

# COURSE descriptions

The Pascagoula Adult Learning Center (PASALC) offers a comprehensive academic and workforce program to any individual 16 years of age or older who are not currently enrolled in a K-12 school. All opportunities support employment, job training, and post-secondary education and training.

- **High School Equivalency Preparation**

PASALC offers training and support for people pursuing nationally recognized High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma programs. This program provides students with a flexible, supportive environment designed to help them succeed. Completing an HSE can help students secure a higher paying job or pursue higher educational opportunities.

- **ACT Work Keys (NCRC) Testing**

The ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (ACT NCRC) is an evidence-based credential that certifies to employers a potential employee has the essential skills needed to be successful in the workplace. The ACT NCRC is a valid predictor of job performance across a variety of industries. The program includes competency learning in Applied Math, Workplace Documents, and Graphic Literacy. All students are enrolled in our Smart Start Curriculum which includes employability skills and preparation for the ACT Work Keys.

- **ESL Classes**

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program is the specialized part of the Office of Adult Education that addresses the needs of adult English Language Learners. The ESL program provides instruction in English-language skills for reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension. Classes also provide instruction in U.S. citizenship, civics preparation, career awareness, job readiness, career pathway identification, and test preparation for high school equivalency exams.

- **Smart Start Classes**

The Smart Start credential is designed to help students gain the skills they need to be successful in today's economy. The program prepares students for middle-skill jobs such as machinists, registered nurses, computer technicians, medical assistants and a host of other opportunities by helping them learn and practice good work habits and the effective communications skills you need to secure meaningful employment.

Smart Start students are prepared to take the Work Keys test, which includes: Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents, that qualifies students for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). Successful completion of the Smart Start Curriculum results in two valuable workforce credentials—the MS Smart Start Credential and the National Career Readiness Credential (NCRC) both of which are recognized and used in the hiring process of our 100 Jackson County industries and businesses.

- **Workforce Training / Apprenticeships**

PASALC has formed partnerships with the Pascagoula Career & Technical Institute (CCTI), Huntington-Ingalls, Singing River Health System, and Halter Marine that provide our students opportunities for inclusion in Integrated Education and Training programs that lead to industry-recognized certifications, employment, and further on-the-job training and apprenticeships that allow for career advancement. Workforce training opportunities\* include:

- Pipefitting
- Structural Fitting
- CNA
- Registered Medical Assistant
- Welding
- Industrial Maintenance
- Phlebotomy
- Surgical Technologist

- **HiSET® Testing Center**

PASALC is a HiSET® testing center. The HiSET® exam is the first step toward college, a better job, or a whole new career. Aligned to new college-and-career readiness standards for adults, the HiSET® exam certifies that candidates' academic knowledge and skills are equivalent to those of high school graduates.

\* Training opportunities vary with the workforce needs of our employer partners.

