

# EARLY COLLEGE STUDENT HANDBOOK

2022–2023 Academic Year



#### What Is Early College?

Montgomery College (MC) and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) offer the Early College (EC) program at each MC campus. It provides qualified students the opportunity to earn an associate's degree in a specific content area. Participating students will complete their 11th and 12th grade years of high school while simultaneously completing their first two years of college as a full-time MC student. They will graduate with an associate's degree (tuition free) from MC as well as a Maryland State High School diploma.

#### Why Is Early College a Great Opportunity?

Students are able to speed up the path to degree completion and entrance into the workforce—and save money on college tuition. The tuition and textbook cost for all courses required for the MC degree and Maryland high school diploma are covered. College fees are also covered for select students who qualify for financial assistance.

#### What Is Dual Enrollment?

Dual Enrollment is the term used to describe students who are enrolled in an MCPS high school and a postsecondary institution of higher learning. Dual Enrollment at MC enables high school students to:

Register and attend a Montgomery College course(s) on campus, online, or at their high school site.

- Engage with outstanding college professors and their peers in a collegiate classroom setting.
- · Graduate from high school with earned college credit.
- · Potentially save money on college tuition.
- Accelerate college completion.
- Gain additional skills and confidence needed to succeed in college.

# What Is the Difference Between the A.A./A.S./A.A.T. and the A.A.S.?

The associate of arts (A.A.) as well as the associate of science (A.S.) and associate of arts in teaching (A.A.T.) are typically set up for completing foundational coursework necessary for a four-year (bachelor's degree) or transferring to another college or university. The associate of applied science (A.A.S.) prepares students with a specific skill set for immediate entry into the workforce.

#### Understanding Early College Degree Pathways

**1. Behavioral Health A.A.:** Behavioral health is the study of "mental health and substance abuse, life stressors and crises, stress related physical symptoms, and health behaviors." It is a dynamic and growing field that focuses on promoting positive health behaviors while reducing or eliminating health risk behaviors. This degree program is designed to transfer to UMBC's baccalaureate social work program at the Universities at Shady Grove campus. The program also serves to train students for entry-level positions as aides or technicians in various mental health disciplines.

2. Biological Science A.S.: The biological science pathway is meant for students planning to transfer to a four-year institution prior to attending medical, dental, veterinary, physical therapy, podiatry, or chiropractic school. Students will find all or most of the prerequisite courses needed for admission to these professional schools. Students planning to transfer to pharmacy, medical technology, or optometry school programs that accept students after two years of undergraduate education will find all the courses needed for admission into these programs.

**3. Biotechnology A.A.S.:** This Early College pathway prepares students to directly enter the workforce in the fast-growing field of biotechnology. Entry-level workers in the field of biotechnology are involved in laboratory work such as DNA isolation or sequencing, cell culture, toxicology or vaccine sterility testing, antibody production and isolation, and the testing and development of diagnostic and therapeutic agents.

Biotech students at MC work in state-of-the-art campus facilities to learn the skills and thought processes critical for success in a laboratory environment. Our courses are developed with input from the local biotechnology industry in Montgomery County and integrate the theory taught in lecture with hands-on practical skills. The laboratory protocols used are the same as those used in real-world research labs. The program emphasizes the development and understanding of basic laboratory skills in the areas of cell culture, instrumentation, genomics, proteomics, and immunology.

On completion of the A.A.S., you may also transfer to a four-year institution to obtain a bachelor's degree.

**4. Business A.A.:** This Early College degree is designed for students planning to transfer to a four- year college and major in general business, or a more specialized field of business such as finance, accounting, international business, marketing, or management. It also provides a solid foundation for students planning to major in economics or pre-law.

