

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Have a question? Please contact:

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Congratulations to all 2022 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.



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College Celebrates First Class of P-TECH Graduates

Like many of her friends, Kyla Dotson, a 17-year-old Clarksburg resident, is heading to college (Towson University) this fall to study computer science. Along with a new comforter, dorm lights, and shower shoes, she will be bringing 60 college credits she earned—free of charge.

Dotson joins 33 other students graduating from Pathways in Network and Information Technology (P-TECH), a dual enrollment program enabling students to earn both a MCPS high school diploma and an associate's degree in cloud computing and networking technology from Montgomery College while in high school.

"Since we were the first cohort, we built a sense of community," says Dotson. "We're always helping each other with homework, forming study groups for quizzes and tests, and letting each other know about scholarship opportunities."

MCPS and MC launched P-TECH in Maryland in 2018 to provide workers for critical STEM fields. P-TECH participants attend a summer bridge program every year—including before ninth grade, receive mentoring from industry partners, go on field trips, and serve a paid summer internship in a technical industry in Montgomery County. Students complete a rigorous high school technical program which includes college courses on Montgomery College's Germantown Campus.

"P-TECH is a unique dual enrollment program," says Christine Oxenford, P-TECH program coordinator at Clarksburg High School. "Being cost free and open access allows all students, regardless of background, the opportunity to earn a degree and prepare for the workforce."



Above: Students in the P-TECH dual enrollment program are engaged in a DNA modeling activity at the ATLAS STEM College and Career Readiness Symposium. Students in the program participate in summer bridge activities to build relationships with peers and teachers, take field trips to industry partners, meet with mentors, and have the opportunity to get valuable industry certifications.

The College degree ensures that students meet industry expectations and gain technical skills and workplace competencies. The program also offers valuable industry certifications in CompTia A+ and CompTia Network+. Students who complete the program receive first-in-line status for job opportunities with the program's business partners. And they can complete the associate's degree within six years of being accepted to the program.

"This group [of graduating seniors] set the bar really high," says Montgomery College's Middle College/P-TECH Coordinator Persis Johnson. "They created a showcase of their talents for their parents and friends that drew nearly 200 people, started an ambassador program to provide leadership for younger students, and held study groups."

P-TECH is offered at Clarksburg High School, but does accept a limited amount of students from Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, Northwest, Quince Orchard, Poolesville, Seneca Valley, and Watkins Mill. Rising eighth grade students interested in applying should contact Christine_B_Oxenford@mcpsmd.org or Persis.Johnson@montgomerycollege.edu.

IMPORTANT dates and deadlines 2022

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 17; test is administered on July 16.
- Register for a summer class at Montgomery College. June 21: Midsummer classes begin; July 12: Summer II classes begin.

July

- Sign up for the SAT test; test is administered on Aug. 27.
- 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. 5; test is administered Sept. 10.
- 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; test is administered Oct. 1.
- Sign up for the ACT test by Sept. 16; test is administered on Oct. 22.
- 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; test is administered on Nov. 5.
- 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.

November

- Nov. 4: DCCAPS deadline for 8th grade students to apply for the Middle College and P-TECH programs and for 10th grade students to submit applications for the Early College program.



IS COMPUTER SCIENCE PART OF YOUR PROGRAM?

Take a class with Professor David Kuijt (pronounced kite), who has been teaching computer science and engineering at the Rockville Campus for more than 12 years. Not only does Kuijt teach sections to traditional undergraduates, but also high school students in MC's Early College and Middle College programs. "I tend to be loud. I have a sense of humor. And I'm patient. All of those work well with 17-year-olds," he says. These high school students often join Kuijt's NASA Swarmathon team, a challenge to engage students in developing cooperative robotic algorithms that could one day be used on a future NASA mission to Mars. His 2017 team won the virtual aspect of the competition. Kuijt also serves as director of the Grand Challenges Scholars Program, a National Academy of Engineering initiative to create an honors program that will develop the students who will solve the largest problems facing engineering and the world in the 21st century. MC is the first community college selected to participate in this prestigious competition.

