Are You Interested in Teaching? Maryland Has a Critical Shortage

According to the Maryland Teacher Staffing Report (2016–2018), produced by the Maryland State Department of Education, the state is experiencing critical shortages for teachers of chemistry, English, math, physics, and Spanish.

To meet this shortage, Montgomery College offers five curricula leading to an associate of arts in teaching (AAT-secondary education)—and all programs successfully transfer to four-year public colleges and universities in the state of Maryland.

The College’s secondary education program enables students to fulfill their General Education requirements, participate in fieldwork experiences, and complete a core of professional education coursework required for the first two years of teacher preparation. To earn the AAT, students must achieve a minimum of a 2.75 cumulative GPA and present required scores on a state-approved basic skills test.

Hellen Kim, a Rockville High School graduate who is majoring in the secondary education program in math says, “When I was an MCPS student, the teachers who had the most impact on me were my math teachers. I want to make a difference for students like my math teachers did for me.” She says she finds the program easy to navigate—and the staff incredibly supportive.

One such support program Kim availed herself of is the Culturally Responsive Educators Aspiring for Teaching Excellence (CREATE) cohort. Students apply for CREATE in the spring and the cohort begins in the fall with one-on-one advising, leadership opportunities, content specific study sessions, and social activities. Students in the CREATE cohort have higher on-time graduation rates and successful transfer to four-year schools.

Debra Poese, director of teacher education partnerships of the College, says there is a great deal of support for students, particularly with regard to transfer. “I can pretty much guarantee we can find students [in secondary education] particularly with regard to transfer. “I can pretty much guarantee we can find students who are interested in teaching through our teacher preparation programs.”

For more information on the AAT program in secondary education, email debra.poese@montgomerycollege.edu.
New Pathway Helps MCPS Students Earn College Credits Now

Through the Jump Start to College Pathway, high school students at Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) have another opportunity to earn college credits at Montgomery College (MC) through dual enrollment while meeting high school graduation requirements.

“This pathway enables students to be more strategic in planning their general education credits for college,” says Akima Rodgers, associate director of academic initiatives at Montgomery College.

“We [MCPS] have so many students who are capable, interested, and motivated to do college work, we’re always interested in working with Montgomery College to provide as many opportunities as we can for parents and students to save time and money in preparing for college,” says Genevieve Floyd, MCPS’s supervisor of career and postsecondary partnerships.

A Sample Pathway to Earn College Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 9/Year 1</th>
<th>Grade 10/Year 2</th>
<th>Grade 11/Year 3</th>
<th>Grade 12/Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>Semester 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English English 1 or Honors</td>
<td>English English 11 or AP Language</td>
<td>English MC ENGL101</td>
<td>English MC ENGL101</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mathematics Geometry or higher</td>
<td>Mathematics Algebra 2 or higher</td>
<td>Mathematics MAC MATH107 or higher</td>
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<td>Science 10th Grade NGSS Science</td>
<td>Science 11th Grade NGSS Science</td>
<td>Science MC Natural Sciences Distribution with Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Studies U.S. History Social Studies National, State, and Local Government</td>
<td>Social Studies World History</td>
<td>MC Gen. Ed. Requirement or Elective</td>
<td>MC Elective or Other Required Course(s)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Physical Education Elective and/or Health</td>
<td>MC General Education Requirement or other MCPS class</td>
<td>MC General Education Requirement or other MCPS class</td>
<td>MC Elective or Other Required Course(s)</td>
</tr>
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<td>MC or MCPS Foreign Language or Elective or Other Required Course(s)</td>
<td>MC or MCPS Foreign Language or Elective or Other Required Course(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>MCPS Tech. 6 Course</td>
<td>Elective and/or Health</td>
<td>MC course title and descriptions can be found at: catalog.montgomerycollege.edu/deep</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bezawit Hailu (right) teaches biology student Ibrahim Dairou (left), a Walter Johnson High School graduate, to properly use a micropipette. Hailu, who wants to go to medical school someday, will transfer to the University of Maryland or the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the fall.

Biological sciences major Bezawit Hailu is studying for a career in medicine, but she spent last semester helping other students learn to love biology. The Paint Branch High School graduate served as a Learning Assistant (LA) for biology in the STEM Learning Assistant Program.

Working closely with her faculty mentor, Professor Sean Cooney, Hailu gave mini-lectures during the Principles of Biology (BIOL 150) class and led study and review sessions for students outside class. As an LA, she helped students succeed while simultaneously developing her own skills and forging new connections.

Hailu recently asked Professor Cooney to help her prepare an application and essay to apply for summer internships in oncology research at the National Institutes of Health and at Leadership Alliance, a national consortium of 30 leading research and teaching colleges, universities, and private industry.

“[Montgomery College] has given me the opportunity to grow as a person and as a student,” Hailu says. She says she was too timid to get involved on campus during her first year, but the LA Program allowed her to meet new people and become more connected to the campus community.

Hailu, who works part time as a receptionist at an optometrist’s office while taking three classes this semester, got an early start on her college credits as a dual enrollment student at Paint Branch. She will graduate this spring and hopes to transfer to the University of Maryland or University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

“Going to MC is a smart decision,” she says, “especially if you’re not sure what you want to do. Education is so expensive these days—and you don’t want to get yourself in debt.”

Special thanks to Shane Doyle for editorial contributions.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Cultural Arts Center Is Built for Performance

Montgomery College’s Cultural Arts Center, located on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, anchors the southernmost corner of the Silver Spring Arts and Entertainment District. It features two theaters, a 500-seat proscenium theatre and a 116-seat modified thrust theatre: the George and Ruth Tidwell Dance Studio; a film editing studio, a 16-station piano lab, multiple classrooms for academics and workshops; and offices. Student and faculty performances including the Arts Alive and Children’s Series, World Music Festival, and faculty concert series, are presented in the center as well as events sponsored by community organizations. A large digital marquee faces north at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and East-West Highway and informs the community about upcoming events.