

# Why we're going on and on (and on) about early registration ...



If you're planning to attend EMCC in the fall, give this some thought over the next couple of weeks. It's really, really worth it to register early instead of waiting until the final two days on Aug. 16-17. Here's why.

EMCC is the fastest-growing community college in the state. We had a 20 percent enrollment increase last fall, and we're expecting even more students this fall. That's more than 5,000 people, all of whom have to register for classes. When everybody arrives to register at the same time, that's when the lines get long ... they can't help but get long when that happens. This is especially true at the Golden Triangle campus, which accounts for more than 4,000 students all by itself. Last fall, on the final two days of registration, EMCC staff members at the Golden Triangle campus stayed as late as 10 p.m. getting people squared away to begin classes.

Those long hours are tough on EMCC's staff, but they're also tough on our students ... and, I promise, that's why we're trying to change it. We'll stay until crazy hours of the evening, no problem, but it's hard to watch our students suffer through it ... especially since it's absolutely, positively avoidable.

In the next few weeks, you'll be seeing a series of ads on television and in local newspapers. The ads offer an \$80 discount on fees to students who complete registration by Aug. 1 ... and "completing" registration includes making your payment arrangements. More than 1,000 students have already started the process, and we're hoping a couple thousand more will take us up on it.

Now, \$80 is nothing to sniff at, but the real payoff with early registration is avoiding the lines. You can drive out to EMCC any day we're open and register. Right now, the lines are short ... sometimes non-existent. So, give yourself a break and get registered before things get hectic.

It's worth mentioning a couple of other things:

1) EMCC recruiter Michael Black made a cool hand-out called, "Registration the easy way ... what to do before you leave home." It lists a lot of things you can check off your list before you arrive on campus. And everything you do before you set out for EMCC is one less thing you'll have to do once you get here. So, check that out ... click the "Apply Now" icon in the upper right-hand corner of the home page and look for the link.

2) Michael's hand-out also includes information about applying for financial aid. And that's a step you can't skip. The way tuition guarantee works, you have to apply for all the aid for which you're eligible. After that, if there's still a gap, EMCC's tuition guarantee program steps in and pays the balance. To complete your 2010-11 FASFA, go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). (By the way, that stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid.)

3) We'll be opening the bookstores early this fall, on Aug. 12-13 instead of Aug. 16-17. So, if you're already registered, you can get that done early too, when it's not quite so hectic. As a matter of fact, if you'll register early and submit a "Bookstore Pre-Order Form," we'll even bag your books and have them waiting for you. The "Apply Now" screen includes a link to this form, which can be submitted by e-mail.

And, as always, give us a call if you have questions:

Golden Triangle, (662) 243-1900  
Columbus AFB, (662) 434-2660

Scooba, (662) 476-5000  
NAS Meridian, (601) 679-3570