

HUMANITIES AREA

The Humanities area is a mosaic of disciplines and programs. The Humanities Area disciplines bring together history, political science, philosophy, 11 world languages including American Sign Language, Women’s and Gender Studies, and Global Humanities. The area includes the General Studies Program (AA), the American Sign Language Program (AA and Certificate), the International Studies Program (AA), the Women’s and Gender Studies Program (Certificate), and the Ethnic Social Studies Program (Certificate). The Humanities Area also includes the Institute for Race, Justice, and Civic Engagement and the Global Humanities Institute. The area employs approximately 30 full-time faculty, 5 department chairs, 6 full-time staff, and over 60 part-time faculty. Study of the Humanities helps us understand ourselves and others through language, history, and culture. Humanities students and scholars explore how people throughout time have made moral, spiritual, and intellectual sense of the world, and how people and communities develop the capacity to act in ways that center human agency and social justice.

DISCIPLINE	SECTIONS	STUDENTS	DISCIPLINE	SECTIONS	STUDENTS
ARABIC	7	116	ITALIAN	8	126
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE	38	429	JAPANESE	10	174
CHINESE	6	81	KOREAN	11	165
FRENCH	22	26	LATIN	3	40
GENDER STUDIES	6	138	PHILOSOPHY	98	2208
GERMAN	4	28	POLITICAL SCIENCE	65	1279
GLOBAL HUMANITIES	8	175	RUSSIAN	4	53
HISTORY	121	2322	SPANISH	89	1578
DATA SOURCES: Fiscal Year 2025 from QLIKVIEW			WOMEN’S & GENDER STUDIES	12	258
TOTAL NUMBER OF SECTIONS			512		
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS			9659		

Academic Programs

American Sign Language

American Sign Language (ASL) is the vernacular of the vast majority of Deaf Americans. It is a visual and spatio-gestural language with its own intrinsic structure and grammar that convey meaning through signing. The associate of arts degree in American Sign Language is a transfer degree for students who wish to major in American Sign Language, deaf studies or deaf education, interpreter education, or social work. The American Sign Language certificate program provides students with a foundation to pursue business or other service-oriented fields where you might be called upon to communicate directly with Deaf clients.

General Studies

The General Studies program at Montgomery College allows students to focus their studies in one of three core areas or they can do a combination of two. Students who are unsure of their path can use [Start Here](#) to determine which General Studies core area is right for them. General Studies provides opportunities for students to complete requirements towards an associate's degree while preparing for transfer to a four-year institution. Each core area offers focus options for transfer majors and certificates to guide their studies at MC. General Studies program has 4 core area of connections. They are

- Humanities, Arts, Communications and Languages (HACL)
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Degree Focus Areas
- Social Sciences, Administration and Health Core
- Integrated Studies (INTG)

International Studies

The [international studies degree](#) is designed for students who envision a career in the international arena and plan to transfer into the upper division of another college or university with the intention of continuing their studies in such areas as international relations or area studies, and who subsequently plan to work in this field, be it in government, international organizations, trade, finances, business, or related areas. Administered by the History and Political Science disciplines, this is a multidisciplinary degree that encompasses more than 10 disciplines. Students in this degree have the opportunity to participate in the Model U.N. program.

Women's & Gender Studies

The [Women's and Gender Studies Program](#) (WSP) offers courses about women and gender for all students. The program is designed to explore the experiences and cultural contributions of women and those in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community as well as examine the societal implications of gender. Informed by feminist, gender, and sexuality theory, the courses in the WGSP challenge false assumptions and theories about women, gender, sexuality, race, and class; encourage rigorous critical thinking; raise issues of gender bias and the subjective nature of knowledge; support students' development as individuals and as participating members of their larger communities; and expand options for all beyond traditional gender roles. These writing-intensive courses help students consider the differences gender and sexuality make-in family relationships, friendships, education, and work. These classes are comfortable settings for delving into scholarship and theory. A certificate in women's and gender studies can be earned by students who complete 12 or more credits in courses approved by the WGSP. These courses must include WMST 101, Introduction to Women's Studies. The WGSP also features speakers, seminars, and student-centered programming such as the annual Student Empowerment Resource Fair. Student awards and scholarships are presented annually.

Scheduling and Delivery Options

Humanities disciplines offer courses in multiple delivery formats, including distance learning, structured remote teaching, online blended, face-to-face and face-to-face blended. A large number of courses are offered on campus, as dual enrollment courses, and as Z-courses (zero cost).

