

Nursing Program Addresses Critical Work Shortage

The 2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce Report, released by the Maryland Hospital Association last August, found that one of every four nursing positions is vacant. The report found the most populated parts of the state have the highest vacancy rates. Central Maryland, which includes the Baltimore metropolitan region, and the Washington, D.C., suburbs have vacancy rates just over 26%.

Montgomery College's nursing program provides a high-quality—and affordable—solution to the area's nursing shortage. This selective, application-based program, which covers two academic years, is approved by the Maryland Board of Nursing and is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

Graduates of the College's two-year degree program qualify to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to become licensed, registered nurses who are prepared to give competent nursing care to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care settings.

"There are a lot of facilities in the area that look for Montgomery College on an applicant's transcripts," said Brenda Knopp, chair of the College's nursing program. "They know the quality of the program—and they know our students have had a lot of hands-on experience."

"The nursing program is very demanding," said Yazmeen Sannoh (Clarksburg HS), who is completing her associate's in nursing this spring. "But there's a sense of intimacy—a level of community—here I don't think I would've experienced at a larger university."

Sannoh, who entered as an Early College student, said the nursing program provides an invaluable communications hub on Blackboard. She said, "It's a great place to get updates on the nursing program, what hospitals require of you, workshops for student success, Nursing Club meetings, and job and volunteering opportunities."



Yazmeen Sannoh (Clarksburg HS), who is completing her associate's in nursing this spring, practices oxygenating a patient in a nursing lab. Sannoh is in a clinical placement at Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center.

When Sannoh completes her degree, she would like to work in an intermediate care or cardiac unit at one of the area hospitals. "I'd like to take the NCLEX and start working, then I will turn my attention to getting my bachelor's," she said.

Montgomery College's numerous nursing transfer agreements help students reach their goal of earning their bachelor of science in nursing (BSN), including the MC and University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) Dual Admission Program. The College's ADN to BSN Pathway office provides resources for students as they work toward a BSN.

In 2022, the College finished among the top five best nursing schools in Maryland, according to Nursing School Hub. In 2021, MC ranked ninth in the nation among Nursing School Hub's Top 25 Nursing Associate's (ADN) Programs.

"In nursing, it's all about teamwork—and working with interprofessional teams," Sannoh said. In the nursing program, professors encourage you to create study groups. There is a mentorship program in which students who are in later semesters volunteer to help students who are just starting the program. There is a sense of camaraderie here." Even the graduates who come to speak to nursing classes tell us, "You can't do this alone—you shouldn't do this alone."

For more information on the College's nursing program, visit montgomerycollege.edu/nursing.



WANT TO KNOW THE MEANING OF LIFE?

Take a philosophy class from Daniel Jenkins, who earned honors as Montgomery College's Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Member in 2022. Downplaying the 4.8 rating he earned on ratemyprofessors.com, Jenkins, who has been teaching at the College's Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus since 2009, says, "If you care about your teaching and you think it's important and valuable, [students] will think it's important and valuable."

Jenkins believes philosophy is a tool for life. To that end, he organizes the Humanities Day Ethics Essay Contest; hosts the Jefferson Café, in which faculty discuss readings related to civic engagement and American politics; and is coach of the MC Ethics Bowl Team, which finished first place in 2011 and 2012 at the Maryland Regional Community College Ethics Bowl. In 2022, the Ethics Bowl team finished fourth in the Northeast Regional—ahead of Harvard and Yale.

He partnered with colleagues in science, engineering, and technology to develop a modern application of ethics to STEM-related fields. He added special sections to his Introduction to Ethics course aimed at the needs of students in engineering, computer science, and cybersecurity, who may face philosophical questions about topics like autonomous technologies in their future professional work.

Learning Centers

Boost Student Success

Early College student Zachary Musimi (Blake HS) studies computer science at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Since he started in the program, Musimi has made use of the College's learning centers for academic assistance. "I'd emphasize scheduling appointments with the Mathematics and Science Learning Centers. They're pretty much always open, so you can always walk in and get help from students and faculty," he said.

The College has more than 10 different learning centers—both in-person and virtual formats—to help students. The in-person centers, on all three campuses, offer help in nearly every subject, from business to STEM-related coursework to writing and world languages. Students can walk in or schedule an appointment at the learning centers.

