

Making the Transition... Options for Students Getting a Certificate of Program Completion

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Transition Services Unit
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- **Adult Services:** Long term services provided by the Developmental Disabilities Administration. The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) provides a coordinated service delivery system so that people with developmental/intellectual disabilities receive appropriate services oriented toward the goal of integration into the community
- **The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS):** DORS helps people with physical, emotional, intellectual, developmental, sensory and learning disabilities go to work and keep their jobs by providing services such as career assessment and counseling, assistive technology, job training, higher education and job placement
- **Post-secondary options**

**Students exiting with a Certificate of Program
Completion can pursue.....**



Adult Services

- **Eligibility based:** families must apply for the funding. The DDA application can be filled in on your computer. It may also be downloaded to your computer if you wish to save a copy. Handwritten applications are also accepted. The complete signed application is to be forwarded to your DDA regional office. Montgomery County residents send completed applications to the Southern Maryland Regional Office (SMRO).
- <http://dda.dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/howtoapply.aspx>
- **Funded by the DDA:** for employment, day, residential and support services for people with developmental disabilities. In order for DDA to determine whether a person is **eligible for services**, the person or someone acting on their behalf must complete an application for DDA services.

Long Term Services Provided by an Adult Service Provider are...

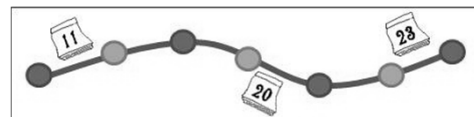
- If a student is found to be **DD eligible**, if the funds are available, the student will receive funding from DDA under the Governor's Transitioning Youth program
- Priority funding for eligible students that begins when the student exits the school system at 21 years of age
- The transitioning youth process is a collaborative effort between families, MCPS, the DDA, & the Coordinators of Community Services
- This process begins during the school year prior to the student's exiting year



The Transitioning Youth Process

- Between 14 and 16 years of age, apply to DDA
- At 18, apply to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- When the student is receiving SSI, apply for Medical Assistance
- In the spring/summer prior to the exiting year, families make appointments to visit adult providers
- In the students exiting year, families will receive a "choice letter" from the DDA
- Clients typically begin services after July 1st of their exiting year

The TY Timeline...





Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services

- **Eligibility based:** Students are referred in their junior year of high school by the Transition Support Teacher, or students/parents can do a self-referral
- **DORS is short-term funding:** typically 3 months; can re-apply for DORS services as often as needed
- **DORS counselors:** assist students with disabilities in preparing for the future. A DORS counselor may be able to:
 - Arrange for services and testing that will identify skills and abilities
 - Provide information about assistive technology. These are products and services that help with communication, daily living activities and mobility
 - Coordinate mentoring, summer employment and internships with local employers
 - Refer you to programs at the Workforce & Technology Center that help students with disabilities make the transition from school to work or higher education
 - Support college or technical school training related to your employment goal
 - Help you find a job that matches your strengths and interests
 - Help with job coaching

DORS

MARYLAND DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES (DORS)
2301 Argonne Drive
Baltimore, MD 21218
410-554-9442
888-554-0334 Toll Free
V.P. 443-798-2840
www.dors.maryland.gov

Transitioning To Adulthood: What's Next?

DORS

Transitioning To Adulthood: What's Next?

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MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PREPARING WORLD CLASS STUDENTS

03/15

Montgomery County, Maryland
Montgomery College

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
LIFE Program

Post-Secondary Options

- Seek career training to improve employment outcomes...Research has shown a strong relationship between postsecondary education & successful employment outcomes
- adult learning opportunities...Life long learning
- Explore areas of personal interests
- Increase & develop independence & social skills
- The chance to explore, define, & redefine personal goals...."



From: *Think College! Postsecondary Education Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities* & www.ncset.org

Why get a postsecondary education?

- **Eligibility vs. Entitlement**...Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the ADA
- Class schedules are more flexible and varied; classes are offered based on the college semesters (typically 14-15 weeks)
- Students are expected to take more responsibility for their academic work
- More independence; must be able to self-advocate and request needed accommodations
- Learn how to use all available resources; instructors are not always available
- **Cost**: a postsecondary program has to be a certified transition program in order for families to access financial aid (FAFSA)

What is Different About College?

