Hayes.

Megan Hemmerling, Rebecca Henderson, Nathan Herrera, Lorna Herrmann, Kristopher Higgins, David Hill, Jason Hill, Wendy Hinricksen, Benny Hlavaty, Vy Ho, Kathleen Hoang, Uyen Hoang, Hoa Hoang, Quy Hoang.

Shele Hobza, Dongpyo Hong, Seungbeom Hong, Jeff Hopkins, Jessica Howard, Cybele Hsu, Kyleigh Huff-

man, Stephen Huggins, Jessica Hughes, Ryan Hurt, Sarah Hussain, Donna Hutchens, Monica Hutchison.

Grant Inman, Sherry Isom, Madinah Janjua, Jenny Jansing, Mersedeh Javadian Farzaneh, Elizabeth Jeanes, Lonnie Jimboy, Gabrielle Jimenez, Natalee Johnson, Mary Johnson, Olivia Johnson, Twila Jones, Kylee Jones, Tanner Jones, Ivan Jones.

Mounir Karmada, Coty Karr, Jamie Keenan, Patrick Kelley, Ashley Kemp, Daniel Kennedy, Andrea Kern, Matthew Kidder, Joseph Kidwell, Erin Kidwell, Kangshin Kim, Yongrae Kim, Brenda Kimathi, Allira Kimrey, Jennifer Kindred, April King, Annesha Kirk, Raymond Kirkes, Lucinda Kiser, Daniel Koehler, April Kuhlman.

Redouane Laaroussi, Anh Lam, Mary Lane, Hannah Lashbrook, Jason Lauderdale, Stacey Lawhon, Jessica Lawrence, Albert Le, William Le, Ngan Le, Richard Lee, Megan Leite, Bethany Leiter, Tamaira Lewis, Yuniati Liman.

Brendan Lindgren, Shawn Lindsay, Brittney Linster, Kristina Logan, Christy Logsdon, Sara Long, Alina Lorant, Kathleen Lovasz, Megan Lowber, Jay Lowe, Barbara Lowery, Vuong Luong.

Timothy Maher, Audri Malik, Matthew Marshall, Louis Martinez, James Masterson, Emily Mayes, Mary McAtee, Jennifer McCain, Rachel McCathern, Jana McClarney.

Tonya McCracken, Grant McDanel, Mitchell McFarland, Andreae McGinnis, Luke McGraw, Melanie McKinney, Russell McLaughlin, Amber McMahan, Edward McMichael, Kenneth Meador, Paul Mitchell, John Mitchell, Deborah Moaning, Valerie Mobley.

Samantha Moguel Santos, Tanner Mollman, Maria Montelongo, Jinpat Moollasat, Patrick Moore, Teeia Moore, Maria Moreno, Jason Morgan, Gregory Morris, Jason Morton, Christina Motley, Daniel Murphy, Corbin Murrow, James Murunga, Emily Musick.

Joey Nahlous, James Nantze, Erin Nash, Veronica Nash, Collin Nelson, Milad Nematzadeh, Kristina Nguyen, Cindy Nguyen, Dai Nguyen, Trung Nguyen, Mai Nguyen, Cac Nguyen, Tung Nguyen, Jessica Nguyen, Dieu-Thy Nguyen, Anh Thu Nguyen, Anh Nguyen, Saad Nmili.

Jennifer O'Dell, Olushina Ogunduyile, Tina Ohler, Sarah Okeh, Robin Olson, Casey Orear, Alyssa Orton, Sara Overturff.

Anayeli Paez, Pedro Palomo, Lisa Parish, Michael Parrish, Akash Patel, Priyank Patel, Kody Payne, James Pearson, Denise Peltier, Carol Pemosso, Lauren Penner, Claire Perez, Aileen Perez, Anh Pham.