Z-Courses and OERs

The Humanities Area is invested in increasing students' access and success through faculty participation in Open Educational Resources (OER) and Z-courses. Students benefit from immediate access to course materials on the first day of class, which promotes student success and enhances the students' experience from the start of the course. Students have shared that they enjoy the Z-course experience, since everything is easily accessible online, thus, facilitating completion of assignments and helping them achieve their educational goals.

Dual Language and Tutoring Support

A number of Humanities area faculty are multilingual and able to support students in languages beyond English and the language of instruction, including Spanish, Arabic, Farsi, Lithuanian, French, and Wolof. Humanities area faculty also provide virtual and in-person tutoring support through Montgomery College's Learning Centers.

Humanities Area Student and Faculty Engagement Programs

Global Classrooms Faculty Fellowship (GCFF)

The Montgomery College [Global Classrooms/COIL](#) Faculty Fellowship (GCFF), collaboratively sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Humanities Area, provides an opportunity for faculty members from all disciplines to collaborate with faculty from international partner institutions. Faculty members who are accepted into the fellowship commit to two academic semesters focused on developing professional relationships with faculty members from an academic institution in a different part of the world to develop mutually beneficial communicative and collaborative projects for the courses they are teaching.

Coordinated by Professor Shelley Jones and Dr. Carla Naranjo, this fellowship has enriched classrooms and expanded the global horizons of students and faculty alike since 2016. The Global Classrooms Fellowship and Program were awarded a Transform Mid-Atlantic Global Citizenship Award in 2025. MC defines Global Classrooms as a teaching and learning practice that incorporates the tenets of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL). COIL is defined as an approach to teaching and learning that brings together geographically distant instructors and students from different lingua-cultural backgrounds to communicate and collaborate through online tools, such as virtual exchanges and other platforms (SUNY COIL, n.d.). Global Classrooms projects can take many forms that enhance intercultural communication and mutually beneficial collaboration. These may include synchronous virtual exchanges involving culturally relevant themes, asynchronous activities that promote growth in global knowledge and cultural competence, individual student virtual interactions that deepen cultural awareness, and virtual guest lectures by faculty members on an area of expertise.

Cherry Blossom Conference

The Humanities students' [Cherry Blossom Conference](#) began in 2016 as a way to celebrate students' academic work in Humanities courses at Montgomery College. Each year, students submit work from a variety of Humanities classes and disciplines—from philosophy to history to languages and beyond—for consideration. A committee of Humanities faculty reviews the submissions and selects the best work for presentation. The conference itself is a vibrant event, open to the entire Montgomery College community, as well as to parents, friends, and supporters. Those who attend the spring event leave with new ideas, information, and perspectives on a variety of topics of interest to our students. Those students who present are able to share their work with an audience in a formal setting, while interacting with like-minded students. They are prepared for future academic contributions. The conference committee is led by Professor Rebecca Eggenschwiler in collaboration with other college faculty.

Ethics Bowl

Under the leadership of Professor Dan Jenkins, Montgomery College [philosophy](#) students participate in the APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl. This is a tiered competition in which teams from four-year and two-year institutions prepare an analysis of each case. During each competition match, a case is selected from the set and a moderator poses questions based on that case. These questions seek to delve deeper into the multiple ethical dimensions of the case. A panel of judges probes the teams for further justifications and evaluates answers. Rating criteria are based on intelligibility, focus on ethically relevant irrelevance, and deliberative thoughtfulness.

The Institute for Race, Justice, and Civic Engagement

The [Institute for Race, Justice, and Civic Engagement \(IRJC\)](#) provides a meeting area where students can discuss social justice issues, an academic space where faculty can support students, and a hub for advising support and community engagement so students to foster student networking and belonging. Led by Professor Karl Smith, the IRJC dedicated to helping students find agency and avenues for engaging in the democratic process, with an emphasis on connecting and supporting students from underrepresented and marginalized populations.

MC Confluence Translation Series

MC [Confluence](#) is a celebration of translation and interpretation that brings translators, interpreters, educators, students, and others who are interested in the field together to discuss the literary, practical, and philosophical dimensions of translation. MC community members collaborate with the National Capital Area Translators Association (NCATA) to offer annual translation-centered events to MC students and faculty.

Model UN

The [Political Science](#) discipline incorporates Model United Nations and similar model diplomacy opportunities to students through the Politics in Action course. Students travel to either Washington, DC or to New York City (depending on the semester) and learn powerful lessons in diplomacy and transnational engagement.

Visit us: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/humanities-at-mc>