- On a college campus, students are expected to be able to navigate the campus **independently**
- Attend classes **independently**
- Follow the campus' student code of conduct
- Make informed decisions and choices...**self-determination**
- Problem solve
- Understand their disability and the kind of support(s) they may need
- Know when to ask for assistance...**self-advocacy**



Expectations for A College Student

- **Montgomery College**

Challenge Program: The Challenge Program provides unique open enrollment enrichment courses for adults with developmental disabilities to help them function more independently in their homes, at work, and in the community. The courses are designed to enhance skills, develop new skills, and/or hone skills students may have already acquired. Of equal importance, students will have the opportunity to increase their social and community awareness by learning at Montgomery College

Graduate Transition Program: The Graduate Transition Program at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, is a custom-tailored learning community program that offers students a unique post-secondary opportunity to further their formal education. The objective of the program is to enable students, while in a supportive college environment, to transition to greater independent living through developmentally appropriate educational, vocational, and life-skill services. This two-year, tuition-based, credit-free certificate program focuses on basic academic skills, and enhances students' potential success as productive citizens in the community

Workforce Development Courses: Affordable, Practical, and Convenient classes. Looking for job skills, a career path? WD&CE may have the classes you need to enhance your job skills, help you prepare for a career, professional licensure, or certification in your chosen field

- **George Mason: LIFE Program:** The Mason LIFE Program is an innovative post-secondary program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who desire a university experience in a supportive academic environment.

Local Postsecondary Options

- Students can begin taking classes at 16, while they are still enrolled in an MCPS high school program
- These courses will help young adults with developmental disabilities function more independently in the home, at work, and in the community
- Fall and Spring semesters are 10 weeks. There is a summer session beginning in May
- Students are expected to attend classes independently
- Brochures with class schedules come out each semester and registration is: Online, Mail in, Fax, or Walk In

The Challenge Program at Montgomery College

Basic Reading and Writing

You will learn basic reading comprehension skills, build vocabulary, and develop writing skills. The emphasis is on understanding main idea, sequence of events, context clues, and basic grammar. You will gain knowledge through interactive group work activities, work sheets, and videos designed to engage you while acquiring necessary reading comprehension skills. *Instructor: M. Schneider*

Course: SPP272 15 Hours

\$152 + \$62 fee = \$214; Non-Md. residents add \$140

Rockville Campus

CRN#: 11034 10 Sessions

6/18–7/23 R,F

220 CC 9–10:30 a.m.

No class 7/3

Exploring Careers—Introduction

Exploring careers involves discovering your own interests, researching career options, planning and goal setting. It's not the same as job searching. In this course you will understand the importance of salary and benefits, education and training, and the importance of volunteering. Learn how your interests and skills help you discover your career goals. You will learn employment trends—what's hot and what's not. *Instructor: J. Solyst*

Course: SPP332 15 Hours

\$152 + \$62 fee = \$214; Non-Md. residents add \$140

Rockville Campus

CRN#: 11101 10 Sessions

6/16–8/18 T

116 PE 5:15–6:45 p.m.

Montgomery College
Workforce Development & Continuing Education

240-567-5188

The Challenge Program

For Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Register Now! **Summer 2015** **Register Now!**
Course Schedule

These unique courses will help adults with developmental disabilities function more independently in the home, at work, and in the community. Of equal importance, students will have the opportunity to increase their social and community awareness by visiting Montgomery College and learning what it has to offer.

Before attending Challenge courses, please inquire at the Campus Center Building, Room 220, Rockville Campus for information regarding class time changes, date changes, course cancellations, or classroom changes. Please register on time, classes fill quickly. Limited scholarships available.

NEW THIS Summer!

Contact Information:
Karla Nabors:
 240-567-1660
 karla.nabors@montgomerycollege.edu

Famous People with Disabilities
 Research and analyze the strengths and talents of individuals with disabilities and how they impacted the world!

- Rockville Campus
- The objective of the program is to enable students, while in a supportive college environment, to transition to greater independent living through developmentally appropriate educational, vocational, and life-skill services
- A 2 year, tuition-based, non-credit, certificate program offering academic classes, job coaching, job development, career exploration, and social and recreational activities
- A limited number of Scholarships are available for qualified students
- The program schedule consists of two 14-week semesters, for two years. Students receive academic instruction 3 hours per day, Monday through Friday in either a morning or afternoon cohort
- Classes offered include Reading and Writing, Science, Health, Anatomy, World History and Current Events, Communications and Public Speaking, Art, Computers, and more. During the student's two-year period, Montgomery College works with the DDA providers to offer volunteer positions, internships, and possible paid employment.
- The Graduate Transition Program is open to students who have exited from special education high school programs, have a minimum reading level of 2nd grade, have basic conversational skills, and independent self-help skills

Montgomery College Graduate Transition Program

http://www2.montgomerycollege.edu/departments/wdce/brochures/gtp.pdf

montgomerycollege.edu

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Page Safety Tools

A Unique Partnership

Montgomery College/Workforce Development & Continuing Education has partnered with Target Community and Educational Services, Inc., and Potomac Community Resources, Inc. to offer students enriched work and recreational experiences, in addition to a well-rounded college campus experience.