Andrew Pham, Thai Phan, Minh Phi, Joshina Philipose, Erin Pickering, Carla Pierce, Jonathan Pope, Andrew Poteet, Monique Pouliot, Tracey Powell, Alexandra Protopopova, James Pruiett, Vanessa Purdom.

Sanaa Qarqour, Sandra Quintanilla, Eddie Rackley, Jessica Rader, Kathryn Rawdon, Evan Redland, Emily Redman, Christopher Reece, Gloria Rennels, Leovaldo Reyes-Ariza, Teena Richardson.

Megan Riggs, Justin Rodgers, Shawna Roggow, Eden Rollins, Richard Romines, Christina Rosebery, Margaret Ross-Miller, Heather Rosser, Laboni Rozario, Kyle Rudy, Joshua Russell.

Chanda Sanders, Amanda Sanders, Ryan Scaramella, Judy Scherer, Bryce Schmidt, Emily Schorr, Jonathan Schumm, Matthew Sellers, Philip Sermersheim, Fatou-

mata Seyni, Anas Sghiouer.

Derek Shaw, Christian Shearer, Jason Sherman, Yasmin Shirali, Aman Shrestha, Levi Shultz, Nicholas Shupe, Teri Simmons, Young Sin, Joshua Sisson, Stephen Skinner, Frederick Smeltzer, Tabatha Smith, Chrystal Smith.

Darcie Smith, Tiffany Solomon, Gayla Sossamon, Mikaela Spaulding, Wade Spear, Kelly Stevens, Karen Stevenson, Joyce Stiehler, Grant Swayze.

Yiping Tang, Annick Tchouambou, Doresse Tchui-ente, Kayla Terrel, Brandon Thomas, Yanira Thomas, Ryan Thomas, Susamma Thomas, Tiara Thompson, Harriba Tienabeso.

Amber Tillman, Relindis Tita-Gwenjeng, Kemmie Tolbert, Rachel Tope, Diem Tran, Vu Thuy, Hoan Tran, Adam Troutt, Victor Truong, Seth Turbyfill, Jessica Turner, Taishia Tyler.

Sarah Vafadar, Nicholas Valentino, Carolyn Vanaken, Sjoerd Visser, Hung Vo, Justin Voda, Richard Vollmeier

Traci Wade, Daryn Wauters, Brittney Webb, Haley Webb, John Weber, Mary Katherine Weeter, Gavin Wicker, Myka Wilcox, Chelsea Williams, Cassandra Williams, Brittney Williams, Tori Williams, Calvin Williams.

Whitney Willis, James Wilson, Alicia Wilson, Brandee Wilson, Abby Winstone, Abigail Wiseman, Ronald Wiskup, Joshua Woodard, Margaret Wooten, Michael Wormley, Ashley Wyatt, Connor Wynne.

Li Yang, Guohui Yang, Fang Ye, Alexandra Young, Andrew Zerby, Pan Zhao.



“My congratulations to each student who achieved a 4.0 grade point average. Well done.”

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

MANY AREAS OF THE COLLEGE ARE GEARED SPECIFICALLY FOR SUCCESS

OCCC ready and eager to help students

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As the semester kicks off here at O-Trip, new students flock to campus. But while the new students work to figure out where things are, the returning students could probably use a refresher.

In order to help both new and returning students, here's a quick overview of some of the essential services OCCC offers.

Student Services

New student orientation is a great way to get familiar with campus life, according to Marion Paden, Enrollment and Student Services Vice President.

"There are a number of services available to support students to help them determine goal identification and workshops for test taking and study skills," Paden said.

"The biggest thing for students is to not find themselves without opportunities to get involved and get the support they need."

Paden said on a campus of 22,000, student services are a big necessity.

"Making the decision to go to college is a courageous step. If it's not coming easily ... it's OK.

"[Students] just need to let us know ..." she said. "The only one that knows that they need help is the individual.

"A lot of being a (new student) is just learning how to go to college — the financial obligations, admissions, and knowing that books are important on that first day of class," Paden said.

