Student Development Seminars: 
An array of courses to meet your individual needs!

Student development seminars are designed to give students the skills they need to be successful at Montgomery College and beyond. We offer a variety of courses, each with a different focus, so that students can strengthen their skills where they need it most. The courses we offer are outlined below. Fall registration is open – sign up for one this semester!

**DS 102 – Study Habits Development (1 cr):** Stresses development of positive attitudes and improvement of basic learning habits, including educational goal setting. Stresses strategies in understanding and responding to textbooks, lectures, etc. encountered in the academic environment. Emphasis on organization, time management, and preparing for/taking examinations.

**DS 103 – Career Development (2 cr):** Designed for students interested in developing career goals and creating a plan of action. Emphasis will be placed on personal academic and occupational exploration, resume writing, interviewing and effective job search strategies.

**DS 104 – Seminar for International Students (2 cr):** Orientation course for international students. Includes study skills, the American educational system, individual educational and vocational goals, communication skills, etc. Especially intended for students during their initial semester of enrollment in conjunction with American language developmental course offerings.

**DS 106 – Success Group (2 cr):** Designed specifically for students who are dissatisfied with their academic performance and who wish to improve their achievement in college courses. Emphasis on elimination of self-defeating attitudes and behaviors, setting and achieving short-term academic goals, identification of motives that lead to failure, learning to accept responsibility for one’s behavior, and building a more positive attitude about one’s potential for college success.

**DS 107 – First Year Seminar (1 cr):** Designed to assist the student in adjusting to college. Includes academic and student services available, study habit techniques, career and educational planning, and adjustment concerns. Intended for students during their initial semester of enrollment.

**DS 112 – Building Math Confidence (1 cr):** Designed for those who want to improve their attitude toward mathematics. Explores feelings and develops strategies to overcome math phobia. Emphasis will be placed on problem-solving approaches to diagrammed, descriptive, and symbolic number problems. This course is open to students at all levels of mathematical skills.

**In This Issue:**
- Student Development Seminars
- UMUC Scholarship Giveaway
- Adult Student Spotlight: Yvette Vargas
- Biotechnology Symposium and Job Fair
- Top Undergraduate Majors by Salary

**Upcoming Events at MC**
- **May 5** – UMUC Scholarship Giveaway. SA 159, 10AM – 2PM and 5:30 – 6:30PM.
- **May 10** – Fall in-person registration begins.
- **May 10-16** – Last week of classes/Final exams.
- **May 21** – Commencement. 10AM, Rockville Campus Athletic Field.
- **May 31** – Memorial Day. College closed.

**The Scholarships:**
- **The Community College Transfer Scholarship**
  $1650/year for part time or $3300/year for full time students who have earned a 3.0 GPA and an Associate’s degree (not date specific) from a Maryland Community College.

- **The Dual Enrollment Scholarship**
  $500/class or $1000/2 classes for UMUC summer enrollment. Students need to have a 3.0 at MC and be current MC student who have not graduated from MC with an Associate’s degree.

---

**INSTANT SCHOLARSHIP GIVEAWAY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

**Wednesday, May 5th in SA 159**

**(Adult Student Lounge)**

**10 AM – 2 PM and 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**

*Students Must Bring Their Unofficial Transcripts to the Event to Determine Scholarship Eligibility*
ADULT STUDENT SPOTLIGHT ON...

MS. YVETTE VARGAS
Accounting Major

Hello, Yvette! Tell us a little about yourself...

My name is Yvette Vargas. I am 36 years old and I am a Revenue Coordinator for Adventist Behavioral Health Rockville. I am blessed with three beautiful children, a 12 yr old, 2 yr old and a 1 yr old. My life is extremely busy between work, school, and my family. My major at MC currently is accounting, however, I have been thinking about doing something different. I would like to do something more fulfilling and rewarding.

Why did you decide to go back to school?

My decision to go back to school was based on my current situation and mistakes I have made in the past. I came to the realization that only I could change my future and I was the only person holding me back. I know I have the potential to be anything I want to be. Unfortunately, where I grew up college wasn’t emphasized. I want to obtain that degree and career I deserve. I want my children to view their mother as a go-getter and hard worker. I want my children to understand the importance of attending college. I want my children to gain the confidence that they too can do anything they set their mind to. My children will understand the importance of following their dreams and going after what they want.

What has been the biggest challenge for you as an adult student?

My biggest challenge at MC is managing my time. I have chosen my classes to maneuver around my family and work schedule. I work 40 hours a week and attend classes 3 days a week. My day begins at 5:30 am and doesn’t end until approximately 11:00 pm. Every day I begin with getting my babies to day care and my 12 year old off to school. Next I have to get myself to either school or work (depending on what day it is). After a long day at work and school, I rush home to sit down and have dinner with my family (sometimes before my evening classes). On many nights, my 12 year old has baseball games which begin at 5:30pm. These games and practices can be all over Montgomery County, so I never know where I will be at these times. I try to attend all of my child’s games and practices; however, if a game falls on a school night, I choose to go to class. My oldest child understands the sacrifice we are both making to achieve my dream and he is my biggest supporter.

