

## Academic Programs

Germanna Community College is a comprehensive institution of higher education offering programs of instruction generally extending no more than two years beyond the high school level. The College provides residents of the area with opportunities to pursue many educational goals. In addition, the College offers a strong counseling program and other services to students, all designed to assist students in making decisions regarding occupational, educational, and personal goals.

## General Education Goals

General Education is that portion of the collegiate experience that addresses the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values characteristic of educated persons. It is unbounded by disciplines and honors the connections among bodies of knowledge. Germanna Community College graduates will demonstrate competency in the following general education areas:

**Communication:** A competent communicator can interact with others using all forms of communication, resulting in understanding and being understood.

**Critical Thinking:** A competent critical thinker evaluates evidence and applies reasoning to decide what to believe and how to act.

**Cultural and Social Understanding:** A culturally and socially competent person possesses an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the interconnectedness of the social and cultural dimensions within and across local, regional, state, national, and global communities.

**Information Literacy:** A person who is competent in information literacy recognizes when information is needed and has the ability to locate, evaluate, and use it effectively.

**Personal Development:** An individual engaged in personal development strives for physical well-being and emotional maturity.

**Quantitative Reasoning:** A person who is competent in quantitative reasoning possesses the skills and knowledge necessary to apply the use of logic, numbers, and mathematics to deal effectively with common problems and issues. A person who is quantitatively literate can use numerical, geometric, and measurement data and concepts, mathematical skills, and principles of mathematical reasoning to draw logical conclusion and to make well-reasoned decisions.

**Scientific Reasoning:** A person who is competent in scientific reasoning adheres to a self-correcting system of inquiry (the specific method) and relies on empirical evidence to



describe, understand, predict, and control natural phenomenon. The associate degree programs at Germanna Community College support a collegiate experience that focuses on the above definitions and attendant areas.

### **Programs of Instruction at Germanna Community College include:**

**Occupational-Technical:** Programs designed to meet the increasing demand for technicians and semiprofessional workers in business, industry, the professions, and public service.

**College Transfer:** Programs designed for transfer to baccalaureate degree programs in four-year colleges and universities.

**General Interest:** Courses designed to be meaningful to an individual in his/her development as a person, as a family member, and as a citizen. These courses may be taken as part of a program or separately for personal interest.

**Developmental Studies:** Courses numbered 01-09 which help individuals obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in courses in occupational-technical or college transfer programs, to meet current and future job requirements, or to meet personal goals.

**Distance Learning:** Germanna Community College is committed to providing access to its programs of study. Through Distance Learning, the College offers the following alternatives to traditional classroom-based instruction. For more information about distance education at Germanna, students can talk to a counselor or faculty advisor, or they can go to the distance education website at [www.germanna.edu/dli/](http://www.germanna.edu/dli/).

**On-line Courses** can be taken anywhere there is access to the Internet. These courses allow students to participate according to their own schedule, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. It is expected, however, that students meet deadlines as established by the instructors. Students can communicate with their instructor and each other in a variety of ways, such as online discussion groups, virtual chat, e-mail, and telephone. Access to course materials is through the Blackboard course management system. Access to educational resources and support is available through Germanna's library, Student Services, and the Tutoring Center.

**Hybrid Courses** combine face to face instruction with online course work.

**Interactive Courses** These are live, two-way courses taken in the College's Commonwealth Classrooms via the Virginia Distance Education Network (VDEN). The College has interactive video classrooms on both campuses to bring courses simultaneously to students at either location.

**International Education:** Since its inception, Germanna Community College has sought to globalize its curriculum through cross-cultural travel, faculty and student exchange, and international programs and activities. Germanna has encouraged students and faculty to participate in regularly

offered extracurricular discussion groups and in credit and noncredit travel programs. Students and faculty have benefited from travel abroad to such places as Mexico, Central America, and Europe. Germanna Community College remains committed to increasing global awareness within its learning community.

**Courses for Teacher Recertification:** Some courses offered at Germanna Community College may be appropriate for persons seeking teacher recertification. All proposed course work taken to comply with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Certification Requirements for Teachers and for professional development must be approved by the teacher's employer (school district principal or superintendent, as appropriate) prior to enrolling in these courses.

**Special Training:** Provided where specific employment opportunities are available for new or expanding industries; coordinated with Virginia's economic expansion efforts and with the needs of employers.

**Specialized Regional and Community Services:** Noncredit programs, cultural events, workshops, meetings, lectures, conferences, seminars, and special community projects which are designed to provide needed cultural and educational opportunities to the citizens of the area.

**ODU Distance Learning Bachelor's and Master's Degree Program:** Students can earn bachelor's degrees and master's degrees at Germanna Community College through Distance Learning, a partnership between Germanna Community College and Old Dominion University. Distance Learning students may complete their first two years of course work at Germanna Community College. Old Dominion University provides the remaining course work at Germanna's Locust Grove and Fredericksburg Campuses primarily through satellite courses using state-of-the-art audio and video technologies. This gives students the opportunity to interact with each other and the instructor just as they would in a traditional classroom.

*The following bachelor's degree programs are available:* Business Administration (Accounting, Management, Marketing, Finance, and Information Systems); Criminal Justice; Engineering (Civil, Electrical, Mechanical); Computer Science; Health Sciences; Human Services; Human Services Counseling; Interdisciplinary Studies Teacher Prep PK-6 and Professional; Communications; Nursing: RN to BSN; and Occupational and Technical Studies. Teacher re-certification courses are also available for in-service teachers.

*The following master's degree programs are available:* Education (PK-6 and Special Education), Community Health, Nursing, and Occupational and Technical Studies. The above listed courses are also available at the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Dahlgren. Engineering Management and Modeling and Simulation are only available at Dahlgren. For more information, contact the ODU Distance Learning at (540) 423-9117 or (540) 891-3130. Teacher licensure program is available for those that already have a bachelor's degree. Ph.D. in Community College Leadership is only available at Germanna sites.