**5. Chemistry/Biochemistry A.S.:** The chemistry and biochemistry program is designed to provide the first two years of courses necessary to obtain a chemistry or biochemistry baccalaureate degree from a four-year college or university. In addition to general and organic chemistry knowledge, students will be trained in data collection and analysis, and scientific communication. Through the laboratory portion of the program, students will reinforce their understanding and application of the theory learned in class, develop laboratory skills and techniques, and formulate conclusions based on observations.

This degree will facilitate your preparation to move on to complete a four-year degree that will prepare you for a career in various sectors including basic and applied research, business, government, environmental and public affairs, as well as industry and manufacturing.

#### 6. Cloud Computing and Networking Technology A.A.S.:

This curriculum prepares students for a career in computer technology, networking, security, or cloud computing. Through our programs, you'll gain hands-on experience and have the opportunity to prepare for valuable industry certifications. You'll also develop the communication skills and professionalism required of IT professionals.

You'll develop your skills in software and hardware installation, network configuration and diagnostics, security and forensics fundamentals, and virtualization and cloud computing implementation, with an orientation focused on scenarios in which troubleshooting and tools must be applied to resolve problems.

This pathway will prepare students to directly enter the workforce and is not designed as a transfer program.

7. Computer Science A.A.: If you want to earn a four-year degree in computer science by acquiring skills in computer software development for scientific and technical applications, this Early College computer degree pathway may be for you. The courses in the program provide an academic core of the theoretical concepts of computer science combined with the fundamentals of structured design and development techniques for computer programming. Many of our Early College computer science students are accepted to University of Maryland's computer science program after they complete high school and their MC degree.

**8. Cybersecurity A.A.S.:** This program prepares students to directly enter the exciting career in the fast-growing field of cybersecurity. At Montgomery College, you'll gain handson, practical skills in cybersecurity from seasoned industry professionals.

The program emphasizes computer security and information assurance concepts augmented with current industry standard techniques. Topics cover threats and vulnerabilities, prevention at the technical (hardware and software) and human levels, detection, response, and management aspects of security.

As a member of CyberWatch, the MC curriculum follows National Security Telecommunications and Systems Security Instruction (NSTISSI) 4011 and 4013 standards. Also, the courseware is certified as mapping 100% to the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) National Standard 4011. Montgomery College is also designated as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) by the National Security Agency (NSA).

**9. Data Science A.A.:** The data science degree feature coursework in mathematics, computer science, statistics, research and business fundamentals. The field of data science combines the tools and techniques for acquiring information and preparing it for analysis that can help uncover cause and effect, predict outcomes, and communicate insights to different audiences. Students with an interest in many STEM areas may find the data science degree program to be quite intriguing.

The future is bright for aspiring data science professionals. In 2020, IBM predicted that there would be 2.7 million open jobs across data science and related careers and that there would be a 39 percent growth in employer demand for data scientists and data engineers . For data scientists specifically, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the employment growth rate to grow by 22 % by 2030.

**10. Diagnostic Medical Sonography A.A.S.:** Students will initially take preparatory courses and courses that fulfill general education requirements during their first year. Students will apply for formal admission to the diagnostic medical sonography program during the spring of their first year at MC. Once formally accepted into the program:

- Montgomery College strives to provide a comprehensive and thorough education in order to prepare competent entry-level adult cardiac sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains; and/or
- To prepare competent entry-level abdomen, and obstetrics and gynecology sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains; and/or
- To prepare competent entry-level vascular technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.

 Your clinical internships have additional requirements including health physical; immunization records; drug/ alcohol checks; criminal background checks; CPR; PPD; flu shots; and proof of health insurance.

The program is only offered on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

**11. Elementary/Special Education A.A.T.:** This curriculum prepares students to transfer to an elementary education or special education program at any four-year college or university in the state of Maryland. Designed for students just beginning coursework toward teacher certification in Maryland, the program enables students to fulfill their general education requirements, participate in fieldwork experiences, and complete a core of professional education coursework required for the first two years of teacher preparation.

