

University/College Partnerships Frequently Asked Questions

Important Information: University/College (U/C) Partnerships provide Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) staff, both support and professional, with the opportunity to further their education in order to increase their skills to meet the needs of MCPS. The University/College program provides state-of-the-art programs that align with MCPS goals and meet Board of Education priorities.

- 1. Q: What is a U/C Partnership program?**
A: This is a collaboratively developed program between an institution of higher education and MCPS that focuses on career and professional development in high need areas for the school system.
- 2. Q: How can I get more information on U/C Partnerships?**
A: You can get more information on U/C Partnerships by going to the following MCPS website:
<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/dsd/partnerships.html>.
- 3. Q: How can I ascertain when a U/C Partnership will start?**
A: Partnerships can begin anytime. Prior to the partnership beginning, an advertisement for an interest meeting will be placed in The Bulletin. The advertisement will let you know when and where the interest meeting will be held. At the interest meeting pertinent information will be disseminated about the partnership.
- 4. Q: What are the benefits of being in a U/C Partnership?**
A: Each individual U/C Partnership is different. Generally, partnership benefits include one or more of the following: reduced tuition and fees, reduced book costs, convenience, job embedded training, possibility of fulltime employment, partial tuition reimbursement, and the support of a cohort group.
- 5. Q: What Institutions of Higher Education currently partner with MCPS?**
A: MCPS partners with Bowie State University, Johns Hopkins University, Hood College, McDaniel College, Towson University, Trinity College, and the University of Maryland.
- 6. Q: Do partnerships result in master's degrees?**
A: Yes, some partnerships result in master's degrees. Currently, master's degrees are awarded in the following areas: Elementary Education, Human Development, Special Education, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Administration and Supervision, Reading, Educational Technology, and School Library Media.
- 7. Q: Can I get a certification through a partnership program?**

- A: Yes, there are partnerships that result in certification. Certification programs are the following: ESOL, Special Education, Elementary Education, School Library Media, Administration and Supervision, and Reading.
8. **Q: How long do partnership programs usually take to complete?**
A: That varies from partnership to partnership and whether you have an education background and a master's degree already before beginning the program. Usually, teacher education programs (i.e., Special Education, School Library Media, ESOL, Elementary Education, and Reading) take two years. If you have a master's degree and are currently a certified teacher, certification programs (i.e., Administration and Supervision and ESOL) take one to one and one-half years to complete.
9. **Q: Can I get a doctorate via the partnership route?**
A: Currently, there is a doctoral partnership with the University of Maryland at College Park that has about 20 MCPS participants. This program may open to new candidates in the future.
- Q: Who can I contact for further information on U/C partnerships?**
A: For further information contact the MCPS U/C partnership specialist at 301-353-8556.