Data shows students who use the Learning Centers early and often are more successful than those who do not. In 2022, 86.3% of students who used the Writing and Reading Learning Centers received grades of A, B, or C in English 101 versus 64% of students who did not. Surveys of students in math, chemistry, and biology classes had similar results.

In-Person Learning Centers

The centers offer tutoring, exam reviews, a graphing calculator loan program, study group areas, textbook loans, MC-provided computers and software, workshops and affinity-based writing groups, and much more. Staffed by professors, staff members, and paid students who peer tutor, the centers serve students during days, evenings, and weekends.

Joyce Makori, a 2019 graduate who recently received a degree from the University of Maryland, said, "We speak English in Kenya, but writing was not my stronghold, so finding the writing center was crucial."

In addition to offering world languages tutoring, learning centers have dozens of multilingual staff and tutors to meet the needs of the linguistic diversity of MC's student body. "We consider how we can best support the writing of students who speak Global Englishes," said Dr. Lucinda Grinnell, director of the Writing,

Reading, and Language Center on the Rockville Campus. "How they write might look different from the expectations here—and we want all our students to succeed."

Virtual Learning Centers

For students unable to visit a learning center in person, online support is available. Students can meet virtually with tutors for 30 to 60 minutes. Students can check the specific learning center's hours online to register for this service.

When the centers are closed, students can use Smarthinking, an academic online tutoring service provided free of charge. The service provides on-demand support from tutors in over 25 subjects.

"There are so many resources here [Montgomery College] for students," said Dr. David Bergtold, director of the Germantown Campus's Math, Accounting, Physics, and Engineering Learning (MAPEL) Center. Bergtold said students who use the learning centers often establish a rapport with the staff members. "Sometimes a student needs insights or mentoring. Sometimes they have low self-esteem—and they need to know they can do it. Those are the services we do not necessarily advertise."

For more information about Learning Center hours and offerings, visit montgomerycollege.edu/learningcenters

Learning Centers by Campus

Germantown Campus

- Math, Accounting, Physics, and Engineering Learning (MAPEL) Center
- Science Learning Center
- Writing, Reading, and Language Center

Rockville Campus

- Ackerman STEM Learning Center
- Digital Learning Center
- Writing, Reading, and Language Center

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

- Academic Success Center
- Digital Learning Center
- Mathematics Learning Center
- Medical Learning Center
- Science Learning Center
- Writing, Reading, and Language Center

Montgomery College Offers Five Honors Programs for High-Achieving Students

MCPS students who enroll in MC's honors programs can, in some cases, go to school tuition free—and improve their chances to transfer to prestigious schools like the College of William and Mary, Cornell University, Georgetown University, and University of Maryland.

The **Macklin Business Institute (MBI)** two- and one-year honors programs provide an experience paralleling the best business schools in the country, bringing together talented students with an interest in business. The program's cornerstones are high-quality, seminar-style coursework with the College's best faculty; honors work in economics, accounting, and other core business courses; managing a student-run campus café; traveling for regional and national business competitions; and facilitating community-focused projects and workshops.

The **Montgomery Scholars Program** is a selective-admission two-year interdisciplinary honors program designed for high school graduates as the first step in completing a four-year degree. Montgomery Scholars will launch their college studies at a fraction of the cost of most four-year schools. The College awards merit scholarships covering the cost of tuition and fees for two years of study at MC (30 credits per year at the in-county resident tuition rate) to each student admitted into the program.

Renaissance Scholars is a selective honors program offered in the evenings and on the weekends at the Germantown and Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campuses. Working with specially selected faculty in small seminar-style classes on stimulating interdisciplinary courses, students participate in a community that enriches and enlivens their academic

experience. A variety of outside activities enhance the supportive environment of this learning community.

Scholars Circle is for the high-achieving student. Member of Scholars Circle receive special advising. They can also participate in several special activities set up for honors students such as clubs, honors colloquia, trips to honors conferences, and theater performances.

STEM Scholars is a selective honors program for students majoring in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). These students are highly motivated and strive for excellence in their fields of study. STEM Scholars pursue a rigorous curriculum of honors courses with opportunities to participate in undergraduate research and internships. STEM Scholars work closely with honors faculty mentors and advisors on transfer strategies, scholarship applications, and career planning.

For more information and eligibility requirements, visit montgomerycollege.edu/academics/honors.



Students in the College's Macklin Business Institute (MBI) Honors Program get practical experience while working at the student-run MBI Café.