College Launches Virtual Campus

Montgomery College's Virtual Campus will launch in fall 2022, providing online courses and degrees with the same academic rigor and affordability of on-campus offerings—plus the convenience of flexible scheduling. The College's expert faculty receives special training to teach MC courses online. Many of MC's classes are Quality Matters certified, a gold standard international recognition.

"We want to provide holistic and comprehensive support for students," says Virtual Campus Dean Dr. Shinta Hernandez. "This support includes access to tutoring, counseling, and library services, as well as participation in student clubs and activities."

With this launch, MC and MCPS are offering Virtual Middle College, allowing qualified MCPS high school students to take college credit courses to earn their high school diploma while also earning a college degree through

an online/virtual college experience. Students from all MCPS high schools may participate in the Virtual Middle College Program while still enrolled at their home MCPS high school.

"Among the many benefits of this program is the flexibility it affords our students," says Akima Rogers, director of academic initiatives at Montgomery College. "Students can continue to participate in activities at their home high school as well as in the community. It's the best of both worlds."

Students can choose from degree programs in business, computer science, health information management, information sciences and systems, criminal justice, cybersecurity, early childhood education technology, general studies (including social sciences, administration and health; humanities, art, communication, and languages; and science, technology, engineering, and math).

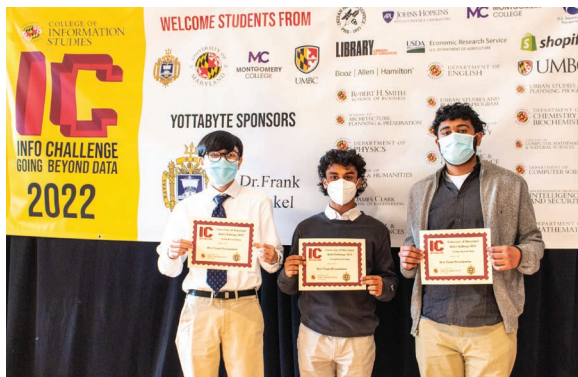
Early College Students Win Grand Prize at UMD's Info Challenge

Aryan Anwar (Wheaton HS), Matthew Nanas (Clarksburg HS), and Rohit Sharma (Wheaton HS), members of the Early College program, won the Grand Prize at the 2022 University of Maryland (UMD) Info Challenge in March.

The students competed against more than 160 undergraduate and graduate students from UMD, UMBC, and the United States Naval Academy. Info Challenge, a weeklong competition hosted by the UMD College of Information Studies, gathers teams of students to work with partnering organizations to address real-world problems, provide valuable team-building experience, and network with industry professionals.

The team presented AIISky Tool, an analysis of a dataset provided by UMD's Department of Astronomy. Their challenge was to identify and analyze the different types of objects captured by this imagery and find a correlation between exposure lengths and clear or dark skies.

"The MC students chose one of the harder projects to undertake," says organizer Kathy Weaver, who explained challenges are rated on a scale from one to four in difficulty. Weaver, a senior lecturer in UMD's Department of



Information Studies, says the team's poise and organizational skills impressed judges.

"We've known each other since [Argyle] middle school," says team member Rohit Sharma, who is in the Rockville Campus engineering cohort with Aryan Anwar. Matthew Nanas participates in Germantown's computer science cohort. Sharma says the trio won their first hackathon, Code Day DC, in 2020.

The three students, who recently graduated with a degree from MC as well as their high school diploma, will be majoring in computer science at University of Maryland in the fall.

Where Are They Now? Middle College Program Graduates Share Their Stories

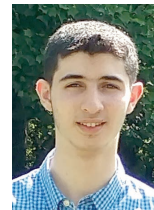
The first class of Middle College (or MC2) graduates received a high school diploma as well as an associate's degree in 2018. *PrepTalk* spoke to four—of many—outstanding students.