**12. General Engineering A.S.:** The Early College general engineering pathway provides solid preparation for any type of engineering degree at the bachelor's level. And if you decide to earn a bachelor's degree in general engineering, you will study many different fields of engineering and business. You could then go on to coordinate teams of engineers, oversee product development from invention to market, or use your engineering know-how in a non-engineering field, such as law or medicine. Upon completion of high school and the MC two-year degree, Early College general engineering students go on and attend the University of Maryland, Virginia Tech, Penn State, as well as engineering programs at other four-year institutions.

**13. Mathematics A.S.:** This degree program is a transfer program that provides the first two years of a bachelor's degree in mathematics. This program will prepare students to:

- Effectively communicate the concepts of single and multivariable calculus, differential equations, and linear algebra using appropriate mathematical language.
- Apply mathematical approaches from single and/or multivariable calculus, differential equations, and linear algebra to analyze and solve problems in mathematics and other disciplines.
- Appropriately use current mathematical software, such as Matlab or MAPLE, for tasks in multivariable calculus, differential equations, and/or linear algebra.

Some careers that a math major is especially good preparation for are the following: actuarial science, computer analyst or programmer, economist, engineering analyst, information scientist, marketing research analyst, mathematician, meteorologist, numeral analyst, operations research, statistician, and systems analyst, mathematics teacher, mathematics professor, or professional mathematician.

**14. Nursing A.S.:** Students following the Early College nursing pathway will initially take preparatory courses and courses that fulfill general education requirements during their first year. Students will apply for formal admission to the MC nursing program during the spring of their first year at MC. Once formally accepted into the program, the basic nursing curriculum covers two academic years. Hospitals, nursing homes, and other health agencies within the metropolitan area will provide the settings for a variety of clinical experiences, which are planned as a vital part of each nursing course.

- Upon successful completion of the curriculum, the graduate is granted the A.S. in nursing and is eligible to take the state board examination for registered nurse licensure. Graduates will be prepared to give competent nursing care to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and other comparable health agencies under the supervision of more experienced practitioners and, with appropriate experience and further preparation, should be able to assume increasing responsibility in nursing. Hospitals, nursing homes, and other health agencies within the metropolitan area will provide the settings for a variety of clinical experiences, which are planned as a vital part of each nursing course.
- Montgomery College has numerous nursing transfer agreements to help students reach their goal of earning their bachelor of science degree in nursing (BSN), including the MC and UMSON Dual Admission Program (University of Maryland School of Nursing). The ADN to BSN Pathway office provides resources for students in their academic journey as they work towards earning a BSN.
- In Maryland, as well as many other states, associate degree nursing graduates articulate to universities for a bachelor's and/or master's degree. Articulation is different from transferring. While transferring between schools involves the transfer of individual courses, articulation means that a block of credits are awarded based on having an RN license.
- Clinical internships have additional requirements including health physical; immunization records; drug/ alcohol checks; criminal background checks; CPR; PPD; flu shots; and proof of health insurance.

This degree pathway is only offered on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

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**15. Physical Therapist Assistant A.A.S.:** Students in this A.A.S. pathway will initially take preparatory courses and courses that fulfill general education requirements during their first year. Students will apply for formal admission to the physical therapist assistant program during the spring of their first year at MC. The formal physical therapy assistant program is another two years which:

- Prepares you to enter a career in health care as a licensed physical therapist assistant (PTA). PTAs provide limited patient care services under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. PTAs practice in health care settings including hospitals, private practices, rehabilitation facilities, extended care facilities, home care, orthopedic clinics, pediatric centers, and other settings.
- Includes classes, patient care skills laboratories, and full-time clinical internships. Upon successful graduation, you will be qualified to take a licensure board exam.
- With further education, the PTA can earn a bachelor's degree and qualify for any number of fields including graduate education in physical therapy.
- Clinical internships have additional requirements including health physical; immunization records; drug/ alcohol checks; criminal background checks; CPR; PPD; flu shots; and proof of health insurance.

