

## PALS Contact Information

### Program of Adult Literacy Services (PALS)

[hagerstowncc.edu/pals](http://hagerstowncc.edu/pals)  
[pals@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:pals@hagerstowncc.edu)  
240-500-2313

### Learning Support Center

240-500-2560  
[lsc@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:lsc@hagerstowncc.edu)



## Program of Adult Literacy Services (PALS)



**Go Further at HCC!**

**Vaya más allá con HCC!**

勤求新知，  
請到黑格士社區大學進修



### Make a change today with the Program of Literacy Services (PALS) at Hagerstown Community College

- Literacy and basic skills
- Preparation for the GED® test
- National External Diploma Program (NEDP)
- English for Speakers of other Languages (ESL)
- Ability to Benefit (ATB) coursework
- Career-readiness training and programs
- Workplace and soft skill training

### Benefits of working with PALS:

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



### What is PALS?

PALS is the Program of Adult Literacy Services at Hagerstown Community College. Our mission is to provide students with educational and workforce training opportunities to enhance their lives as individuals, workers, and members of the community.

### Who is PALS for?

Students interested in enrolling must be 18 years of age, officially withdrawn from public school, and a Maryland resident.

### Where are classes held?

Classes are offered at multiple local locations including the main Hagerstown Community College campus, the HCC Valley Mall Center, the Family Center of Washington County, and the Western Maryland Consortium. Online options are available for some students. Class schedules and session lengths vary throughout the year.



[hagerstowncc.edu/pals](http://hagerstowncc.edu/pals)

### Pasos para empezar:

- Concierte una cita para realizar una prueba de evaluación.
- Hable con un especialista sobre las clases adecuadas para usted.
- ¡Regístrese para las clases!

Llame al Programa de Servicios de Alfabetización para Adultos (PALS) al 240-500-2313 o visite [www.hagerstowncc.edu/pals](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/pals) para programar una cita para el examen de evaluación.



*Stay close. Go far.*

Quedándose cerca puede llegar lejos.  
[www.hagerstowncc.edu](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu)

# Adult Literacy Services at HCC

## ADULT EDUCATION OPTIONS

### Adult Basic Education (ABE):

Courses designed to support development of fundamental reading, writing, and math skills. ABE courses set the foundation for students to be successful in higher-level GED Preparation courses or short-term career training programs. Courses are free.



### Integrated Education and Training:

*Careers in Less Than a Year!*

Courses designed to provide students with career training certifications. Students work to develop the necessary skills for certification completion and career readiness, while also strengthening basic literacy and soft skills. Minimal fees attached to some of the training certifications. Grant funding assistance is available to those who qualify. Contact office for offerings and details.

### Ability to Benefit (ATB) Program

Qualifying students can work toward a high school diploma while enrolling in college coursework and eligible career pathway programs using Federal Financial Aid funding.

## HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OPTIONS

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).

## GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT (GED) TEST

### What is the GED® test?

The computer-based GED test has four subject areas: Mathematical Reasoning, Reasoning through Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

To qualify for a Maryland high school diploma, a minimum score of 145 must be earned on each section. Each section is scheduled separately at an official state testing center and paid for on the [www.ged.com](http://www.ged.com) website.

### What is the GED Prep Course?

GED prep courses are designed to prepare students to take and pass the GED exam and earn a Maryland high school diploma. Students can enroll in either Social Studies and Language Arts courses or Math and Science courses, or both. Participation in our classes can reduce the cost of taking the four sections of the GED test. Courses are free.



## 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 completed on a computer. Students must be self-motivated and learn independently, as there is no instructional component. Student work is reviewed through weekly one-to-one appointments with trained assessment staff. There is a minimum CASAS score needed to qualify. This program is free.



### How long will it take to get a diploma?

The time needed for students to complete the NEDP will vary according to skill level, motivation, and commitment and ranges from 3-9 months. Each week, students can count on five to ten hours of independent online work as well as a one-hour meeting with the assigned Assessor/Advisor.



## ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESL)

### What ESL classes do you offer?

PALS teaches the basics of reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English. Students are placed into beginning to advanced classes based on an assessment score. Courses are free, though books must be purchased.

PALS enseña los conceptos básicos de lectura, escritura, expresión oral y comprensión auditiva en inglés. Los estudiantes son colocados en clases de principiante a avanzado en base a un puntaje de evaluación. Los cursos son gratuitos, pero los libros no.



### Do you have career training for English-Language Learners (ELL) students?

Some courses are designed to provide career training and certifications for non-native English speakers. Students will successfully complete short-term training programs that lead to certification in various fields, while improving English reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. This opportunity enhances students' chances for immediate employment. Enrollment is dependent upon skill level.