

Frequently Asked Questions

From Macon Early College Applicants

Interviews

I've applied, what now?

Once you have applied, the MEC Application Committee will review your application. The committee will pull your previous school history and look at your historical grades, attendance, and behavior. If all of the criteria are met, you will receive an email, or a phone call, notifying you that your application has been approved, garnering you an interview with the committee.

When will I interview?

Interviews will take place from January to the beginning of March. MEC will contact the applicant's guardians to find the best time to set up an interview.

What (and who) do I need for the interview?

Bring yourself AND your parents/guardians to the interview. Being a part of MEC is a family decision. We want everyone to be a part of the process. Other than that, come prepared to answer questions about yourself and what drives you to succeed as a person academically and non-academically.

Wait... my parents are a part of the interview process?

YES! This is a big decision for a student and their family. We want to make sure that your family is included and is knowledgeable about the expectations here at MEC. It is important for us to be transparent with your parents and have strong communication moving forward... especially if you are one of the one's selected to attend the Fall semester.

What should I wear to my interview?

Approach the interview in the same way you would approach a job interview. MEC is here to prepare you for college, career, and life. We are less interested in what you look like and more interested in who you are. Sometimes, however, appearance influences other's perceptions, and it is the best way to create a positive perception by dressing professionally. If you want to be accepted at a school, for a job, or any other opportunities that you desire, then take every part of the interview seriously. In other words, dress professionally and purposefully.

Who will be interviewing me? What questions will I be asked?

The interview panel will consist of up to 3 staff members/teachers and one student leader from our Student Government Association. They will be asking questions about the applicant's motivations, academic background, career aspirations, and extracurricular interests.

Helpful hints or advice I might need?

All in all, the interview is about YOU, the applicant. Be honest and truthful with who you are as a person. So relax and breathe. We at MEC aren't only about high academic standards. We want to know that who we are accepting into our school family is a hard worker and will put in the time, effort, and gumption to go through our program successfully.

Become familiar with Macon Early College. You will be asked about your knowledge of our school. Do your homework. Know what you are applying for and what you want to get out of the experience. This not only helps us gauge your interest but will also help you determine if MEC is the right academic environment for you.

MEC Admission Assessment

Wait... there's an assessment? What does it mean if I fail the assessment... will I not get into MEC?

Yes, there is an assessment. If you receive an invitation to interview then you will also be expected to take the MEC Admission Assessment. We have many applicants who come from places other than a NC public middle school. We have students who come from out of state, who have been homeschooled, or who come from other private institutions. The assessment is our way of assessing each applicant on the same level. This data will also help us understand our future students better and understand how best to assist their needs at the beginning of the year.

When is the assessment?

The assessment will take place in March after all interviews have been completed. An email will then be sent out about the assessment date and time.

Acceptance

When will we hear about acceptance?

All applicants will receive notification of their application status by email. The email will be sent to the primary caregiver's email address that was submitted on the application. We plan to send the notification of your application status by the end of March. Students will either receive an email giving them conditional acceptance to MEC or that they have not been accepted into the program at this time.

What is a Conditional Acceptance Letter?

A Conditional Acceptance Letter is just that: conditional. Because the current school year does not conclude until the end of May, we want to make sure our applicant's finish the year strong. If an applicant gets in behavioral trouble, fails courses and/or exams, or starts to have issues with attendance, they are in jeopardy of losing their acceptance to MEC. If this happens, the next person on the waiting list will be called and that spot will be filled.

When will the Conditional Acceptance Letter become an official acceptance?

Once the school year is finished, the Application Committee will look through the list of students who were given a Conditional Acceptance Letter. If those students remain in good standing, then an email will be sent out to those applicants to let them know the next steps to attending MEC in the Fall. If there is someone who is not in good standing, their parents/guardians will be notified that the conditional acceptance has been revoked.

What happens if I don't get accepted?

Some applicants will be put on a waiting list if they did not get into MEC while other applicants, unfortunately, will not be offered the opportunity to attend MEC for the 2024-2025 school year. The email that will be sent out will tell you the status of your application. If you are on the waitlist, you will be contacted should a slot come available at a later date. If there are any applicants who deny their acceptance, or lose their conditional acceptance, then the next person on the waiting list will be moved from the waiting list to the accepted list.

Does everyone who interviews get accepted into MEC?

Not everyone gets accepted... and that's okay! We only have a certain number of spots available for acceptance. This is in part because of the size of our school, but, more

importantly, it's because of our goal to ensure that students who attend MEC can be successful. Not everyone is ready to take college classes, manage time, self-advocate, or thrive in a learning environment that requires dedication to the academic craft. As we are sure that most could thrive in a small learning environment, we also recognize that MEC might not be the best fit for every student's definition of success.

I'm interested, but don't know if it is for me? (Shadowing)

At the beginning of next semester, the applicants have a chance to spend the day at MEC with some of our Student Government Association leaders as they attend high school and college classes. Students do this to get a feel for the school. If you are interested in doing this, feel free to call the school to set up a time for this to take place. If you shadow during one of your school days, please be sure to make the correct accommodations with the proper faculty at your school.

If I am accepted, do I have to attend?

You are not forced to attend MEC if you do not want to. Once you get your conditional acceptance letter, you will have 7 days to respond to MEC that you have accepted your acceptance. If you and your family feel like this isn't the place for you, it's okay! Just let us know and we will look at our potential waiting list and select the next applicant. If you accept your invitation, we do ask for a one year commitment to our program.

If you have any other questions or concerns that you would like to discuss, please feel free to connect with our principal at caleb.parham@macon.k12.nc.us or contact the school at (828) 524-2002.