Target Community and Educational Services, Inc. the vocational employment provider for the program, helps students find employment based on individual interests, strengths and regional employment opportunities. In addition, they provide travel training and job coaching support.

Potomac Community Resources, Inc., encourages social involvement in the community through a wide variety of evening and weekend social and recreational activities, including Tai Chi classes, music groups, a photography club, basketball, tennis, seminars, dances, and more.

Karla Nabors, Program Director of the Graduate Transition Program, is a proud recipient of the Montgomery County Mag's/Messac, Transition in Excellence Award.

Montgomery College
Workforce Development
& Continuing Education
11 Manassas Street
Rockville, MD 20850

The Graduate Transition Program
Academic Classes
Vocational Employment Services
Social and Recreational Activities

Montgomery College is an equal opportunity employer committed to a diverse and inclusive community serving its students, faculty, staff and staff.

Graduate Transition Program
A College Experience
for Students
with Developmental Disabilities

Montgomery College
Workforce Development & Continuing Education
In partnership with
Target Community and Educational Services, Inc.
Potomac Community Resources, Inc.

About Us

The Graduate Transition Program at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, is a custom-tailored learning community program that offers students a unique post-secondary opportunity to further their formal education. The objective of the program is to enable students, while in a supportive college environment, to transition to greater independent living through developmentally appropriate educational, vocational, and life-skills services. This two-year, tuition-based, credit-free certificate program focuses on basic academic skills, and enhances students' potential success as productive citizens in the community.

The College schedule consists of two 14-week semesters, for two years. Students receive academic instruction 3 hours per day, Monday through Friday. Small class sizes, experienced faculty and staff, and individual classroom assistants encourage an interactive and dynamic learning environment designed specifically for students with special needs. Classes offered include Reading and Writing, Science, Health, Anatomy, World History and Current Events, Communications and Public Speaking, Art, Computers, and more.

Our mission is to empower individuals to live, learn, work, and participate in the social fabric of our community. We believe, given the opportunity and proper support, all individuals can achieve academic success, successful careers, and personal growth.

The Graduate ... HTSD Stuff... HJ... Inbox - Margar... NSJ, post2nda... Making the Tr... The Transition... 2:44 PM 5/11/2012

- The Mason LIFE (learning into future environments) Program is a postsecondary program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who desire a university experience in a supportive academic environment
- Students: 18-23 years of age; students can attend with or without a certificate; Students **do not** have to be Virginia residents
- The Mason LIFE Program is located at the George Mason University Fairfax campus
- Students will receive a certificate upon completion of the program
- The Mason LIFE Program is designed to be a four-year program. Students attend classes from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday
- The class selections will be determined through the student's person centered planning meeting with the assistance of the Program Director and the University Coordinator.

George Mason LIFE Program

- Expectations: students will independently negotiate transitions between classrooms and buildings, meals, and non-academic activities independently and unsupervised after initial orientation training; a basic level of independence, self-sufficiency, understanding of personal safety and openness to learning is expected for a student to be part of the Mason LIFE Program
- Half of the Mason LIFE students commute to the university; half are residential students who live either on campus or just off campus in a townhouse community
- Funding: The Mason LIFE Program is a Comprehensive Transition Program so families can apply for federal financial aid with the FAFSA
- The fall Information Session is on Friday, September 2, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the George Mason University - Fairfax campus. Registration is required

George Mason LIFE Program

- Together, come up with a plan for what life after high school will look like; collaborate with the high school Transition Support Teacher and case manager
- Involve your child in their IEP meetings
- Does your child understand his/her disability?
- Begin to promote independence at home: empower your child to be as independent as possible
- Provide opportunities for your child to make decisions and problem solve (**self-determination and self-advocacy**)
- Begin to utilize public transportation and practice safe pedestrian skills
- Give your child chores at home to promote a positive work ethic
- Reinforce good hygiene practices
- Model and expect appropriate behavior and social skills

What can parents do to support this transition process?

- <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/special-education/programs-services/transition-services-unit.aspx>
- <http://dda.dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/Home.aspx>
- <http://dors.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- www.thinkcollege.net
- <http://studentaid.ed.gov/eligibility/intellectual-disabilities>
- <http://www.mdtransition.org/>
- <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/ce/challenge.html>
- <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/ce/gtp.html>
- <http://www.pacer.org/transition/>

On-Line Resources



Questions?