

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

May 26, 2020

Dear Student,

Congratulations on your acceptance into Michigan State University! You have been selected to participate in a summer transition program for incoming MSU students called **Maximizing Academic Growth In College (MAGIC)** and coordinated by the Office of Cultural & Academic Transitions (OCAT). Due to COVID 19, this traditionally one-week program will be moved to a virtual learning five-week program that will meet on **Wednesdays (1:00-3:00PM and 7:00-8:00PM) starting July 15, 2020 until August 12, 2020.**

This exciting virtual program helps incoming students navigate through the large campus of 50,000 students at Michigan State University. Our goal is to help prepare students for the rigors of college life by helping them understand that college classes are nothing like their experience in high school. Students will get an opportunity to:

- **Interact** with renowned motivational speakers such as Eric Thomas aka “the Hip-Hop Preacher”
- **Connect** with a culturally diverse community
- **Learn** about cultural, academic, professional, and social strategies for proven success at MSU
- **Engage** with key MSU faculty/staff and MAGIC Peer Assistants



Now in its 24th year, the MAGIC program prides itself with its outstanding retention rate of 90%! Your goal is to graduate from MSU and through this program we provide you with the “keys to success” in reaching this goal.

## Student Affairs and Services

Office of Cultural and  
Academic Transitions

Student Services Building  
566 E. Circle Drive, Room  
339  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1113

Enclosed in this letter, you will find MAGIC Program FAQs, student testimonials and information about our MAGIC Success Initiative (MSI), a year-long support program only for MAGIC participants.

Your next step is to complete the [online application](http://www.ocat.msu.edu) that can be found on our website at [www.ocat.msu.edu](http://www.ocat.msu.edu) as soon as possible as there are a **limited number of students** who can participate in this on-line this program. Once we receive your application, we will contact you with additional information.

517-353-7745

[ocat.msu.edu](http://ocat.msu.edu)

To learn more about OCAT’s other student success initiatives, please visit our website at [www.ocat.msu.edu](http://www.ocat.msu.edu) and make sure to follow us on social media (IG: @ocatmsu). If you have any questions concerning the MAGIC program, please email us at [ocat@msu.edu](mailto:ocat@msu.edu) or call us at: (517) 353-7745.

Sincerely,

*MURRAY EDWARDS*

Murray Edwards  
MAGIC Program Coordinator

# MAGIC (Maximizing Academic Growth In College)

## 2020 virtual program FAQs

### 1. Who coordinates the MAGIC Program?

MAGIC is one of the many student success initiative programs that is coordinated by the [Office of Cultural & Academic Transitions \(OCAT\)](#). OCAT is part of the [Division of Student Affairs & Services](#).

### 2. How long is the MAGIC Program?

Due to COVID 19, this traditionally one-week program will be moved to a virtual learning five week program that will meet on **Wednesdays (1:00-3:00PM and 7:00-8:00PM) starting July 15, 2020 until August 12, 2020.**

### 3. Do I need to attend the entire five weeks?

Yes. Students who are accepted to participate in MAGIC must commit to staying in the program the entire time period due to the comprehensive nature of the experience.

### 4. Can I still attend MAGIC if I have not attended MSU's New Student Orientation (NSO)?

No. All students attending MAGIC *must* attend an NSO session *before* their MAGIC week. No exceptions. Contact the NSO Office (517) 355-8490 and let them know you are attending MAGIC. They will work to adjust your NSO time.

### 5. Do I need to attend *both* the afternoon session (1:00-3:00PM) and the evening session (7:00-8:00PM)?

Yes. All sessions are mandatory.

### 6. What Does MAGIC Cost?

There is no cost to attend the MAGIC 2020 virtual program because it will be online.

### 7. What is the application deadline?

Applications will be accepted until spaces are filled. Don't wait!

### 8. What type of electronic devices/supplies will I need for the MAGIC 2020 virtual program?

Because students will be interacting with their peers and guest presenters while navigating MSU's online learning system ([www.d2l.msu.edu](http://www.d2l.msu.edu)) we prefer that students have a working laptop/desktop. Students will not be able to fully engage with this program if they rely only on their phone.

