

## ADULT EDUCATION

### National External Diploma Program (NEDP®)

#### NEDP Overview:

The National External Diploma Program is a Maryland state-approved method to earn a Maryland High School Diploma. To qualify, you must be age 18 or older and demonstrate high-school-level skills through a free screening process that includes tests in math and reading. Once enrolled in the program, you will also be evaluated by writing a short essay. Since many adults have acquired these skills through life and work experiences, NEDP® allows mature adults to demonstrate them by applying their life experiences to real-life situations. Participants work toward their high school diploma by demonstrating reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, problem-solving, and critical thinking academic skills through the performance of real-life tasks. The tasks are in a web-based format, so a computer with Windows 10 or higher and internet access are required. An entry-level job skill must also be demonstrated by each participant. Because this program was designed especially for adults, it is:

- Self-paced with assignments completed independently, not in a classroom setting
- Conducted through weekly one-on-one confidential online appointments and ongoing email exchanges with Maryland state-trained assessors

Individuals assemble an online portfolio which demonstrates their academic competencies and life skills. They do not take nor need to pass an exam when their work is complete, but instead will achieve their diploma via a satisfactorily completed portfolio. **NOTE: This is a challenging program, and will take a lot of dedication, time, and effort. Please be prepared to be challenged!**

#### NEDP® Requirements:

You must:

- Be at least 18 years old and officially withdrawn from high school
- Have proof of Maryland residency
- Have a verifiable job skill, full-time or part-time, or have proof of volunteer activities
- Have basic computer skills, as well as a computer with Windows 10 or higher and internet access
- Attend an orientation session to ensure that the NEDP is a good fit for you
- Get passing scores on the math and reading tests
- Write a qualifying sample essay

Once you have met the required test criteria, you will be eligible to commence your NEDP® studies. We will provide free classes, small group or individual tutoring as needed to qualify for the program.

The cost of the program is \$200, payable when you have passed the math and reading tests and you are ready to start the NEDP®.

You can expect to complete the program within 6-12 months, but it can be done in less or more time.

You will receive a Maryland High School Diploma upon your completion of the program.

To get started, please email your interest to the coordinator at [NEDP@pgcc.edu](mailto:NEDP@pgcc.edu). For information on skills workshops, adult basic education classes, GED registration, or other questions, please call 301-546-0891 or 301-546-8350.