Paden said many students also don't realize they

may sometimes have to schedule a test in the Test Center, instead of taking the test in class.

Students are encouraged to stop by Student Services or Advisement for help or jump on the college website for links to services.

Students will find the Student Services office to their left past the semicircle of computers when they enter the Main Building from the north.

Campus Police

As students step on campus this spring they'll notice a strong presence of police officers.

The campus police department provides numerous services to help safeguard students and keep the campus trouble free.

Students can request an escort to and from their car, ask for a jumpstart or get help getting in their locked car.

Security also will air up a flat but won't change a tire.

Security takes reports that come in through the emergency phones and provides backpack checks at the bookstore to help prevent theft.

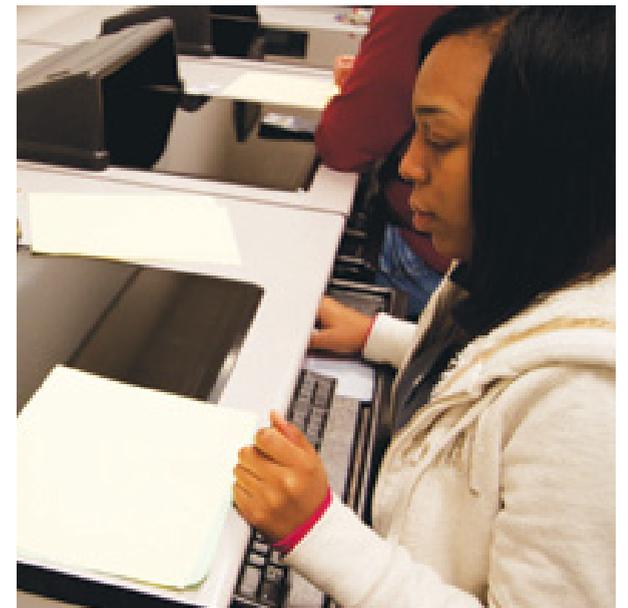
Keith Bourque, safety and security coordinator, said students should "come by and see us anytime."

The campus police office is located next to the Student Life office at Entry MB3 on the first floor of the Main Building.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Marian Rother, captioning specialist, works on captioning a video for use by students with hearing impairments. Captioning is just one of the many learning aids offered by Student Support Services to students.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Student Raney Foaster prepares to take a math test in the OCCC Testing Center.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Student Shekita Gray works with Math Lab employee Rocky Litle to get a better grasp on a math problem.

Math Lab

Located on the second floor, just inside SEM 2, the Math Lab offers tutoring at all levels for every math class taught on campus, said Christine Peck, Math Lab supervisor.

"Another thing we like to mention is we have really extended hours," Peck said.

"We're open 7:30 a.m. through 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Friday and Saturday (from) 8 a.m. to 4 p.m."

The Math Lab also offers current copies of every math textbook

used on campus and calculators, which can be used in the lab by students, Peck said.

"And we run calculator workshops for the TI-84, the required calculator for Business Calculus I and II, Statistics and Algebra," Peck said.

Peck said students can get help figuring out the required calculators at any time during the semester by asking a math lab tutor, or staff.

The lab has more than 100 computers, which can be used both for online math homework, or other campus related activities, she said.

The Math Lab also offers printing to students, for materials such as homework, Peck said.

The lab is set up to be a welcoming study environ-

STUDENTS SHOULD ASK FOR HELP WHEN NEEDED

Labs, bookstore, specialists available

ment, with tables and chairs arranged to facilitate study groups, and whiteboards for student use, she said.

Communications Lab

The Communication Lab can be found on the first floor of the Main Building, just outside the entrance to the Student Union.

The lab offers tutoring for any writing project pertaining to an OCCC class, said Rachel Olsen, lab director.

The lab offers a variety of ways to get help, she said.

Students can get one-on-one help in person by coming into the lab and meeting with a tutor directly.

