



ACHIEVING THE PROMISE ACADEMY

Faculty Fact Sheet

What is the Achieving the Promise Academy?

The Achieving the Promise Academy (ATPA) is an academic program created by Montgomery College to support students while they complete their degree. Each student who enrolls in the program works closely with an academic success coach. All coaches are faculty members who have a professional and educational background in the student's area of academic interest. Coaches partner with students, their professors, and other key stakeholders (on and off campus) to help students achieve their academic goals.

Who is eligible for the program?

ATPA targets underserved and underrepresented students, but any student enrolled at the College who needs academic support—and is committed to completing a program of study—is eligible to apply. Students can apply by visiting our website or attending an information session.

How does the program work?

ATPA provides students with a highly structured academic program that focuses on each student's individualized academic needs. Coaches meet weekly with their students to check on academic progress. Coaches also assist students in problem solving when they encounter challenges in their academic experience. Coaches periodically request progress reports and feedback from faculty members. This feedback helps coaches guide student sessions and allows coaches to provide individualized and focused support (all communication between coaches and faculty are in accordance with FERPA regulations).

ATPA students also engage in a Learning Success Cohort Community; participate in two targeted academic workshops per semester; and receive guidance on financial aid, transferring, course registration, and other areas related to academic success.

How are current ATPA students faring?

ATPA students finished the spring 2017 semester with higher GPAs and lower DFW rates than when they first joined the program. Here are some testimonials from our students:

"Having ATPA support is like having a spinal cord; we need it to survive."

"Because ATPA coaches and staff love what they do, they are here to help students succeed."

"ATPA gives me hope for my future. Looking at other ATPA members, I see the stars of tomorrow."

How do ATPA staff partner with faculty?

In addition to communicating with faculty via student progress reports, ATPA coaches also provide embedded tutoring, mentoring, and support for students in gatekeeper courses of the 16 most highly enrolled academic

programs. Depending on the needs of a particular class, coaches can partner with faculty by making presentations on study skills or working with students individually to review content matter. Coaches customize the support based on the subject material and the professor's desired level of ATPA involvement. This can vary from a one-time visit to regularly scheduled in-class conferences or tutoring throughout the semester. All of our coaches are part-time faculty members with expertise in a variety of disciplines.

How can a faculty member refer students to the program?

ATPA asks faculty members to disseminate information about the program to all students. Please encourage students to apply to the program on our website. We frequently make presentations in classes and during faculty and student events. Please contact ATPA if you are interested in having us share more information with your colleagues during department meetings, faculty orientations, or other events.

How can a part-time faculty member become an ATPA academic success coach?

ATPA recruits part-time faculty, who have not fully committed their available ESH load, to be coaches. Preference will be given to these disciplines: English, math, biology, chemistry, physics, accounting, the health sciences, and criminal justice. Candidates should express interest to Richard Scott at richard.scott@montgomerycollege.edu.

How do faculty/staff/students get more information?

ATPA will be holding information sessions weekly on all three campuses. Anyone in the Montgomery College community can sit in on one of the sessions to learn more about the program. The information session calendar, and other details about ATPA, are available on the website.

Where is ATPA located?

Germantown, BE 115
Rockville, SC 217
Takoma Park/Silver Spring, P4 008

How can I stay in touch with ATPA?

Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter and receive updates on ATPA events, collegewide workshops, tips and tools for student success, and other helpful resources. Visit our newsletter page on our website to subscribe.



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