Emily Cho
University of Maryland '22
B.S., Mechanical Engineering
Employment: Mac System Hardware Engineering Program Manager, Apple, March 2022-Present

At UMD, I participated in the Global Grand Challenges Summit in London, where my team was one of four winners. I worked with members of this team to co-found Postlytics (for postoperative analytics), a wearable patch that can transmit vital signs via Wi-Fi to hospitals in real time. I also participated in internships in reliability engineering at Tesla, ExxonMobil, General Electric, and ENGIE. In fact, I got my first internship at the National Institute for Standards and Technology through the MC2 program.

The MC2 program enabled me to take my time and participate in a lot of rewarding internships, which helped me find my passion: program management. You really need to be patient with yourself—and learn what you're good at. I would encourage anyone to participate in MC2 because it provides the most challenging experience for high school students.



Moussa Haddad
University of Maryland '22
B.S., Biomedical Engineering
Employment: Patent Examiner, United States Patent and Trademark Offices, June 2022

At UMD, I worked in the Mueller Lab on prototyping and developing a low-cost, reusable medical imaging device called a laparoscope. In the United States, these devices are \$100,000, but we created a model for just over \$100 that low- and middle-income countries can afford. I worked on imaging the medical device using resolution and color testing, among many others. I also served as president of the Muslim Students Association, a very active campus organization.

This program [MC2] is rigorous, but it builds character and strength so you can become a leader. It will ultimately help you succeed. Taking a lot of AP and MC classes may seem intimidating, but it will pay dividends once you graduate. I have two younger brothers in MC2—

one of them will graduate with a degree in electrical engineering when he is 20 years old.



Celia Harris
University of Maryland '20
B.A., Pre-Physician Assistant/Spanish
Employment: Medical Assistant, Capitol Medical Group Pediatrics, September 2020-Present

At UMD, I served as a clinical research assistant at Characterizing and Tracking College Health, a virus study to track diseases like acute respiratory infections to better understand how diseases are spread and what makes people contagious.

I am currently applying to graduate school to become a physician assistant.

The MC2 program allowed me to jump right into the things I was interested in studying—and finish in two years. I was able to take some extra time to work, travel, and participate in volunteer opportunities. The best advice I would give to someone interested in joining the MC2 program would be to take advantage of the early opportunities for success that are offered—and don't be afraid to challenge yourself intellectually and explore your various interests.



Priyanka Kishore
University of Maryland '21
B.S., Computer Science; Statistics Minor
Employment: Software Engineer, Enlighten, June 2021-Present

At UMD, I participated in the Design, Cultures, and Creativity Honors College for high-achieving students. I served as an undergraduate teaching assistant for a class, Computer Systems, in which I led a discussion section, held office hours to answer questions and provide help, and graded quizzes and exams. I also participated in Girls Who Code, which provides guidance to middle and high school girls on programming topics to increase enrollment by women in computer science. And my internship as a full stack developer at Enlighten led to a full-time position.

I do feel like MC2 gave me a competitive advantage. It was great working with like-minded peers and building relationships with my MC professors. Your interests will change—and you can change course. One of the many benefits of the MC2 program is the flexibility it affords you.



DID YOU KNOW?

Germantown Campus addition supports STEM students

The **Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard Student Affairs and Science Building**, a 93,348-square-foot facility, contains Raptor Central (campus welcome center), the Office of Public Safety (open 24 hours a day), Records and Registration Office, Assessment Center, Counseling and Advising Office, Financial Aid Office, the International and Multicultural Student Center, Student Employment Services Office, Student Life Office, Office of the Collegewide Dean of Access and Student Affairs at Germantown, and faculty and administrative offices.

The new addition to the building includes the Math, Accounting, Physics, Engineering, Learning (MAPEL) Center, a student support and tutoring center; classrooms and laboratories for engineering, physical science, landscape design, and computer science; and faculty and staff offices for the Science, Engineering, and Technology area.