

Online Pathway to Graduation Program

**A Pathway for
High School Students
to Earn a High School Diploma**

Goals of the Online Pathway to Graduation Program

- ✓ To complete online courses required to achieve a high school diploma
- ✓ To provide students with an alternative method to obtain high school credit



Rockville, Maryland



What is the Online Pathway to Graduation Program?

The Online Pathway to Graduation (OPTG) is a year-long program that enables both former Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) students, and current MCPS seniors needing three credits or fewer, to meet the academic requirements for a Maryland High School diploma. The instruction in these classes will be delivered online. In addition, there will be a teacher in a centrally-located computer classroom who will be monitoring participant progress and facilitating individual instruction if needed.

Participants will progress through the courses at their own pace, completing assignments, and taking assessments to demonstrate mastery of course objectives. As participants successfully complete each course, credit will be awarded, thus helping the participant progress toward the goal of earning a high school diploma. Participants still will be responsible for completing all Maryland and MCPS graduation requirements, including High School Assessment and student service learning requirements.

Who can participate?

Eligible participants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Former MCPS students no longer enrolled in MCPS as of August 31, 2011, or current MCPS seniors who are enrolled in at least one class at his/her home school
- Three credits or fewer needed to graduate
- Already passed the Maryland High School Assessment (HSA) for any online HSA course needed; HSA-related OPTG courses may be taken for credit recovery only and not for original credit
- Have not earned a General Equivalency Diploma (GED)
- Able to complete all graduation requirements prior to their 22nd birthday according to state regulation
- Private school students and others who have never attended an MCPS high school are not eligible to participate in this program.



What online courses are available?

The following table provides a list of all available OPTG program courses. Successful completion of each course (A or B) will earn the participant .5 credit.

ENGLISH	MATHEMATICS	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES
English 9 A/B	Algebra 1 A/B *	Earth Science A/B	Modern World History A/B
English 10 A/B*	Algebra 2 A/B	Physical Science A/B	U.S. History A/B
English 11 A/B	Geometry A/B	Biology A/B *	
English 12 A/B	Precalculus A/B		

* For participants who have passed the Maryland HSA; for credit recovery only

When and where are onsite classes scheduled?

- Participants access their classes online from any location with an internet connection.
- Once registered, participants must attend an orientation session to review online course expectations and receive access codes.
- All onsite support sessions will be offered at the Center for Technology Innovation (CTI), 4 Choke Cherry Road, Rockville, Maryland 20850
 - Math and Science:
Mondays and Wednesdays,
5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
 - English and Social Studies:
Tuesdays and Thursdays,
5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
- Apex Learning will provide telephone support.
- All final assessments must be completed onsite.

How much does the program cost?

The cost of the program is \$310 for students not enrolled in an MCPS high school. (MCPS students who are currently enrolled in an MCPS high school do not need to pay tuition.) For this cost, participants may take up to three credits and must complete all coursework prior to May 24, 2012. No tuition waiver is available.

How do I find out more about the Online Pathway to Graduation Program?

- Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/extendedhours/online-program
- Call the counseling office at the high school you last attended
- Contact the Office of School Performance at 301-279-3202

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What are the advantages of the Online Pathway to Graduation Program?

- Students can work at their own pace, either at home or in CTI.
- Students can access support from the course provider who is present in the computer classroom.
- Students can earn from 0.5 to three credits for graduation to meet high school academic credit requirements.

How can I get started?

- Complete the registration form and Student Planner Agreement.
- Have the registration form and Student Planner Agreement signed by the counseling office at the high school you last attended.
- Mail the completed forms to:
Montgomery County Public Schools
Office of School Performance
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

This document is available in an alternate format, upon request, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, by contacting the Public Information Office, at 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 112, Rockville, MD 20850, or by phone at 301-279-3391 or via the Maryland Relay at 1-800-735-2258.

Individuals who need sign language interpretation or cued speech transliteration in communicating with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) may contact Interpreting Services in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at 301-517-5539.

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Published by the Department of Materials Management
for the Office of School Performance