A session usually lasts between 30 and 45 minutes, she said, and students receive a yellow slip to show their professors as proof they used the lab.

“Students can also use Echo, our online service,” Olsen said.

“There’s a sign-up sheet on the Comm Lab website, under the ‘see a tutor’ tab.”

Olsen said students who choose to tutor online through Echo will need to have a Skype account to video chat with their tutor.

“And if a student has at least 48 hours before a paper is due, they can get tutoring through an email exchange.”



Student Billy Colcord gets some help searching for a College Algebra textbook from OCCC Bookstore employee Martin Oshiro.

CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Olsen said the lab also offers writing workshops about every other week, and an ESL English conversation group on Mondays and Thursdays.

And, she said, beginning Jan. 17, a second location will open in the Visual and Performing Arts Center. That will be called Comm Lab 2, Olsen said.

“There won’t really be a computer lab like there is in the main lab, but there’s tutoring help and we’ll have study skills meetings in the first few months of class.”

Comm Lab 2 will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday in VPAC 146.

The Main Building lab hours are from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

Bookstore

The campus bookstore is centrally located on the first floor of the Main Building and has many of the supplies needed to get students through the semester, said Brenda Reinke, bookstore director.

She said students can find hoodies, children’s clothing, backpacks, snacks and other items at competitive prices.

The bookstore also offers textbook rental for certain classes, Reinke said.

“This is the second full semester to offer English Comp. I or II and Nutrition books for rental.”

Reinke said renting is “half the savings” for students but new and used titles are also on hand to purchase.

Students can purchase books online through the campus website and have them delivered to the bookstore without additional

shipping fees through Friday, Jan. 13, Reinke said.

The bookstore is open 7:45 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday; 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; and 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

Testing Center

When visiting the Testing Center of the college, “bring a current student ID,” said Jim Ellis, testing and assessment director.

The Testing Center offers several services to students, including the entry placement test, which gives a baseline set of results to help students and their advisers determine which classes are best for them, Ellis said.

The Testing Center also offers classroom testing, which allows class tests to be administered in the testing center, freeing up valuable class time for further instruction, he said.

“We also offer some specialty tests, such as the TOEFL for international

students trying to enroll; the TEAS test for nursing students, and the residual ACT test which some students need for scholarships or for financial aid,” Ellis said.

While any photo ID can be used to take the placement test, Ellis said, students who have already enrolled need to bring their current student ID to use the Testing Center, he said.

“Unless the professor notes otherwise in their testing instructions, you will not be allowed to take anything into the testing area except extra pencils and pens.”

Ellis said students should also take advantage of the lockers outside the Testing Center, which are provided for students to lock up their belongings while taking a test.

“It’s really important that students lock up their phones, especially.

“If you take a phone into the testing area and we see it or it goes off, your test is over.

“And then you’ll have to work it out with the professor on retaking it or making it up.”

The lockers have recently been expanded to include several large sized lockers, Ellis said.

“We get students coming in here now with these huge, rolling camping backpacks and those don’t really fit into a standard-sized locker.”

Ellis said the center offers accommodations for students with disabilities.

Students who need help with that should contact Student Support Services to get the appropriate permission papers to show Testing Center staff.

The Testing Center is open from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Saturday, and is located across from Financial Aid on the first floor of the Main Building.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Melissa Armenta looks over Scholarship information in the OCCC Communications Lab.

SPORTS

Go for the gold



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Winners of the Special Olympics 12- to 15-year-old male 50-meter freestyle race, from left to right, are: second place, Kollyn Hefferman, 12; first place, Parker Timmi, 15; and third place Samuel Sweeten, 15. The Special Olympics state championship swim competition was held at the OCCC Aquatic Center Jan. 12.

SPORTS | Student and member pass allows for full access to any class

Fitness classes offered on campus

MARY MCATEE

Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

One of the most common New Year's resolutions is getting in shape, and with the new year kicking into gear, students are wondering how to keep that resolution.

