

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS PACKET

Admissions Requirements Due by Deadline:

- Complete the International Student Application online
- Copy of Passport and I-94 (if applicable)
- Submit official and evaluated transcripts and or/leaving certificates (high school, university, etc)
- Prove English Language Proficiency (ELP)
- Submit proof of financial support and additional documents
- For Transfer Students** - submit Transfer Status Verification Form and current I-20

Application Deadlines:

Applying for F-1 Status for the first time:

June 1 - Fall Semester (September)

October 1 - Spring Semester (January)

Transferring F-1 Status from other institutions:

August 1 - Fall Semester (September)

December 1 - Spring Semester (January)

Estimated Annual Expenses for International Students

Academic Year 2022-2023

(Based on 15 credits per semester)*

Tuition and fees	\$13,670
Housing, living, and personal expenses**	\$14,100
Books and supplies	\$1,600
Health Insurance (annual)***	\$3,858
TOTAL:	\$33,228

*All costs are subject to change and may vary for each student.

**There is an additional financial requirement for each dependent of \$7,050. Also, regardless of whether you live with family or friends in the area, you will still have to demonstrate that you have ample financial resources to support housing costs if necessary.

***Massachusetts law requires that all international students have health insurance (MA General Law Chapter 15A, Section 18). A charge for health insurance will be added to the student's tuition unless proof of comparable insurance from a U.S. based company is provided.

Note: Some programs may charge additional fees (ex: Culinary Arts, Nursing, Music, etc.)

Admissions Checklist Details

International Application:

- Found at hcc.edu/apply
- Create an HCC Admissions account and submit an International application.
- Pay \$100 non-refundable application processing fee. This can be paid with a VISA, MASTERCARD, or Discover credit card online, or be paid in person at our Student Accounts office in the Frost building, room #221.
- Prospective F-1 students may only apply for Associates degrees with the exception of the Culinary Arts Certificate. All other certificate options are not available for F-1 students.
- As we are an open enrollment institution, there are no academic requirements for all programs except Nursing, Vet Technician, and Radiology Technician.
 - * **NOTE:** Students looking to apply to a selective Health Science Program (Nursing, Vet Tech, Radiology Tech) must apply to HCC as a Foundations of Health Major. For more information about admission to those programs, email admissions@hcc.edu

Passport and I-94:

- All applicants must submit copies of passport pages with demographic/biographical information by uploading images to their admissions portal or emailing admissions@hcc.edu.
 - * If you are a transfer F-1 student, please also submit a copy of the visa page(s).
- If you are **in the United States** at the time of your application (F-1 transfer students or prospective students applying for a change of status), submit a copy of the I-94 Arrival and Departure Record.
 - * To find your I-94 online, go to <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>

Official Transcripts:

- All foreign documents must be translated and evaluated to US standards before being submitted to HCC.
- Please use any evaluation agency listed on naces.org.
 - * Many students use [SpanTran](#), [WES Evaluations](#), or [CED](#).
- For high school/secondary school completing, only a **general evaluation** is required. For students looking to transfer college credit from another country to HCC, note that they must request a **course-by-course** evaluation.

Proving English Proficiency:

If applying outside of the United States:

The following options can be used to prove English proficiency:

- If students completed high school in an institution where the language of instruction was English, this requirement can be waived.
 - * (Ex: Student is completed high school in the U.S or student lives in a country that has English as an official language)
- Submit official TOEFL or IELTS results taken within the last two years to Admissions email
 - * **Minimum TOEFL scores:** 80 or higher (internet based test)
 - ▶ To register for the TOEFL and to see test locations, visit toefl.org (HCC's CEEB code is 003437).
 - * **Minimum IELTS Band score is 6.5 or higher**
 - ▶ To register for the IELTS and for test locations, visit ielts.org
- Take the free English Accuplacer exam with the HCC Assessment Department remotely
 - * **Minimum Test Result:** Must test into College Composition (ENG 101) for acceptance.
 - * To schedule, please contact the Assessment office at assessment@hcc.edu
 - ▶ Review materials found at <https://www.hcc.edu/admission/course-placement>

If currently inside the United States:

The following options can be used to prove English proficiency:

- Any of the above options
- Submit official transcripts from a U.S. college/university demonstrating successful completion of college English.
- Take the free English Accuplacer exam with the HCC Assessment Department in person or remotely
 - * **Minimum Test Result:** Must test into College Composition (ENG 101) for acceptance.
 - * To schedule, please contact the Assessment office at assessment@hcc.edu
 - ▶ Review materials found at <https://www.hcc.edu/admission/course-placement>

Proof of Financial Support and Additional Documents

All submitted financial documents must be dated within 90 days of application

- All students must show adequate funds are available to support the student while studying in the United States by completing the following: ([Sample Bank Letter at this link](#))
 - * Mail a hard copy of a certified bank letter or bank statement verifying sufficient funds to attend HCC for a minimum of one year. The estimated annual cost of attendance is listed on page one of this packet.

