

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Have a question? Please contact:

Ms. Amy Crowley
amy.crowley@montgomerycollege.edu

Dr. Genevieve Floyd
Genevieve_L_Floyd@mcpsmd.org

Congratulations to all 2020 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. Make your move today—montgomerycollege.edu.



IMPORTANT dates and deadlines 2020

May

- Compare offers of admission and financial aid; discuss them with family and counselors.
- Register for a summer class at Montgomery College. Summer I begins June 8; Summer II begins July 11.
- Research housing choices and meal plans at colleges.
- Scholarship applications are available. Go to MDgo4it.org for applications.

June

- Call or email someone whose job interests you.
- Get a summer job. Your high school Career Center may have job listings that interest you.
- Sign up for the ACT test by June 19; test is administered on July 18.

July

- Sign up for the SAT test by July 31; test is administered on August 29.
- 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

- Sign up for the ACT test by Aug. 14; test is administered Sept. 12.
- 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 and MDgo4it.org for financial aid information.

- Continue planning college visits—research dates, costs, etc.
- Get organized. Make separate files for each college and scholarship program.
- Practice writing online applications: fill out rough drafts; don't submit them.

September

- Sign up for the SAT test by Sept. 4; test is administered Oct. 3.
- Sign up for the ACT test by Sept. 18; test is administered on Oct. 24.
- 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.)
- Review your transcript—check for errors and make sure it shows any high school credits you earned in middle school.

October

- Sign up for the SAT test by Oct. 9; test is administered on Nov. 7.
- 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—to ask for recommendations, discuss your interests and college choices. Give each teacher/counselor your resume along with stamped, addressed envelopes.
- Finalize portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples, or other required special submissions.
- After drafting applications, let them sit for a few days and then proofread. Proofread from a paper copy.
- Financial aid information is available from colleges; get it and check the due dates.
- Apply for scholarships.

Cybersecurity Program Helps Fill Critical Shortage of Workers

By 2021, there will be an estimated 3.5 million unfulfilled cybersecurity jobs in the United States, according to *Cybercrime Magazine*. In Maryland alone, there are currently more than 15,000 open cybersecurity jobs—that number is growing by the day. With more than 12,000 IT and cybersecurity organizations in the state, including those working with the National Security Agency, and an increasing amount of cyber threats, the need for talent is paramount.

Montgomery College's cybersecurity degree and certificate programs educate and prepare students who will fill this shortage.

The program trains entry-level computer technicians with cybersecurity expertise and offers students transfer options to four-year institutions. Students can also study for a variety of valuable industry certifications, including the Computing Technology Industry Association's (CompTIA) A+, Network+, and Security+ certifications; and Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certification.

Students in the program can enhance their skills at the College's Cyber Lab on the Germantown Campus, which can host 100-plus virtual servers, 250-plus virtual desktops, isolated networks, and wireless and forensic technologies. The lab is home to academic competitions and research activities, but it also provides opportunities to IT industry professionals for teaching, learning, and professional growth.

"We have about 600 students in the program," says Professor David Vargas, a cybersecurity professor and program advisor. "We have students from all age



The top 10 percent of cybersecurity analysts make more than \$117,000 per year, while the median annual salary is \$76,000, according to Payscale.

groups—and with varying educational backgrounds—from recent high school graduates to current IT professionals and career changers with master's degrees."

Katherine Nation, a 19-year-old Churchill High School graduate, is one of the younger students in the program—and among the small percentage of women enrolled in the program. She loves tinkering with computers, but believes there is too much programming involved in computer science. "There are a lot of different ways you can use a cybersecurity degree," she says. "I like having that flexibility." Nation, in her second year, is now making plans to pursue a four-year degree.

Vargas says the College has several transfer agreements with local four-year schools, including Bowie State University, University of Maryland Global Campus, and Marymount University, to name a few. He recommends students who want to transfer to University of Maryland and University of Maryland, Baltimore County, speak with a program advisor.

For more information on this academic program, visit montgomerycollege.edu/cyberprogram.



DO YOU HAVE THE DRIVE FOR A CAREER IN AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Take a class with Michael Carretta, an automotive technology professor who blended a natural talent for servicing cars with a passion for teaching.

He is an ASE Master Certified Technician with more than 20 years of experience working as a repair technician. He also has EPA609 Refrigerant Certification.

"Even when I got out of the business to pursue other opportunities, I kept up my certifications," he says. "I tell my students any credentials are great to put on a resume."

He joined the faculty at the College more than a decade ago, when his wife encouraged him to pursue his dream job. "I really couldn't have done this without her," he says. He teaches Automatic Transmissions/Transaxles, Automotive HVAC, and Engine Performance, while serving as department chair.

"Future automotive technicians need to be more cerebral," he says. "Today's cars have complex electrical and computer systems—and the diagnosis is more difficult than the repair."

He believes the Washington area offers myriad opportunities and job growth for automotive technicians. He is thrilled MC's program attracts a diverse group of nearly 300 students of every age—including women.

Meet Some 2020 Graduates Who Took College Classes in High School!



Eirini Nikiforidou
Program: Dual Enrollment
Eirini, who came to the United States from Greece in 2018, had to earn extra credits to graduate from Richard Montgomery High School. She began taking

classes at the College in summer 2019—and enrolled every semester since.

"I was anxious about taking college classes in America because it's so much different than in Greece, but these classes helped me build a solid foundation for what's to come next," she says. And she met a lot of students who were as engaged in the subject as she was.

In addition to making a lot of good connections and new friends, Eirini enjoyed her professors, especially Ayana Touval, who taught calculus. "She made me love calculus," Eirini says. "I never considered myself a math enthusiast, but she really encouraged me."