What advice do you have for other adult learners like yourself?

The advice I have for other adult learners is to manage your time to balance your home, school, and work life. Study, and never ever give up. It isn’t going to be easy but it will be well worth it in the end. Do not rush through assignments, and take the time to understand your assignments. After a challenging first semester, I am planning and scheduling for the fall 2010 semester. My fall schedule will be a little more intense then this past spring. No excuses, I will make it happen!

“A man who wants something will find a way; a man who doesn’t will find an excuse.” - Stephan Dolley Jr.

You could qualify for Child Care Tuition Assistance at the MC Early Learning Center this fall!

The MC Early Learning Center has received the Child Care Access Means Parents In School (CCAMPIS) Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, which helps eligible students cover childcare costs at our centers. To be considered, fill out an application and submit to Center Managers.

Eligibility Requirements:
- Enrolled in 6 credits per semester
- Pell Recipient/Pell Eligible
- Parent of child aged 2.5 – 5
- Completed Application

Contacts:
- Germantown: 240-567-7875
- Rockville: 240-567-5308
- Takoma Park: 301-650-1516

For more information about the Germantown Options for Adult Learners (G.O.A.L.) Program, please contact Amanda McIntosh at 240-567-6976 or goal@montgomerycollege.edu
IPF guests enjoy a light dinner

That Aerospace Engineering was Ranked the #1 Best Undergraduate College Degree by Salary?

According to the PayScale Salary Survey (PayScale, Inc.) engineers are among the highest paid employees with a bachelor’s degree (employees with higher degrees were not included in this survey). In fact, in a list of 75 professions, Aerospace, Chemical, Computer and Electrical Engineering took the top four slots, respectively. The average starting salary for an aerospace engineer is $59,600, with a mid-career salary average of $109,000. Economics, Physics, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Industrial Engineering and Environmental Engineering majors rounded out the top ten. Scientific and other math-based professions comprised the majority of the top of the list. Unfortunately, Elementary Education and Social Work came in at the bottom of the list ($33,000 & $33,400 to start, respectively) but again, many social workers and teachers have Master’s degrees, and these salaries were not included in this survey. You can find the complete list and methodology at http://www.payscale.com/best-colleges/degrees.asp.

Biotechnology Symposium and Job Fair

May 21st
8:30am – 2:30pm

Sponsored by the University of Maryland and held at the Universities at Shady Grove

Symposium

The Biotechnology Studies Program in the Graduate School of Management and Technology and the School of Undergraduate Studies at University of Maryland University College (UMUC) will hold their annual spring symposium on Trends and Careers in Biotechnology. The featured panel discussions will focus on changing trends in biotechnology research and regulations, as well as career opportunities for biotechnology program graduates. Anyone who works in biotechnology, is interested in the field, or plans to switch to a career in biotechnology is invited to attend.

Job Fair

Following the symposium, there will be a job fair and technology showcase on student capstone projects.

Registration

The event is free, but registration is required. To help us with planning, please register at: http://www.umuc.edu/biotsymposium/index.shtml

Memorial Day in the Washington, D.C. Area

PBS’ National Memorial Day Concert

Featuring a mix of dramatic readings, documentary footage and live musical performances, along with an all-star line-up of dignitaries, actors and musical artists. Free and open to the public.

Sunday, May 30, 2010, 8 p.m. Gates open at 5 p.m.
West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, First St. NW, Washington, DC.

GI Film Festival

May 12-16, 2010. The festival is held annually just before Memorial Day weekend. See classic and premier films celebrating the heroic stories of the American Armed Forces including a variety of films presented by award-winning Hollywood actors and directors. Participate in panel discussions with soldiers, journalists, authors, and filmmakers.

For ticket and location information, visit www.gifilmfestival.com

Arlington National Cemetery

A wreath-laying ceremony and concert will be held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in honor of Memorial Day. Monday, May 31, 2010, 11 a.m.

National Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 31, 2010, beginning at 2 p.m.
The parade of Marching Bands and Veterans units from all 50 states steps off at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 7th Streets, NW and proceeds along Constitution Avenue, past the White House, ending at 17th Street. The National Memorial Day Parade is sponsored by the World War II Veterans Committee and includes patriotic floats and helium-filled balloons.

DID YOU KNOW....

...That Aerospace Engineering was Ranked the #1 Best Undergraduate College Degree by Salary?

According to the PayScale Salary Survey (PayScale, Inc.) engineers are among the highest paid employees with a bachelor’s degree (employees with higher degrees were not included in this survey). In fact, in a list of 75 professions, Aerospace, Chemical, Computer and Electrical Engineering took the top four slots, respectively. The average starting salary for an aerospace engineer is $59,600, with a mid-career salary average of $109,000.