



# Promise Pathway Program



## What is it?

This Promise Pathway Program is designed to address the financial barriers for Washington County students who have the academic readiness and commitment to succeed in college, but lack all the necessary financial resources to do so, even if they qualify for federal financial aid. The primary goal of the Promise Pathway Program is to assist eligible students in earning a college credential at HCC (a letter of recognition, program certificate, or associate degree), through financial assistance and academic guidance.

## Who benefits?

Officials at HCC and WCPS are working together to identify and recruit Washington County students who are appropriate candidates for the program. Public, private, and home-schooled students living in Washington County can apply to the program, with the support of their parents and school officials, as early as sixth grade, as program “prospects.” Student prospects will need to do well in school to be admitted in the program. They will not receive the financial support promise until 10th grade or later, when the student is formally awarded early admission status into an HCC program of study.

## What is the criteria for admission?

The primary criteria for admission into and retention within the program are maintenance of a minimum 2.5 GPA in high school and at HCC, documented family financial need, commitment to complete the FAFSA application, and intent to complete an HCC program. All applicants must apply for and use all available federal and state aid, as well as external scholarships they have, before the “promise dollars” are awarded.

## How is the program funded?

The program is being funded through current resources and ongoing fundraising and grants development efforts of Hagerstown Community College and the HCC Foundation.

*The program is designed to assist more than 1,000 local young people, over the next 10 years, to receive guidance and financial support to complete a college education that will, in most cases, be a pathway to a local middle-class job.*

## To apply or learn more:

Visit [www.hagerstowncc.edu/promise](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/promise) or contact Samantha Willard at 240-500-2340 or [swillard@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:swillard@hagerstowncc.edu).

\*Those who are uncertain about meeting financial need criteria are encouraged to apply.





# Promise Pathway Program Application Process



## What is the application process?

The Promise Pathway Program has a two-tiered application process. Washington County students can apply as early as sixth grade to become prospects. Prospect applicants will need to do well in school to be admitted to the program as prospects. Prospects will not receive the financial support promise until 10th grade or later, when prospect students are invited to apply for a Promise Scholarship through the HCC Foundation. If accepted, prospect students will transition to Promise Pathway Program scholarship students and awarded early admission status into an HCC program of study.

HCC's Promise Pathway Program funded participants will be eligible to enroll at HCC as ESSENCE Early College students, STEMM Technical Middle College students, or as part-time/full-time undergraduate students. Promise Pathway Program funded students will receive scholarships to support tuition and fees.

### Prospect Application Process

**Step 1:** Students and parents should complete the Promise Pathway Program application form found at [www.hagerstowncc.edu/promise](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/promise).

**Step 2:** Forms completed in Step 1 are turned in to the school Principal's Office. Home-schooled students can mail their forms directly to HCC.

**Step 3:** School Principal completes the Recommendation Form and returns all forms and student information to HCC. This step should be completed by March 1 if the student is applying for Promise funding for the following fall semester.

**Step 4:** All sophomores, juniors, and seniors who wish to apply for Promise Program funding for the fall semester must apply to HCC, submit high school transcripts, and complete the FAFSA by March 1. Completing the FAFSA allows us to begin the planning process for awarding Promise Program funding to students for the fall semester. If you need assistance with the FAFSA, please contact our Financial Aid Office at 240-500-2473 or [finaid@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:finaid@hagerstowncc.edu).

**Step 5:** Letters will be mailed to those students who fit the criteria in April. Those who do will be invited to a summer bridge program in July. Those who do not meet the criteria will be encouraged to complete the Foundation Scholarship Application to apply for other HCC scholarships. The Foundation Scholarship deadline is June 1.

**Step 6:** Students should be registered by May 15 to receive Promise Program Funding or other HCC scholarships.

Rising 6th-9th graders will be required to attend the HCC Open House each spring. Rising 6th-9th graders will receive details from HCC about the Open House in February.

*The program will create a new, viable college financing solution for local economically disadvantaged students to earn a post-secondary education, elevating family incomes and strengthening the local workforce.*