**9. What if I do not have access to high speed internet?**

Access to high-speed internet will be critical to complete the MAGIC 2020 virtual program successfully. However, if students do not have access to high-speed internet, we will mail out hard copies of worksheets/documents shared within the program. Please inform the OCAT staff immediately via email ([ocat@msu.edu](mailto:ocat@msu.edu)) or call (517) 353-7745 if you do not have access to high-speed internet. Please also review [MSU's "Guide to Remote Access" website](#) to assist students in accessing high-speed internet.

**10. Do I need to prepare anything before the first MAGIC session?**

Details about the first assignment(s) will be provided prior to the first MAGIC session.

**11. Can Parents Participate?**

Parents are invited to the initial Welcome session that will take place on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> (1:00—2:00PM).

**12. Can anyone attend MAGIC?**

Any new freshman whose have been admitted to MSU for Fall 2020 enrollment can attend MAGIC.

**13. Will there be any follow up after MAGIC?**

Yes! All MAGIC participants will be invited to participate in all OCAT Student Success Initiatives (SSI) throughout the 2020-2021 academic year.

**14. How can I get more of my questions answered?**

Contact OCAT (517) 353-7745, email [ocat@msu.edu](mailto:ocat@msu.edu) or visit: [www.ocat.msu.edu](http://www.ocat.msu.edu)



"I REALLY LIKED HOW THE MAGIC PROGRAM WAS DIVERSE. IT'S NICE TO SEE PEOPLE WHO LOOK LIKE ME IN A BIG UNIVERSITY."

- Heidi

MSU Sophomore,  
Psychology  
MAGIC 2017



"WITHOUT MAGIC, I WOULD NOT HAVE DEVELOPED THE SUPPORTIVE, CARING NETWORK I HAVE NOW. I WAS ABLE TO BUILD A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH OCAT THAT LED TO MY FIRST STUDY ABROAD, A FUN JOB, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AS A STUDENT AND LEADER."

- Deborah

MSU Senior,  
Interdisciplinary  
Sciences  
MAGIC 2015



## WHY MAGIC?

"MAGIC WAS LITERALLY THE BEST EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE. NOW, I JUST FINISHED MY SOPHOMORE YEAR AND ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH. IT LITERALLY CHANGED MY LIFE FOR THE BETTER. IT WAS A PLACE WHERE I MET SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS AND MADE CONNECTIONS WITH PEOPLE I WOULD'VE NEVER MET OUTSIDE OF THE PROGRAM. IF I COULD DO IT EVERY YEAR I WOULD."

- Alessandra

MSU Junior,  
Arts & Humanities  
MAGIC 2016



"MAGIC WAS AMAZING!! IT GAVE ME THE TOOLS I NEEDED TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT MSU. I MET SO MANY GREAT PEOPLE AND MADE MANY GREAT CONNECTIONS THAT I STILL HAVE 'TIL THIS DAY."

- Najma

MSU Junior,  
Urban & Regional  
Planning  
MAGIC 2016



"MAGIC REALLY PREPARED ME FOR COLLEGE. IT TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE READY FOR THE ACADEMICS IN COLLEGE. IT WAS ALSO SO FUN! I FOUND OUT ABOUT A LOT OF ORGANIZATIONS AND GOT AN AMAZING MENTOR. MAGIC IS THE MOVE!"

- Jarred

MSU Sophomore,  
Physiology  
MAGIC 2017



"BECAUSE OF MAGIC, I NETWORKED WITH FACULTY MEMBERS AND PEERS THAT HELPED ME ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN MY FIRST SEMESTER AND EACH ONE THAT FOLLOWED. I WAS ABLE TO FIND SPACES WHERE I COULD ENGAGE WITH PEOPLE OF VASTLY DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, LEARN WITH THEM, LEARN ABOUT THEM, AND COMMUNE WITH THEM."

- Taylor

MSU Senior,  
Arts & Humanities  
MAGIC 2015



maximizing academic growth in college!

[www.ocat.msu.edu](http://www.ocat.msu.edu)



# WHY MAGIC?



**OFFICE OF CULTURAL & ACADEMIC TRANSITIONS**  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING  
556 E. CIRCLE DR., ROOM 339  
EAST LANSING, MI 48824

PHONE: (517) 353-7745  
EMAIL: [ocat@msu.edu](mailto:ocat@msu.edu)  
WEBSITE: [www.ocat.msu.edu](http://www.ocat.msu.edu)