

What is WEP?

WEP stands for Work Experience Program. Most Monroe County DHS Cash Assistance recipients are required to engage in some type of work-related activity in order to continue to receive or qualify for benefits. Benefits include, but are not limited to, Cash Assistance, Food Stamps, and Medicaid.



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WEP

Frequently Asked Questions



MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Work Experience Program

A collaboration between
Monroe Community College and
The Department of Human Services

Why do I have to do WEP?

The Work Experience Program was implemented in NYS over 10 years ago. The goal is to help transition recipients of public assistance off welfare by exposing them to work experiences that will foster new skills and in turn make them more employable.



How many WEP hours do I have to do?

Ideally, DHS makes assessment for WEP hours to be done on a full-time basis (35-40/week); however, personal circumstances also are taken into account during the assessment. For example, circumstances may include if you have children, their ages, your age, whether you have a medical condition, and so forth. The assessment completed by your MCDHS worker will determine the appropriate amount of hours for your case.

Can my credit hours be counted as part of my WEP?

It depends. In order for DHS to count your credit hours, you must be enrolled – and stay enrolled – in 12 or more credit hours each semester. You also must be enrolled in a program major that is approved by DHS, and your studies must have been properly approved by MCDHS. These conditions must be met in order for DHS to count your enrolled credit hours toward your WEP requirement.

WEP

Will my MCC internship count towards WEP?

Your internship credit hours will not count toward WEP unless you have a paid internship. It then will be counted as part-time work, and your internship hours will be counted toward your overall WEP requirement.

Will my MCC Human Services Field Work Hours Count towards WEP?

If you're doing field work hours for a Human Services course, your credit hours will not count for that course but the hours of field work will count. For example, if you are taking a 2-credit Human Services course that requires 9 hours of field work, DHS will not count the 2 credit hours toward your WEP hours, but it will count your 9 hours of field work.

Can MCC Federal Work Study hours be counted towards my required WEP hours?

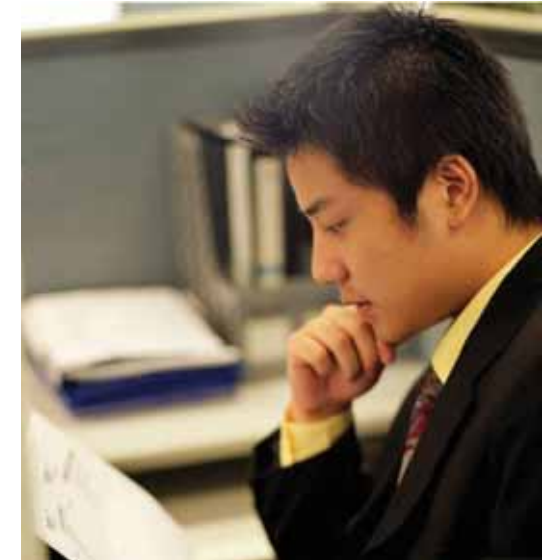
Yes, work study counts as on the job training and will count towards your assigned WEP hours.

How can I be exempt from WEP?

It depends. If you are suffering from an addiction or mental illness that requires full-time treatment, are a victim of domestic violence, or recently gave birth, you may be exempt from WEP. If you believe you fall under these categories, please speak with the WEP Advisor. Keep in mind that exemptions are usually only granted on a temporary basis and are unlikely to be granted while you are still attending classes.

What happens if I miss a day at my WEP site?

If there is an emergency, you are sick, and/or you will not be able to make it to your work site, it is your responsibility to notify your supervisor – as well as the MCC WEP Advisor. Ideally you should always try to make up any missed days as soon as possible. Also, excessive absences may result in a negative action on your case.



I received a letter from DHS and I'm not sure what it means?



Call MCC Student Services at 262.1740 and schedule an appointment with the WEP Advisor for assistance. The WEP Advisor is here to assist students not only with WEP placements but general DHS forms, community resources and referrals!