Exciting News for MCPS Dual Enrollment Students

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students who enroll in Montgomery College (MC) dual enrollment classes will attend for free.

Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, students may enroll in college classes at MC during the fall, winter and spring semesters at no cost to student or their families. This includes all college tuition, fees, required textbooks, and instructional supplies.

MC and MCPS will honor more than 280 MCPS seniors enrolled at MC through the Early College, Middle College, P-TECH, and Jumpstart to College programs at the Dual Enrollment Recognition Ceremony on May 16. These students completed at least 50 college credits. The majority of these students will also receive an associate's degree at Montgomery College's 2023 Commencement Ceremony on May 19.



DID YOU KNOW ?

The new Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building, opening on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus in fall 2024, will provide instructional spaces that help prepare students for careers in competitive, in-demand fields.

The 134,000-gross-square-foot building will contain six chemistry labs, including general, organic, and analytical; three physics labs, including a Physics Shop; two environmental ecology labs and a greenhouse; 11 biology labs, including anatomy and physiology and microbiology; 12 classrooms and recitation rooms; three faculty office suites with 60 full- and part-time faculty offices; a planetarium with adjoining function space; a Math and Science Learning Center for tutoring and exam review; a fab lab/innovation center; and a cyber/LAN lab and classroom.

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Have a question? Please contact:

dualenrollment@montgomerycollege.edu

Dr. Genevieve Floyd

Genevieve_L_Floyd@mcpsmd.org

Congratulations to all 2023 MCPS graduates!

Montgomery College offers an affordable education, with outstanding professors, convenient locations and online programs, and credits that transfer to other colleges and universities. And we've simplified the admissions and registration process. You may qualify for a \$500 Raptor Ready scholarship. Visit montgomerycollege.edu for more information.



IMPORTANT dates and deadlines 2023

● May

- Compare offers of admission and financial aid; discuss them with family and counselors.
- Dual Enrollment Recognition Ceremony for MCPS graduates with 50+ earned college credits on May 16 (invite only).
- Montgomery College Commencement May 19.
- **Register for a summer class at Montgomery College. May 22: Summer I begins; June 20: Midsummer classes begin; July 10: Summer II classes begin.**
- **Register for fall classes at Montgomery College. Fall semester begins Aug. 28.**
- Research housing choices and meal plans at colleges.
- Scholarship applications are available.
Go to careeronestop.org/scholarships for applications.

● June

- Get a summer job. Your high school Career Center may have job listings that interest you.
- Sign up for the ACT test by June 16; test is administered on July 15.

● July

- Sign up for the SAT test by July 28; test is administered on August 26.
- Check out the websites of colleges that interest you—read the admissions section, take a virtual tour, and look at the courses offered.
- Work on special submissions for college applications: portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples.
- commonapp.org provides the Common Application, which many colleges use for admission; they may also require forms of their own.
- NACACnet.org lists regional college fairs.

● August

- Type a personal profile so your counselor can have a guide when writing your recommendations.
- List your goals, academic interests, achievements, volunteer and extracurricular activities, work experience, and problems you have overcome.

- Update your resume to include summer employment and volunteer activities.
- Check out studentaid.ed.gov for financial aid information.
- Continue planning college visits—research dates, costs, etc.
- Practice writing online applications: fill out rough drafts; don't submit them.

● September

- Sign up for the SAT test by Sept. 8; test is administered Oct. 7.
- Sign up for the ACT test by Sept. 22; test is administered on Oct. 28.
- Mark the calendar with admission and financial aid deadlines.
- Visit colleges—and don't just take the tour. Schedule an admissions interview if possible. Send thank-you notes to interviewers.
- Take on leadership roles in your school or community.
- Begin drafting college application essays. (Yes, really.)

● October

- Sign up for the SAT test by Oct 5; test is administered on Nov. 4.
- The earlier you apply to some colleges, the better your chances might be for admission.
- Should you use the Common Application? See commonapp.org and individual colleges for details.
- Keep a copy of every form you submit.
- Talk with teachers and counselors about recommendations discuss your interests and college choices. Give each teacher/counselor your resume.
- Finalize portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples, or other required special submissions.
- Financial aid information is available from colleges; get it and check the due dates.
- Apply for scholarships.

November

- **Nov. 3: MCPS DCCAPS deadline for 8th grade students to apply for the Middle College and P-TECH programs and for 10th grade students to apply for the Early College program.**