This degree pathway is only offered on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

**16. Radiologic Technology A.A.S.:** Early College students following this pathway initially take preparatory courses and courses that fulfill general education requirements during their first year. Students apply for formal admission to the radiologic technology degree program during the spring of their first year at MC.

This is a two-year program of didactic and clinical experience. It offers a basic general education as well as an in-depth study of radiologic technology (including assessment of critical thinking skills) which is supported by extensive clinical experience

Students begin in the summer for nine weeks (summer session), then complete fall (15 weeks) and spring (15 weeks) semesters for their first year. Students attend a second nine-week summer session as they transition to their second year. They complete the program with a fall (15 week) and a spring (15 week) semester, and graduate in May.

• Students are assigned randomly to two major hospital sites that are located in Washington, D.C. and/or Northern Virginia and/or Maryland with ancillary office sites rotations outside of Montgomery County (Frederick, Maryland).

- The program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).
- Radiographers are eligible for employment in the radiology departments of hospitals, clinics, and doctors' offices.
- The curriculum has been designed to provide a transfer option for students who elect to continue studies beyond the A.A.S. MC has a long history of successfully preparing students for transfer to four-year institutions including articulation agreements with Towson University and University of Baltimore.
- Clinical internships have additional requirements including health physical; immunization records; drug/ alcohol checks; criminal background checks; CPR; PPD; flu shots; and proof of health insurance.

This degree pathway is only offered on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

**17. Surgical Technology A.A.S.:** Early College students in this degree program will initially take preparatory courses and courses that fulfill general education requirements during their first year. Students will apply for formal admission to the surgical technology program during the spring of their first year at MC. This degree program follows a one-year formal curriculum, emphasizing both didactic and clinical experience, offers a broad base of surgical skills needed by those who function as integral members of the surgical team.

- The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Upon successful completion of the program, the graduate will receive the A.A.S. and will be eligible to apply to take the certification examination given by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting.
- Surgical technologists, also called operating room technicians, assist in surgical operations. They prepare operating rooms, arrange equipment, and help doctors during surgeries.
- Surgical technologists are eligible for employment in hospitals, operating rooms, physicians' offices, surgery centers, labor and delivery, and freestanding minor surgery facilities.
- Clinical rotations have additional requirements including health physical; immunization records; drug/alcohol checks; criminal background checks; CPR; PPD; flu shots; and proof of health insurance.

This degree pathway is only offered on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

#### What Are Early College Coordinators?

The Early College coordinators are located on the college campus and are assigned to work directly with students in a specific Early College degree program. EC coordinators:

- Assist students with program specific college advising and ensure that the students are on track to complete all MCPS diploma requirements.
- · Facilitate course registration for each term.
- Connect students to campus, college, and community services.
- Monitor academic progress within each semester and serves liaison with the student's college professors.
- Deliver biweekly academic seminars on content areas including but not limited to time management, study skills, resume writing, college essay writing, and he college search process.
- Maintain the individualized student academic advising plan.
- Work with students on their four-year college search and application process.
- Serve as a liaison with MCPS and the students' home high school counselor.
- Facilitate back to school meetings and will hold midterm grade conferences when appropriate.

They provide support for students experiencing personal issues, which may impact their academic performance and make appropriate referrals.

#### Early College Workshops/Seminars

These workshops/seminars are required biweekly cohort meetings are held during the fall and spring semesters, are facilitated by your EC coordinator. The seminars will provide students with critical information and resources such as:

- Learning about time management, study skills, resume writing, and college
- · Essay writing.
- · How to obtain letters of recommendation.
- The college search process, how to apply for financial aid and where to look for scholarships.
- Presentations by admissions representatives from four-year institutions.
- Speakers representing services and opportunities on campus.

#### MCPS High School Graduation Requirements

• Early College students are expected to complete all requirements for their high school diploma with their high school graduating class.