Fortunately, the solution is right here on campus.

The Wellness Center, located just south of the Main Dining area on campus, offers several fitness classes open to OCCC students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the community, said Marlene Shugart, Health and Fitness Specialist.

Classes meet whenever the college is open, and are in full swing now that the campus has reopened, she said.

Some new classes being offered are the Spin Express class, a 40-minute cycling class being offered on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in room

“I needed a way to exercise without the strain on my muscles and bones.”

—VIOLA OSTROM
FORMER OCCC STUDENT

1C1B, and a Theatrical Dance class meeting on Monday and Wednesday afternoons in the Group Fitness room.

Shugart said the three most popular classes are the Spin, Zumba, and Total Body Workout classes.

The regular Spin class, which is 55 minutes long as opposed to 40, meets Monday through Thursday evening.

Zumba classes meet every night Monday through Friday at various times.

Aqua Zumba meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Total body workout meets 5:30 to 6:25 p.m., and utilizes all the tools needed to get in shape.

Viola Ostrom, a former student,

said she still takes water aerobics classes in the morning.

“I needed a way to exercise without the strain on my muscles and bones,” she said.

Ostrom said she suffers from arthritis.

Some of the other classes offered are cardio kickboxing, yoga, and pilates. “Silver” classes are also offered in the morning for senior citizens.

The Wellness Center also offers classes in Lifeguard Training and CPR.

The cost of each class varies, but Shugart said students and members can get a fitness pass for \$50 a semester.

The pass allows for full access to any class at any time.

A full schedule of the classes offered at the Wellness Center can be found in the Spring Recreation and Fitness tabloid available online at www.occc.edu/rf/pdf/Schedule, or in front of the Recreation and Fitness office located on the first floor of the Main Building.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

Jan. 17: Putnam City Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Jan. 21: Casady High School Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Jan. 25: Intramural 5 on 5 Basketball Tournament meeting at 12 p.m. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Jan. 26: Moore/Putnam City Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Jan. 30: 3rd Annual Wellness Center Open House from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Feb. 29 - Mar. 2: NAIA National Swimming and Diving Championships. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

All event news is due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue.
Email sportswriter@occc.edu.



**THE PIONEER
SPORTS PODCAST**

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

Have sports news you wish to share?
Email Brandon at sportswriter@occc.edu
or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.OCCC.EDU

A night with Octarium

At 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, Kansas City-based vocal octet Octarium will present “Should Have Been Choral,” an evening of a cappella secular songs. The music was originally composed as orchestral symphonies, operatic overtures, and music from Broadway shows and pop songs, as well as some other popular, more traditional choral nuggets. Since its inception in 2003, Octarium — Latin for “Eight as One” — has gained a national reputation for performances suffused with what composer Morton Lauridsen called “stunning artistry combined with an absolutely beautiful blending of voices.”

The group also will present a free clinic “Tricks of the a capella Trade” from 11 to 11:50 a.m. Friday, Jan. 20. in the Choir Room in the VPAC, Room 132.

Financial Aid: Students need to be aware of changes

Continued from page 1

ymous, said he found out about the changes just before Christmas.

His financial aid was revoked due to a bad semester more than a decade ago, despite previously being approved for the upcoming spring semester.

Now, he said, he can't attend class this year as intended.

“It's not fair,” he said.

“So many people have cheated the system by buying candy bars and Starbucks coffee using their financial aid, and now they're punishing the rest of us.

“Now I don't know what to do. I relied on that to go to school.”

When the financial aid changes were

first announced last month, students who had their aid revoked could file an appeal to regain their aid.

Although the official deadline to submit an appeal for the spring semester, Jan. 9, has already passed, Turner said Financial Aid has unofficially extended the date because few students responded in time.

“Because the college was closed for the holidays, the only way students were notified was by email,” she said.

However, Turner said, she believes many students did not check their email over the break period.

