

Study of the humanities helps us understand ourselves and others through language, history, and culture. They have the capacity to foster social justice and equality and they reveal how people throughout time have tried to make moral, spiritual, and intellectual sense of the world.

American Sign Language, General Studies, History, International Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Women & Gender Studies, and World Languages

**Associate of Arts and Certificate Programs
2021-2022**



**MAJORS
FISCAL YEAR 2022**

- 70**
American Sign Language
A.A. Majors (608)
- 40**
American Sign Language
Certificate Majors (220)
- 4448**
General Studies Majors
(All)
- 131**
International Studies
A.S. Majors (152)
- 8**
Women's and Gender
Studies Certificate Majors
(251)



**DEGREES AWARDED
(2016-2020)**

- 21**
American Sign Language
A.A. Majors (608)
- 25**
American Sign Language
Certificate Majors (220)
- 5061**
General Studies
- 118**
International Studies
A.S. Majors (152)
- 25**
Women's and Gender Studies
Certificate Majors (251)

COURSES AND ENROLLMENT FY2022

DISCIPLINE	SECTIONS	STUDENTS	DISCIPLNE	SECTIONS	STUDENTS
ARABIC	6	91	ITALIAN	6	84
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE	37	425	JAPANESE	6	114
CHINESE	6	77	KOREAN	9	157
FRENCH	27	436	LATIN SEMINARS	3	17
GENDER STUDIES	5	109	PHILOSOPHY	75	1413
GERMAN	5	53	POLITICAL SCIENCE	78	1194
GLOBAL HUMANITIES	12	143	RUSSIAN	6	56
HISTORY	152	2320	SPANISH	89	1249
			WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES	18	263
TOTAL NUMBER OF SECTIONS			540		
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS			8201		

DATA SOURCES: QLIKVIEW/Toolkit

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 ASL certificate prepares qualified students to enter fields in which they would interact with Deaf people on a regular basis.

General Studies

The [General Studies](#) program was redesigned in 2015 based on emerging guided pathways principles to provide a flexible but focused academic program designed to foster retention and completion for a wide range of students. The program provides four interdisciplinary, academic cores with academic maps that create recommended pathways to transfer in a variety of academic areas. The program also provides flexibility for individual transfer institution requirements, focused academic and career interest exploration, and individualized program completion. Strengths of the program include a strong, interdisciplinary leadership team; Advising Day and Week coordination; collaborations with individual disciplines, other academic programs, and counseling; a strong variety of student supports (student workshops, advising weeks, program advisors, intrusive advising); training for Program Advisors; resources and materials for students (e.g., exploratory students or students with a specific academic focus), and online and Z-Degree Options (first adopters). Challenges include the availability of resources to provide consistent, predictable access to programmatic high impact practices and integrative learning opportunities for all General Studies students.

International Studies

The [international studies degree](#) concentration 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 subsequently working in this field, be it in government, international organizations, trade, finances, business, or related areas. Administered by the History and Political Science areas, this is a highly multidisciplinary degree, encompassing more than 10 disciplines. Students in this degree participate in the Model U.N. program and the Model African League program.

Women's & Gender Studies

The [Women's and Gender Studies Program](#) (WGSP) 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. The WGSP also features speakers, seminars, and other programs, including active women's and gender studies student clubs. Student awards and scholarships are presented annually. The WGSP also features speakers, seminars, and other programs, including active women's and gender studies student clubs. Student awards and scholarships are presented annually.

Supporting Student Success

Scheduling and Delivery Options

Many of the Humanities disciplines have 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, as Z-courses (zero cost), and as distance education during the regular semester and during summer.

Z-Courses and OERs

The Humanities Area is invested in increasing students' access and success through their faculty participation in Open Educational Resources (OER) and Z-courses. The incorporation of OERs into philosophy, history, and political science, starting in 2016 has saved Montgomery college students tens of thousands of dollars. During the past two years, the humanities area developed zero-cost materials for beginning and intermediate Spanish offerings, Korean, German, Chinese, and Japanese. This summer, faculty will begin a similar initiative for French. Since these are highly enrolled languages offerings, the effort has resulted in substantial savings for students. 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.

Academic Success Center (ASC)/Writing, Reading, and Language Center (WRLC)

The [Academic Success Center](#) is a resource center for students taking courses in the humanities, social sciences, world languages, economics, and education. Resources include interactive software, textbooks, a video library, a food pantry, internet access, and workshops. The ASC offers in-person, virtual tutoring services for economics, French, psychology, sociology, and Spanish.

The [Writing, Reading, and Language Center](#), Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus (WRLC-TPSS) serves as a resource to students, faculty, and staff and provides academic support to students in all classes that require reading, writing, speech, and pronunciation in American English and world languages. Services include one-to-one and group tutoring, world languages review sessions, specialized workshops, and access to instructional technology, the Microsoft Office Suite, print services, and various resources assigned by faculty.