- Most high school requirements will be fulfilled through college coursework.
- Early College Coordinators will consult with HS counselor in reviewing all HS transcripts to determine what HS credits are needed.
- Coordinators will provide student with an advising document or the Degree Pathway Advising Sheet and Course Planning Worksheet that confirm HS diploma requirements as well as your associate's degree requirements.

# Staying Connected to Your High School Counselor

Students should be communicating with their MCPS school counselor at least once a semester. If you have not heard from your school counselor by the mid-term point of the MC fall and spring semesters, you should reach out to your high school counselor. Your counselor should be keeping you informed on important events such as the free PSAT and SAT test dates, junior and senior class related activities, and picture days. Your high school's website and school counselor can also provide you with information on college and scholarship opportunities.

#### **Early College Orientation**

This is a four-day program held in early summer which is designed to bridge the gap between high school and college. Early College students will:

- Learn about specific degree programs: curriculum, opportunities, graduation requirements and transfer.
- Learn how to access campus resources and services.
- Become familiar with the campus and student organizations and clubs.
- Increase knowledge of MC policies/procedures including Student Code of Conduct.
- Become familiar with program expectations for our students as well as what you can expect from the program, the College and MCPS.

#### Summer Math Prep Program

The summer math prep program is required for students entering many of the Early College degree programs in order to strengthen the math skills necessary to be successful in college math classes. We also hope to engage you and show you how math is relevant to your intended academic path.

You will be using ALEKS software in this program as well as learning new mathematics concepts from Montgomery College math faculty. At the end of this three- to four-week program, you will need to demonstrate your proficiency and preparedness to enter your first semester college mathematics course.

### Montgomery College Course Registration

All MC registration activity is completed through the Early College coordinator. You can view your semester class schedule by logging in to your MyMC account. Click "My Classes" and then click "View My Class Schedule."

#### **Student Account**

The cost of tuition, fees, and textbooks is covered for all Early College students by MCPS and MC. Students are responsible to pay for library fees, parking tickets, and official transcripts and as well as other college fees that are unrelated to their coursework.

All outstanding student charges are to be paid prior to the student's registration for the following semester and prior to graduation. Students can check their account balance and pay their bill by logging onto MyMC; mymcglb.montgomerycollege. edu. Scroll down age to "Student Tools" and look for the the Pay My Bill icon.

#### **Textbook and Course Materials**

The cost of required college textbooks and course materials is fully covered. Required materials may be obtained the week prior to the first day of classes for each term.

**Campus Bookstore:** Students will obtain their required materials from the campus offering the class section. Students should bring their photo ID and a copy of their class schedule when proceeding to the bookstore to obtain their required materials.

- Germantown Bookstore: Humanities and Social Science Building.
- Rockville Bookstore: Campus Center.
- Takoma Park/Silver Spring Bookstore: Nunley Student Services Center.

#### What to Bring to Class

You should always bring two pens to class as well as a notebook or electronic device for notetaking notes. Your professor may also require you to bring a textbook or other required materials to class.

### **Understanding Your Syllabus**

A course syllabus is one of the most important documents you will receive from your professor. Your course syllabus will play a vital role in the overall success of your course. Ideally, a course syllabus can be looked upon as a roadmap of your course—it contains valuable information that will help you succeed and stay organized throughout the entire semester. In order to fully benefit from the course syllabus, it is important for you to read it, understand it, and keep it handy as you will be continuously referring to it throughout the duration of your course.

#### Breaking Down a Course Syllabus:

- Professor's name, contact information, and office hours.
- Required textbook and course materials and where they can be located.
- · Course assignments and exams with due dates.
- · Course schedule or what will be covered at each class meeting.
- Course name, meeting location and time, course description, prerequisite, credit hours earned.
- · Learning objectives.
- Grading/point system.
- · Participation and attendance policy.
- Available academic support on campus as well as Disability Support Services.