“Financial Aid can't promise that (students) who file their appeal late will get it processed in time for classes,” she said.

“Students need to recognize that it's not a guarantee, so if they do want to take classes this spring, they need to make sure they have the money to pay for them outright.”

Students can submit an appeal online by visiting www.occc.edu/financialaid and filling out the corresponding form, Turner said.

An email will be sent out to applicants when their appeal is either accepted or rejected.

Before filing an appeal, Turner said she urges students to read the document in its entirety.

“So far of those who appealed and were rejected, most of them were rejected because they didn't read and didn't completely fulfill their appeal

form.”

For more information or questions regarding the recent changes, contact Financial Aid at 405-685-7837.

In addition, Turner said, students hoping to improve their academic careers can turn to Student Support Services for help.

“We're trying to do everything we can to let students know that if they're having some difficulty, they need to come talk to us early so we can help them have more options and hopefully make it through their classes.”

Student Support Services is located on the first floor of the Main Building, next to Student Life.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 405-682-7520.

Parking: Fines can add up for not following rules

Continued from page 1

There also are repercussions to improper parking.

“Handicap parking is by state-issued permit only,” Bourque said.

“The city will issue tickets for parking in the handicap

spaces or fire lane and faculty ticketed.”

spaces are also monitored and For more information, stop

by the Campus Police department located on the first floor

of the Main Building or visit www.occc.edu/Security.



CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Crossing the language barrier



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK SIMPSON

English as a Second Language Coordinator Lydia Rucker (left) meets with international student Elena Collins during a conversation group meeting. Collins holds a doctorate in psychology and is one of several ESL students in the group who hold degrees from their home countries.

COMMUNITY | International and native students work together on language skills

Students come to an understanding

MARK L. SIMPSON
Newswriting Student

Nervousness, apprehension, and fear may be preventing native and international students from interacting with each other, said OCCC Communications Lab ESL coordinator Lydia Rucker. She said there's an easy way for the two groups to get together and talk.

Rucker, who also is a writing tutor in the Communications Lab, directs conversation groups twice a week with both international and American students in an effort to change any misconceptions and also help internationals improve their verbal skills.

"Our fear stems from our want to understand but our inability to do so," she said. "So with anything that you don't really understand, or anything that makes you somewhat uncomfortable, you tend to avoid it."

She said the conversation groups use a mix of dialogue and drama to help ESL students improve their English-speaking skills in a relaxed, judgment-free environment.

"It is my theory that improving the self-esteem of ESL students will not only help them build confidence, but also motivate them to speak English more often outside of school," Rucker said.

"Many ESL students become proficient in reading

and writing in schools in their countries, but there is less focus on speaking," she said. "Therefore, having to verbalize in a new society in a language they are still trying to effectively master can also affect self-esteem."

There also is a misconception that because the students don't speak English fluently, they are not intelligent. "Many of the ESL students — some of whom hold degrees in their countries — may feel that they are not truly able to represent the level of their intelligence and personality through speaking another language," Rucker said.

Getting the two groups together is beneficial for all, Rucker said. One ESL student is quick to agree.

"I speak much better now," said Elena Collins. Collins holds a doctorate in psychology and is one of several ESL students in the group who hold degrees from their home countries.

"Before this semester I had never spoken in a group. When there were many people, I was quiet."

Collins taught Spanish for 20 years in her home country of Mexico and is now an independent Spanish tutor in Norman for University of Oklahoma students.

"Now I am more confident with myself in speaking to a group," she said.

The groups also are inspiring a few of the native Eng-

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The OCCC campus will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Spring semester classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 17.

Coffee Mug Creations

Student Life will offer students the opportunity to decorate travel mugs on Tuesday, Jan. 17, in the hallway area next to the Communications Lab as part of Welcome Week activities.

Musician Zane Williams

Musician Zane Williams will perform for students from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, in the Student Union.

