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April 2010, Issue N.2

Helping Students Select the Right College

With the many options available for a post-secondary education, it pays for students to carefully screen their college of choice. This large investment of money and time deserves extra research to avoid potential problems.

Primary concerns when choosing a college include ensuring that an institution is accredited, has a stellar reputation, has high academic standards and will place the student in courses that fit his or her skills and interests.

Here are some important questions a student should ask of any institution being considered:

- **Is the institution accredited by a reputable agency?** See the U.S. Department of Education's [list of accreditation agencies](#). Miami Dade College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a highly reputable organization that accredits all public colleges and universities in Florida.
- **Is it licensed by the state?** In Florida, that would mean a license from the Florida Department of Education and/or the Commission for Independent Education.
- **Are the degrees or credentials widely recognized and respected?** Who are the graduates? See MDC's [alumni](#).
- **Are faculty members properly credentialed?** At MDC, every instructor has at least a master's degree in the subject taught, or a master's degree and an additional 18 graduate credits in the subject taught.
- **Will the student develop skills they can use throughout their professional life?** It is likely that a person will change jobs several times during his or her career. Make sure they are prepared for those changes. See MDC's [learning outcomes](#).
- **Can students easily transfer credits to another institution?** [MDC credits](#) are accepted by all Florida state universities and other top colleges around the country. Students can learn more about transferring credits at [Collegeboard.com](#).
- **Are all tuition costs, fees and expenses clearly outlined?** This must be in writing. Students considering private institutions should shop around because many public colleges offer the same program or major for less tuition. Degrees and courses at public institutions are equally recognized throughout Florida and the nation.
- **Does the [financial aid](#) offered cover at least a significant portion of costs?** How much of the financial aid offered is really just a loan? You don't want your students to be left with a large debt. Again, get this in writing. Review it carefully.
- **Will the institution help the student find a job?** Ask for the placement rate, which will show how many graduates find jobs with help from the program. The placement rate of MDC's [Electronics Engineering Technology Program](#), for example, is more than 96 percent.
- **Can the student visit the campus?** Advise him or her to sit in a class and talk to students or professors, while also looking at the quality of the facility and equipment.



Nowadays students should screen their college choices carefully.

Students should review all of the information and think it through carefully. There shouldn't be any doubts about an institution's reputation or the quality of its programs. After all, a considerable amount of money and precious time are at stake.

In the end, the choice should be clear. A college should provide a first-rate education to help students reach their career goals.

Learn what makes Miami Dade College the choice for thousands of students each year. The [benefits of an MDC degree](#) are many. Research the options at MDC and help students [apply today!](#)

MDC Can Help

MDC's [School of Education](#) can help you achieve your professional degree or certification in education.

See all our [education programs](#) and [apply](#) today.

Was this article...

- Helpful
- Somewhat Helpful
- Not Helpful

SHORTCUTS

Get Your Students in a Florida University

Help Your Students Get a Scholarship

Ten Reasons Your Students Should Come to MDC

The Honors College



An Ivy Stepladder. Find out how MDC is giving a boost to top scholars. [View article...](#)

DID YOU KNOW...?

Approximately nine out of 10 MDC students stay in the region and contribute to the local economy after they leave the college.

CERTIFICATION NEWS



(L-R) Deborah Santiago, vice president of Policy and Research, Excelencia in Education; Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón, president of Miami Dade College; Miami-Dade County School Board Member Marta Pérez and Sarita Brown, president of Excelencia in Education.

Major Report on Latino Student Success Released at MDC

College officials, faculty, students, school board members, congressional aides, and community leaders gathered at Miami Dade College's (MDC) Wolfson Campus today for the release of Washington-based Excelencia in Education's report, Florida Policy Options to Accelerate Latino Student Success in Higher Education. Making the announcement were MDC president, Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón, Sarita Brown - president of Excelencia in Education, and Deborah Santiago – vice president of Policy and Research of Excelencia in Education and the comprehensive report's author.

This report provides policy recommendations, based on recent research and discussions, to improve the educational attainment of Florida's workforce, with a focus on Latinos. Given that a large portion of the demographic growth in Florida through 2030 will be Hispanic, the state's economic competitiveness will be highly dependent on the educational attainment of this population. [More...](#)

IF THEY DON'T GO TO COLLEGE...



If they don't go to college...they will miss out in \$2.5 million, or about \$1 million dollars more over their working lives than high school graduates.

Source: College Board - [Education Pays 2004 Study](#)

PULSE



Do you think your students need more help preparing for college?

[Answer Here!](#)

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Early Childhood

- [College Credit Certificates](#)
- [Florida Child Care Professional \(formerly CDA\)](#)
- [Florida Child Care Professional Certificate Renewal](#)
- [Director's Credential Renewal](#)
- [Associate in Science Degrees](#)
- [Pre-School Lab at North Campus](#)

Programs of Study

- [Exceptional Student Education \(K-12\)](#)
- [Mathematics Education \(6-12\)](#)

Science Education (6-12):

- [Biology](#)
- [Chemistry](#)

K-12 Teacher Education Programs

- [Associate in Arts Degrees](#)
 - [General Education Requirements](#)
 - [Education Requirements](#)
 - [Field Experience](#)
 - [LiveText](#)

Baccalaureate Degrees

- [Requirements for Admissions](#)
- [Teacher Recertification Courses and Endorsements](#)

- [Earth/Space Science](#)
- [Physics](#)

Center for Professional Development

- [Temporary Instructor Training](#)
- [Associate in Science in Instructional Services Technology \(Instructional Paraprofessional program\)](#)
- [Educator Preparation Institute \(alternative pathways to teacher certification\)](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
 - [Florida Teach Grants](#)
 - [Florida Fund for Minority Teachers](#)
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300 N.E. 2nd Ave.
Miami, FL 33132-2204
Tel. 305-237-8888
mdcinfo@mdc.edu

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