#### **Communication with Professors**

Your professor will likely provide you with their email address, but occasionally may provide an office phone or cell phone number. In the college setting, email is generally the preferred method of communication, but sometimes phone calls are more efficient ways of asking or answering questions.

- Talking to your professors can help you understand the material better and show your professor that you're invested in their class. If you have any questions after a lesson you can stay after class to catch up with your professor for clarity or visit your professor during office hours.
- Establishing communication your MC professor may open the door for this person to become a career mentor, provide career advice or even provide a letter of recommendation when it's time for you to apply to four-year institutions.
- When communicating with instructors and other staff, you should write in full, grammatically correct sentences and with a respectful tone.

#### **Classroom and Student Conduct**

Students are afforded certain rights and responsibilities under the Montgomery College Student Code of Conduct. Academic conduct should reflect the highest level of honesty and integrity. Student behavior should reflect civility, courteously and respect of all members of the college community, their property, and the property of the College and that of the larger community. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct, a violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy, or a behavioral concern should be submitted on an incident report.

#### Grades

Students may access their grades by logging onto MyMC and clicking on "My Grades" under Student Quick Links. Grades should never be disclosed via phone or to a non-MC email address. Midterm grades may also be accessed in the same manner. Grades are typically available seven to 10 days following the end of each semester. The College does not mail grades.

#### **The Academic Appeal Process**

An academic appeal involves requesting an exception to a specific academic regulation. All academic appeals must include a completed Academic Appeal Petition Form, personal statement, applicable signatures, and any supporting documentation. Email responses from faculty sent to your MC email address can be accepted in lieu of physical signatures on the form. Complete packets should be submitted to the Office of Records and Registration at the campus where the course(s) was last attempted.

You may attend the academic appeals meeting if you feel that clarification or additional information needs to be conveyed to the committee. Attendance is optional. Check the Academic Appeals website for campus meeting dates. Students will be notified of the appeal committee's decision by MC email within one week of the meeting.

#### **Understanding AP Scores**

MCPS students who take AP exams while in 9th and 10th grades can have their exams scores considered by Montgomery College for college credit. In order for Montgomery College to evaluate your AP score for college credit, you must contact the College Board at: https://apstudents.collegeboard.org and request your score(s) to be sent to your home MC Campus.

The College Board Codes for the MC Campuses are:

- Germantown: 5393.
- Rockville: 5440.
- Takoma Park/Silver: 5414.

Please refer to the list of AP exams and the MC equivalents found in the College's digital academic catalog. It is important to note that not all AP scores accepted by MC will be accepted by specific four-year institutions.

#### What Is FERPA

(Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974): This federal law affords parents the right to have access to their children's education records, the right to seek to have the records amended, and the right to have some control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the education records. When a student turns 18 years old, or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, the rights under FERPA transfer from the parents to the student. Early College students must sign a release form in order for their Early College Coordinator to discuss details of the student's educational records with the parent/guardian.

#### Learning and Resource Centers

Learning and Resource Centers as well as virtual tutoring and workshops at Montgomery College are here to ensure student success as you pursue your academic goals. Montgomery College offers a variety of services and supports through our disciplinespecific Learning Centers to help students meet the rigors of academic coursework. Data shows that students who use the Learning Centers early and often are more successful students than those who do not make use of these resources.

# How to Apply for Disability Support Services

DSS provides accommodations and support services for students with documented disabilities. If you have an IEP/504 plan on file at your MCPS high school, you should apply for services ASAP—or no later than six weeks prior to the start of your first semester at MC.

#### Steps to Apply for DSS Services:

- Complete the online student intake form using your Montgomery College Student ID number.
- Upload a scanned PDF copy of your documentation, or bring paper copies of your documentation to your initial intake appointment with a DSS counselor.
- When a student applies for services, DSS counselors will evaluate the application and determine eligibility for services. If a student qualifies for accommodations, the counselor will meet with student to identify academic adjustments and/or accommodations.