Octarium performance

Kansas City-based octet Octarium will present "Should Have Been Choral" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, in the Bruce Owen Theater. For tickets, call the OCCC Office of Cultural Programs at 405-682-7576

OCCC Night at the Barons

Tickets for the Oklahoma City Barons game go on sale Jan. 20. Tickets cost \$5 for students with a limit of five tickets per person. The Barons ice hockey team will play its first game at 7 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Cox Convention Center.

Calculator workshop

OCCC's Math Lab is hosting a workshop on how to use a calculator from Thursday, Jan. 19 through Wednesday, Jan. 25. Students will learn how to use a TI89 calculator and its applications in College Algebra, Statistics and Business Calculus. For more details on workshops, visit the Math Lab.

OACC Scholarship deadline

The deadline for OACC scholarships is Feb. 3. OACC scholarships give one student per college \$500 per semester for one academic year. Applications may be found at www.oacc.onenet.net/pdf/OACC-Scholarship.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue.

Email your event to communitywriter@occc.edu.

lish speaking group leaders. "I think the same thing that's happened with our (international) students has happened for us," said Bethany Lang, a volunteer tutor with the group. "I'm more comfortable striking up a conversation with an ESL student," she said.

Kasey Handley and Marijah Adams develop curriculum for the conversation groups. They believe the program is a tremendous asset to the ESL program and OCCC. The conversation groups meet in the Communications Lab on Mondays from 11 a.m. to noon and on Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Rucker at 405-682-1611, ext. 7105, or email her at lrucker@occc.edu.

CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Mondays prior to the publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

AUTOMOTIVE

LAPTOP FOR SALE: Dell Inspirin B120. 1.5gb of ram. New battery. Xp operating system and internet explorer loaded. Recently cleaned up and in good condition. \$110. Call: 405-602-6499.

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SEVERAL STUDENTS SOLD AUTOS AND OTHER ITEMS LAST SEMESTER BY POSTING IN THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS. ADS ARE FREE TO STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF OCCC. CONTACT CYNTHIA AT: adman@occc.edu.

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www.ppfa.org/ppfa

 Planned Parenthood
1-800-230-PLAN



**Our campus is tobacco free.
You can't even smoke behind a tree.**

THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

Birds

Find and circle all of the birds that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional bird.

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W K D R E K C E P D O O W H
O W N R S W A N N F O J A Y
R A O U I G M I N G I V M T
C H E R L B T B N O U N U I
P T G E R R K I U L C R C M
E E I O A A M C T D K L O H
L E P M S A P U A E G C A U
I K O W L T R S Y L K I M F
C A L F H E R O N I B E E O
A R L C A R D I N A L V D N
N A U K C U D G C E S O O G
A P G R O B I N H D D G B
R M A G P I E N E K C I H C
Y N E W R E N T O R R A P I
E R S D D R A V E N A N Y M
    
```

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| BLACKBIRD | EAGLE | MARTIN | ROBIN |
| BUDGIE | EMU | MOCKINGBIRD | SEAGULL |
| CANARY | FALCON | MYNA | SPARROW |
| CARDINAL | FINCH | OSTRICH | SWAN |
| CHICKEN | FLAMINGO | OWL | TURKEY |
| CRANE | GOOSE | PARAKEET | VULTURE |
| CROW | HAWK | PARROT | WOODPECKER |
| DODO | HERON | PELICAN | WREN |
| DOVE | JAY | PIGEON | |
| DUCK | MAGPIE | RAVEN | |

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Beginning January 2012, OCCC will begin offering a limited number of online and on-campus classes in Moodle. The number of courses in Moodle will continue to increase with the beginning of each new term.

Is my course in Moodle? Go to online.occc.edu to see a course listing.

How will I learn to use Moodle? An orientation course is in Moodle to help.

Will I have tech support? Yes. You will be able to turn in any issues 24/7/365.

Questions? Additional information can be found at online.occc.edu.