During this period of hybrid operations and continued social distancing, the ASC temporarily relocated to the WRLC-TPSS. Operating jointly, the staff of the WRLC-TPSS and ASC collaborated to provide convenient in-person and virtual services to students enrolled in Humanities and Social Sciences courses. To illustrate, students were able to receive content tutoring for courses such as psychology from the ASC and then writing tutoring from the WRLC-TPSS, all in one convenient location. Joint services include virtual and on-campus tutoring, virtual workshops, access to computer labs, and access to a food pantry.

Services are offered seven days/week virtually, including nights and weekends, to meet the needs of students when and where they are. They are also offered in a hybrid modality to meet the needs of students both online and on campus. There was an **85.34% overall utilization** of available virtual tutoring appointments during Fall 2021; **89.30%** utilization after the first two weeks of the semester; **92.90%** utilization after midterms and a **100%** utilization rate for nearly one-third of the semester. This represents an **8.34% increase in overall utilization** from Fall 2020 (78.77%) to Fall 2021 (85.34%), There was an **11.14%** increase in tutoring sessions, a **45.83%** increase in workshop offerings from 2020 (48) to 2021 (70), and a **24.3%** increase in workshop attendance from 2020 (622) to 2021 (773).

Humanities Area Student and Faculty Engagement Programs

Global Classrooms Faculty Fellowship (GCFE)

Coordinated by Professors Shelley Jones and Carla Naranjo, this fellowship has enriched classrooms and expanded the global horizons of students and faculty alike since 2016. Through this fellowship, faculty pair with colleagues throughout the world to create direct and authentic global content in their classes. MC faculty from various disciplines within the Humanities Area and beyond have connected with partner institutions in El Salvador, Ethiopia, Korea, Costa Rica, Argentina, Senegal, England and others to provide their students virtual global exchanges with students from these countries. The [Global Classrooms Faculty Fellowship](#), sponsored by the Humanities Area in partnership with ELITE, gives faculty members the opportunity to develop their knowledge and experience of the innovative teaching method of Collaborative On-line International Learning (COIL), which connects students and faculty from geographically distant locations and diverse lingua-cultural backgrounds in order to enhance cultural awareness and knowledge.

Scholarship of Excellence (SET)

Led by Professor Joan Naake, the [Montgomery College Scholarship of Excellence in Teaching](#) provides a structured and supportive environment of reflection to enhance teaching and to promote student success. The program was created in 2015 under the guidance of Dr. Sanjay Rai and is co-sponsored by the Humanities Area and ELITE. Each fall, faculty members who excel in their courses and disciplines participate in an outstanding faculty cohort to share their scholarship and methodology of teaching, especially as an academic subject or theoretical concept. Areas of interest include problem solving, collaborative learning, diverse populations, contemplative practices such as mindfulness, methods to transform teaching and learning, and strategies for postsecondary success with all students in a post-Internet world.

Humanities Students' 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 small 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 April 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 most recent conferences have been converted to Zoom format during the pandemic. Typically, the event is held in Theater Arts at Rockville.

The conference committee is led by Professor Rebecca Eggenschwiler, and currently includes the following faculty: Dr. Michelle Moran, Dr. Joseph Stumpf, Dr. Sarah Campbell, Dr. Sylvea Hollis, Professor Rachael Wilson, and Professor Karl Smith.

The Institute for Race, Justice, and Civic Engagement

Under the direction of Dr. Vincent Intondi, the [Institute for Race, Justice, and Civic Engagement \(IRJC\)](#), established in 2018, provides a meeting area and safe space where students can discuss social justice issues. It is also an academic space where faculty can support students, and includes a food pantry and clothing library. The

institute sponsors community engagement activities so students can connect with volunteer opportunities and community support organizations.

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 considerations, avoidance of ethical irrelevance, and deliberative thoughtfulness.

MC Confluence Translation Conference

Confluence is an annual celebration of translation and interpretation that brings together translators, interpreters, educators, students, and others interested in the field of translation, including its literary, practical, and philosophical dimensions. Starting in fall 2019, the Confluence Translation Conference and Open Mic event has been coordinated by the Humanities area under the leadership of Dr. Sharon Fechter, Dean of Humanities, and the conference director, Professor Ivonne Bruneau-Botello, Chair of the World Languages and Philosophy Department. MC community members will collaborate with DC Area Literary Translators (DC-ALT) to offer the annual conference and other events to MC students and faculty. Other academic institutions and community members who believe in the importance of translation and interpretation for a global community are welcome to attend. The event features an annual professional conference offering workshops and presentations focusing on interpretation and translation, opportunities for discussion, networking, career development, and celebration. Additional student-oriented, translation-themed events are held throughout the year, including an annual Open Mic celebration of International Translation Day. This year, the conference will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022. For more information, please visit [Confluence | Montgomery College, Maryland](#)