With renewed confidence—and a 4.0 grade point average at MC—Eirini plans to finish her associate's degree at MC, possibly applying to the Macklin Business Institute. She would like to transfer to University of Maryland.



John Condon
Program: Dual Enrollment
Following his father's advice, John enrolled at the College his junior year. When he graduates from Richard Montgomery High School in May, he will

have earned 28 college credits.

John enjoyed all of his MC classes but thinks communications class was the best. "We did a lot of group work, so I met a lot of fun and interesting people," he says.

He enjoyed the faculty, too. "All my professors were enthusiastic about teaching—and they had a lot of information and insight about the coursework."

After earning a 4.0 grade point average at MC, John feels better prepared for what awaits him at four-year schools. He is considering the Naval Academy, Towson University, and University of Maryland.

Of his overall experience, he says, "I like the flexibility MC affords. My classes meet two or three times a week, so I have more time to do work—and relax."

For more information on the Dual Enrollment program, visit montgomerycollege.edu/dual.



Anne Weldon
Program: Early College/ Math Cohort
Anne moved from Minnesota to Montgomery County in tenth grade. Her math teacher at Clarksburg High School

encouraged her to apply for the Early College program.

Anne thinks MC was a good fit for her academically. "Semester-long classes work better for me than year-long classes," she says. "And you can choose more classes. I was able to take Discrete Math—it's not offered in high school."

"I was part of the first [Early College] program, so when we went to MC, nobody knew anyone else. It was really cool to meet all these new people."

Anne and her friends in the Early College program worked closely with Dr. Jason Lee, who taught them Calculus I and II. "Dr. Lee really helped me realize how much I like math," she says.

After earning a 3.91 grade point average at MC, she will go to Penn State University in the fall to pursue a computer science degree. She earned scholarships that will pay 60 percent of her tuition.



Dante Moore
Program Early College/ Math Cohort
In tenth grade, Dante stumbled upon a memo in his Paint Branch High School student portal detailing the Early College

program. With his mom's help, he applied—and was accepted.

"I got to meet new people," he says of the program. "Students from all over the county. I would never have met these people otherwise."

Dante likes the independence the program afforded. "I experienced what it was like to be an actual college student," he says. And he thinks embedded coaches in classes and the ability to visit professors during office hours really helped him.

Dante's Linear Algebra professor, Dr. Zineddine Boudhraa, who also taught his Calculus I, II, and III classes, was one of his favorites. "I'm really impressed with the way he teaches—he's very open with his students," Dante says.

After earning a 3.91 grade point average at the College, Dante will study chemistry at the University of Maryland in the fall. He hopes to go to dental school someday.

An exciting opportunity for you to earn college credits this summer and fall

We want to offer you the opportunity to earn college credits this summer and fall by taking advantage of the Montgomery College Dual Enrollment program.

During these challenging times, you can begin to work on earning college credit this summer while in high school and potentially earn high school credit from MC courses. Taking courses at MC will provide you with the opportunity to see firsthand how college courses and exams are structured. While the AP class requires that you also take the AP exam and achieve a

minimum score as set by each college and university, Dual Enrollment classes require that you receive a grade of at least a "C" to transfer the credit. Earning college credits now while you are in high school will save you time and money.

To learn how MC courses align with AP and IB classes, go to montgomerycollege.edu/dual. Summer and fall registration is underway. To find out more about this exciting opportunity to earn transferable college credits and begin the registration process, visit montgomerycollege.edu/dual. Go to "Contact Us" to connect with your MCPS Dual Enrollment Program Assistant (DEPA).



Achieving the Promise Academy

If you are enrolling at Montgomery College and want to ensure your academic success, consider enrolling in the Achieving the Promise Academy (ATPA).

ATPA is an academic program for students who want personalized academic support in a structured environment.

Benefits of ATPA Services

- Monitor academic progress via faculty and coach
- Assignment and exam preparation
- Weekly study sessions
- Tutoring
- Financial aid and registration support
- Referrals to College and community resources (e.g., advisors, counselors, Disability Support Services, learning centers, and others)
- Learning Community of peers with similar academic and professional interests
- Develop academic and life skills (i.e., time management, organization, study skills, test-taking skills, self-advocacy, networking, and others)

Unique Features

One-on-One Academic Coaching

- Coaching until graduation and/or transfer
- Assessment to identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Academic support in all courses
- Personalized academic success plan each semester
- One-on-one weekly coaching sessions (or as mutually agreed upon with your coach)
- Two workshops per semester
- Laptop loaner program
- Tuition assistance (dependent on availability of funds, and if you meet qualifications)

Embedded Classroom Support

- Coaches provided for a specific course offering ATPA-embedded support
- Coach presence in your classroom
- Weekly communication on content support, college resources, and course reminders

For more information on the ATPA program, visit montgomerycollege.edu/atpa or call 240-567-ATPA (2872).



DID YOU KNOW?

Student Affairs and Science Center Opens at the Germantown Campus

This new and renovated LEED-certified Silver space, approximately 101,000 square feet, is home to the astronomy, computer science, engineering, geology, landscape technology, meteorology, physics, and physical science disciplines. The cutting-edge instructional spaces, with their reconfigurable design, support lecture, lab, and discussion in one space. State-of-the-art labs provide experiential opportunities for students to develop contemporary skills necessary for success in their field. The engineering workshop, for example, is flanked by an engineering design lab and an engineering project lab, enabling students to examine the intricacies of robotics, drone technology, and 3D printing. The new building increases the capacity of the Math, Accounting, Physics, and Engineering Learning (MAPEL) Center, a central hub for free tutoring activity on the campus. The new learning center includes an expanded computer lab, collaborative workspaces, quiet study areas, and advanced technology for group tutoring. Students can also find welcoming spaces to gather and study, including a study stairway next to the functional stairway.