Missouri College Advising Corps
Helping Missouri students attend college
The guides of the Missouri College Advising Corps reach out to students across the state in an effort to increase college attendance.

**Did you know?**

In more than half of Missouri counties, fewer than 12 percent of adults earned a college degree. (OSEDA, 2008)

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**The Numbers**

Serving those who need it most*

- 60 percent first generation
- 18 percent unknown
- 22 percent not first generation

**percent of high school students served are ethnic minorities**

Services provided by guides*

- 1,560 students received one-on-one services
- 5,445 attended a college planning workshop

**of students served applied to 139 colleges and universities**

Students now attend **73** institutions in 14 states**

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* data are from fall 2009 semester  ** data are from 2008–09 school year
For underrepresented minority, low-income and first-generation students in the United States, the barriers to college are many. The Missouri College Advising Corps aims to increase the number of Missouri students who enter and complete college by helping them address the following challenges head-on:

- A lack of understanding about the admissions process and how to plan and pay for college
- Absence of role models who attended college
- Need for a stronger support system that values higher education
- A lack of information about how to find the "best fit" college

Did you know?
Sixty percent of Missouri counties fall in the critical and most critical categories in terms of levels of education attained by their citizens. (Educational Needs Index Missouri, 2006)

As one of the original 10 members of the National College Advising Corps and one of only 13 such programs in the nation, the Missouri College Advising Corps began in 2008 and sends recent University of Missouri graduates to serve as college guides in high schools and community colleges across the state. The guides advise and encourage students on how to navigate the college admissions and financing processes. Each guide aims to:

- Help Missouri students and their families see college as an attainable goal
- Provide information to students and their families about the college application and financial aid process
- Encourage community college students to continue their studies toward completion of four-year bachelor’s degrees

"Working with the [guide] was amazing. She taught me and my classmates that if excellence is possible, good is not enough. I can honestly say that without her guidance, many of my peers would have settled for less and ultimately would have given up on attending college."

Kaylan D. Holloway
graduate of Soldan International Studies High School, St. Louis
MISSOURI COLLEGE ADVISING CORPS GUIDES WORK:

In Kansas City area:
- Grandview High School
- Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley
- Northeast High School
- Paseo Academy of Fine & Performing Arts
- Van Horn High School

In St. Louis area:
- Jennings High School
- Riverview Gardens High School
- Soldan International Studies High School
- St. Louis Community College–Florissant Valley

Throughout Missouri:
- Benton High School (St. Joseph)
- Bourbon High School
- Cuba High School
- East Central College (Union)
- Salem High School

How it works

One guide works full-time in each of the high schools or community colleges listed above. Each guide interacts with students on a daily basis, identifies needs, answers questions, and provides counsel and support. Guides also offer financial literacy workshops for students and their families and arrange tours to colleges and universities in Missouri and surrounding states.

WHAT’S NEXT?
We aim to continue our work in the schools we serve and to expand our reach for students and their families all across Missouri. To achieve this goal, we need your support. To help:
- Make a financial contribution, or
- Tell others about us.

To learn more or make a gift, visit mcac.missouri.edu.

*During my final semester, [the guide] helped me apply to school and find and apply for scholarships. Without her help and guidance, I wouldn’t have known where to begin the transfer process.*

Walter Conner
transfer from East Central College, Union, Mo.
Did you know?

“… a series of factors influence one’s path to mobility. Education in particular has risen to the top of that list …” (Haskins, Holzer, & Lerman, 2009, Promoting Economic Mobility by Increasing Postsecondary Education)

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