

Careers

Mental health associates work directly with clients, focusing on their care, treatment, and rehabilitation. They have the opportunity to work in programs for preschool children, troubled adolescents, substance abusers, and senior citizens.

Technicians establish a therapeutic relationship with assigned patients, help patients with daily living and overall needs. They may be required to take vital signs, weigh patients, and collect routine specimens.

Mental health counselors emphasize prevention, and work with individuals, families, and groups to address and treat mental and emotional disorders and to promote optimum mental health. Gerontological counselors provide services to elderly persons who face changing lifestyles due to health problems, and help families cope with these changes.

Salary

Median annual earnings for mental health counselors in 2004 were \$32,960. Online career sites offer positions for mental health technicians ranging from \$22,784 to \$28,853.

Job Outlook

Formal education is necessary to gain employment as a counselor. About half of all counselors have a master's degree. Overall employment of counselors is expected to grow faster than the average through 2014.

Education & Training Options

Montgomery College offers an associate of applied science degree (A.A.S.) in mental health associate. The program curriculum has three objectives:

- to prepare the career student who wants a technical curriculum for immediate paid employment upon graduation;
- to provide the transfer student with an adequate and yet flexible background so that study may be continued in the field of psychology, sociology, or social work; and
- to permit a student to continue with an education on a part-time basis, while being gainfully employed.

(See reverse for mental health associate curriculum.)

■ Degree

The curriculum is designed to educate a mental health generalist who is trained for a variety of related occupations, rather than for a specific job. Part of the curriculum consists of supervised field experiences in several different kinds of agencies and institutions in the field of human services, such as mental health, mental retardation, gerontology, drugs and alcohol rehabilitation, corrections, and school systems, and in culturally disadvantaged areas.

Contact @ MC

Takoma Park/Silver Spring240-567-1394
www.montgomerycollege.edu

Mental Health Associate Curriculum

Degrees, Certificates, and Letters of Recognition

Montgomery College is authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to offer four degrees (associate of arts, associate of science, associate of applied science, and associate of arts in teaching) and certificates. In addition, the College recognizes students who satisfactorily complete certain course sequences with letters of recognition.

Some curricula are offered at all campuses, whereas others are limited to one or two. When a curriculum is offered at a specific campus, it is indicated by G for Germantown, R for Rockville, or TP for Takoma Park/Silver Spring.

Admission to Montgomery College is open to all.

Math, English, and reading assessment tests are required prior to registering. (Some students may be exempt from assessment. Consult the *Montgomery College Catalog* for criteria.) Financial aid and scholarships are available to qualified candidates.

Take the next step.

Complete an Application for Admission form (online @ www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions/mcadmiss.htm) or call 240-567-5000 for information.

Mental Health Associate A.A.S. (TP)

First Semester

EN 101	Techniques of Reading and Writing I	3
HE 100	Principles of Healthier Living	1
MH 101	Introduction to Mental Health I	3
MH 112	Group Dynamics I	3
PY 102	General Psychology	3

Second Semester

	English foundation	3
	Mathematics foundation	3
MH 102	Introduction to Mental Health II	3
MH 213	Group Dynamics II	3
PY 221	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	3
	Elective	1

Third Semester

MH 200	Practicum, Fieldwork in Mental Health/Human Services	6
MH 208	Activities Therapies	3
	Arts or humanities distribution	3
	Natural sciences lab distribution	4

Fourth Semester

MH 200	Practicum, Fieldwork in Mental Health/Human Services	6
	PY elective	3
	Speech foundation	3
	Behavioral and social sciences distribution	3

Total credit hours 60