#### **Student ID Cards**

To obtain your student ID card, bring your paid receipt and another form of photo identification to the Office of Public Safety on any of our campuses.

You need to validate your ID card each semester by placing the current semester payment sticker on the student ID. Students will obtain their semester sticker for subsequent semesters through Raptor Central. A current semester registration sticker will allow you to:

- Check out library books.
- Use computer and writing labs.
- Use swimming pools.

• Receive transportation on Ride On buses within Montgomery County 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at no additional charge.

Students should carry their student ID card with them at all times when on campus. ID's services are available from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Office of public Safety office at the campus locations below:

- Germantown: Dr. DeRionne Pollard Student Affairs and Science Building, Room 259A.
- Rockville: Long Nguyen and Kimmy Duong Student Services Center, Room 122.
- Takoma Park/Silver Spring, Nunley Student Services Building, Room 211.

#### **Transportation**

MC Shuttle Bus Service: The Montgomery College shuttle service between the campuses will begin August 29, 2022, and run until December 16, 2022, on weekdays when classes are scheduled. Shuttle service will resume on January 23, 2023, and run until the end of the spring semester. See the shuttle schedule at montgomerycollege.edu/\_documents/about-mc/campuses-andlocations/mc-shuttle-schedule.pdf.

You can track the shuttle by downloading the Ride Systems Smartphone APP.

**Ride On Bus Service:** As a Montgomery College student, you can take Ride On buses free of charge—24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students must show their MC ID which must display a current semester sticker to use the Ride On Bus.

**Metrobus and Metrorail:** Metrobus provides service to all three campuses and can connect students from a Metrorail station to the college campus. Metrobus and Metrorail is not a free service for MC students.

### Parking

You can obtain a permit to park on campus and other College properties. Log in to the Parking Portal to obtain your permit, pay a citation, or appeal a citation. There is no additional fee to obtain a parking permit, as it is included in your student fees.

### **Campus Safety and Security**

The Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management is responsible for the protection of the College community, first aid, emergency assistance, 24-hour escort service (upon request), enforcement of campus parking regulations, and the lost and found service. Officers on each campus are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Dial 7-3333 from any campus phone or 240-567-3333 to reach a campus public safety office.

#### Academic Year Calendar

Early College students follow the Montgomery College Academic Year Calendar for the beginning and ending dates of terms, holidays, exams, campus closings, etc. The 2022–2023 Montgomery College Academic Year Calendar can be found at: montgomerycollege.edu/\_documents/academics/academiccalendar-2022-2023.pdf

#### **MC Alert**

Receive text and email messages in the event of Montgomery College delays, closures or emergencies by signing up for this service. However, we encourage everyone to register mobile numbers and additional email addresses to ensure prompt receipt of MC Alerts on multiple devices. To register mobile numbers and alternate email addresses, log in to MyMC and click on the MC Alert icon. On the MC Alert portal page, simply add cell phone number(s) and alternate emails (your MC email is already registered).

### **Navigating MyMC**

The MyMC portal provides students, faculty, staff, and alumni with information and sign-on access to various college applications, including registration, checking grades, and requesting transcripts. Students also access their Montgomery College email through MyMC.

### What Is Starfish?

Starfish is a tool that connects students with their Early College Coordinators as well as other members of their MC success network. Students will use Starfish to schedule appointments with their EC Coordinators. This tool also houses the individual student's Early College Academic plan

#### What Is Blackboard?

Blackboard is an online course management system which is used by your professors to provide you with access to a syllabus, course materials, assignments, exams, and class discussions. Blackboard is accessed through MyMC.

### **Email and Office 365**

Office 365 technology includes email, calendar, contacts, instant messaging, online conferencing with desktop sharing, individual file storage (OneDrive), and web apps that provide a level of functionality with Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote files.

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