

Contact Information

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Adult Education Program



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Improve Yourself Improve Your Life

Hagerstown Community College offers a variety of free adult education services including:

- Literacy and basic skills
- Preparation for the GED® test
- Preparation for the National External Diploma Program (NEDP)
- English as a Second Language (ESL)

Benefits of a GED or NEDP:

- Improve your skills
- Get a better job
- Go to college
- Increase your income
- Feel good about yourself
- Invest in your future

How do I get started?

Call the Adult Education Office at 240-500-2313 for an appointment. Day and evening appointments are available. All students must attend an orientation session.

At the session, you will:

- Learn which classes are offered
- Take a short assessment to determine your skill level
- Meet with an adult education representative to review your scores

Classes are offered at multiple locations including the main HCC campus, the HCC Valley Mall Center, the Family Center, and Western Maryland Consortium. Most classes run for 12-week sessions from July through August, September through December and January through April.



Adult Education Programs at HCC

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM (ABE)

What is the ABE Program?

Individuals who have not earned a high school diploma are eligible to attend classes to improve their basic skills in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies through teacher-directed lessons, computer-based programs, and independent work outside of class. Students ages 17 to 18 must not be currently enrolled in public school to qualify. Some students wish to seek a Maryland diploma by preparing to take the GED® Test or completing the NEDP program. Students whose reading skills are below grade three are referred to HCC's partner, the Washington County Literacy Council, for more intensive assistance prior to enrolling in classes.

How are the classes structured?

All students are assessed at the orientation session and then are placed into the appropriate class level.

ABE Beginning: Offers instruction in basic reading, math, and writing (Free)

ABE Intermediate: Builds on the upper elementary skills in math/science or language arts/social studies classes (Free)

ABE Advanced: Goes beyond basics and introduces students to middle level reading, math, writing, science, and social studies (Free)

Adult Secondary Education—GED® Express: Reviews high school-level math/science or language arts/social studies in preparation for the GED® test (Free)

GED® Readiness: Students who score highly on the placement test are referred to GED® Test preparation activities and given the Official GED® Practice Test, GED Ready, to determine readiness to take the actual GED® Test (Free)

NOTE: Students whose scores do not qualify them for the GED® Express class will take longer to prepare for the GED® test.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

General Educational Development (GED®)

In Maryland, an adult who has dropped out of school can earn a high school diploma in two ways: passing the GED® test or by completing the National External Diploma Program (NEDP).



What is the GED® test?

The GED® test measures a student's educational level on a variety of core subjects in a computer-based assessment. A student who obtains a GED® test credential has displayed the same general level of academic achievement as the typical student who graduates from high school.

What is the GED® test like?

The computer-based GED® test has four subject areas: mathematics, language arts/reading, science, and social studies.

To qualify for a Maryland high school diploma, a minimum score of 150 must be earned on each section. In Maryland, the cost is \$11.25 per section or all four parts of the test for \$45. Each section is scheduled separately at an official state testing center and paid for on the www.ged.com website.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

National External Diploma Program (NEDP)

What is the National External Diploma Program?

The NEDP is a self-paced program that is measured through projects and activities that are completed on a computer. Students must be self-motivated and learn independently, as there is no instructional component. Student work is reviewed through one-to-one appointments with trained assessment staff. There is a minimum CASAS score needed to qualify for this program and a cost of \$90 to participate.

How long will it take to get a diploma?

The time needed for students to prepare for the GED® test will vary according to skill level, motivation, and commitment. Students can count on five hours of class instruction, two hours of computer-based instruction, and nine hours of out-of-class practice to make progress. Typical progress to improve one level takes 120 hours.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

What is the ESL Program?

The ESL Program provides English language skills in speaking, writing, listening, and reading for students whose first language is not English. Some classes incorporate civics education and job skills into the course. These classes allow students to progress at their own pace through a combination of teacher-directed lessons and at-home practice. HCC offers five levels of adult classes:

ESL Beginning is for students who have limited ability communicating in English (Free)

ESL Low Intermediate helps students with limited routine English proficiency within familiar settings (Free)

ESL High Intermediate is for those with fluency in simple daily situations (Free)

ESL Advanced is for advanced students wanting to improve their skills and those who are planning to enter college. Successful completion of all academic assignments and a passing score on the final exam will satisfy the ESL 098 prerequisite and allow immediate entry into ESL 099 (Free)

ESL Bridge is for advanced students wanting to enter college. Successful completion of all academic assignments and a passing score on the final exam will satisfy the ESL 099 prerequisite and allow immediate entry to ESL 100 (Free)

Note: The purchase of books is required for ESL classes.