- ▶ Bank letter/statement must be in the applicant's or sponsor's name.
- ▶ Bank statement must show adequate funding in either a checking and/or savings account and must specify what currency the balance is in if it is not from a U.S bank.
- ▶ Bank statement/letter must be signed and sealed by a bank official and be on an official letterhead.

- If the bank is a U.S. based bank, an emailed statement to admissions@hcc.edu showing sufficient funds is sufficient.

- All students and sponsors must fill out attached Affidavit of Parental/Sponsor Support
 - * Required of all candidates seeking an F-1 visa. Each sponsor is required to fill out a form
 - * One form is required per sponsor. Each student can have a maximum of three sponsors
 - * If a student is self-sponsoring, fill it out with appropriate information indicating a self-sponsor.

Transfer Student Information

- Students choosing to transfer to HCC who are currently studying in the U.S. with an F-1 status must complete the attached Transfer Status Verification Form.
- Transfer students must be in good financial and academic standing with their current institution
 - * ***Please note that we do NOT accept transfer students who have an F-1 status that has been terminated***
- Submit a copy of your form(s) I-20 from schools you have previously attended
- Submit official transcripts from all U.S. based colleges/universities you have attended to HCC to evaluate for possible transfer credit

Additional Information:

- International students are charged out of state tuition rates while attending Holyoke Community College. Students must be enrolled in a degree program and take a minimum of 12 credits each semester, but note that they must aim to graduate with their associate's degree within five semesters.
- **Federal Financial Aid or Scholarships are not offered to International Students.**
- There is no campus housing available. Students staying with family members/friends still must show financial support for the entire amount listed.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. What is the SEVIS I-20 Form?

The Form I-20 is your “certificate of eligibility” issued by Holyoke Community College indicating you are attending (or planning to attend) Holyoke Community College. It is like a pass to stay in the United States while studying. You need your I-20 to obtain your F-1 visa.

2. What is the F-1 Visa?

The F-1 Visa is a student visa issued to persons who will be full-time students seeking a degree or certificate at an approved institution in the U.S. Your F-1 Visa is issued by a U.S. embassy or consulate in or near your country and is on one of the pages of your passport with your picture, personal information, and name of the school on it. It is like a ticket to enter the United States.

3. When will I get my Form I-20?

Once we have received all required documentation, your file will be reviewed by the International Admission Officer. If you meet the admission requirements, you will be issued your I-20. Please note: the I-20 cannot be issued more than 120 days prior to the start of your academic program.

4. If I am living with a family member or friend, will I still have to provide proof of financial support/sponsorship for the entire amount listed?

Yes. Regardless of your housing situation, you will still have to demonstrate that you have ample financial resources to support housing costs if necessary.

5. I have my official transcripts but they are not in a sealed envelope – is this okay?

Please refer to the evaluation agency you are working with to determine if official transcripts in a sealed envelope are required for evaluation. The evaluation agency must send the evaluation report directly to the Admissions Office, Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA, 01040. It can take a long time for transcripts to be sent and evaluated, so it’s important for the applicant to plan ahead.

6. I have college transcripts, but I don’t have access to my H.S. transcripts – is this okay?

As long as the evaluation of your college transcripts states that the U.S. equivalency of a high school credential is required for admission, that is acceptable.

7. I am here on an H-4, L-2, or another visa/refugee, can I still apply to HCC?

Yes. If you are not seeking an F-1 visa, you are required to submit a copy of your current visa and I-94. Only candidates seeking an F-1 visa are required to submit financial documentation (e.g. affidavit of support and bank statement). All of the educational requirements still apply.

8. Can I get financial aid/student loans to assist me with paying for college?

No. Financial aid and loans are not available through Holyoke Community College for F-1 candidates or candidates on other types of non-immigrant visas.

9. Who can I get to sponsor me? Does it have to be someone in the U.S.?

You will need to obtain your own sponsors. The sponsors do not need to be in the US. Our only requirement is that the sponsor(s) have sufficient funds to meet your financial requirements and complete the sponsorship agreement.

10. Am I allowed to sponsor myself?

Yes. You are allowed to sponsor yourself as long as you fill out the Affidavit of Support on your own behalf.

11. I am on an F-1 or other non-immigrant visa and have lived in Massachusetts for a year and pay state taxes – can I pay in-state tuition?

No. At this time, state regulations mandate that we cannot charge applicants who are in the U.S on a non-immigrant visa in-state tuition.

12. I want to take only English language classes without pursuing an academic program – Can I do this as an F-1 student?

No. All F-1 students at HCC must be pursuing an academic degree program. For prospective students looking to only take English courses, please contact our partner institution, the International Language Institute located in Northampton. For more information, visit ili.edu

13. Can I work while attending HCC?

F-1 students are not eligible for financial aid and should not plan to work while in F1 status at HCC.