EARLY COLLEGE & DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS

Through the K-12 Partnership Division of Access and Transition, MWCC administers several College Access and Early College Dual Enrollment programs, which provide middle and high school students with an array of academic, college and career awareness services, including academic and career counseling, tutorials, workshops and activities. Services are generally provided through targeted grant initiatives. In addition, MWCC hosts several annual events and activities designed for students and parents, which are open to the public. Most programs are free of charge. For more information on any program, call 978-630-9248 or visit our website.

A HEAD START ON COLLEGE

Whether in high school or homeschool programs, juniors and seniors (age 16 or older) can enroll in MWCC classes prior to high school graduation and take courses that may transfer to most two and four-year public and private institutions while completing their high school graduation requirements. Participants are considered MWCC students and enjoy all the same benefits. Students are encouraged to participate fully in college activities and programs, including the Honors Program, academic support services and other co-curricular activities. Students may enroll at MWCC on either a part- or full-time basis.

Traditional Dual Enrollment

High school students who intend to complete a portion of their junior or senior year at the college through MWCC’s Traditional Dual Enrollment program must:

- Submit a completed Dual Enrollment Admission Application, with guidance counselor and parent/guardian signature. This application is available at this website or through the Admissions Office at 978-630-9110 or admissions@mwcc.edu
- Apply no later than August 16 for fall 2019 classes, January 2 for spring 2020 classes and June 21 for summer 2020 classes (applications received after these deadlines will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis).
- Be 16 years of age or a current junior or senior and hold a minimum 2.8 GPA (official transcript required). The college will recalculate all GPAs on a 4.0 scale.
- Take the Accuplacer college placement assessment, and place into college level English and Math. Students who do not test into college level courses in both subjects may be permitted to take foundation level courses with the approval of their high school and the Division Dean.

Dual enrollment applicants must complete a personal interview, sign a student contract, and meet established guidelines of MWCC and their participating high school. Students enrolled in dual enrollment programs are not allowed to participate in classes beginning after 6:00 PM without permission from the student’s high school and parent or guardian. Students enrolled in dual enrollment programs are not allowed to participate in web classes without permission from the student’s high school and parent or guardian. Students enrolled in this program are non-matriculated students, must pay all college tuition/fees, and are ineligible for financial aid while they are enrolled in high school.

Gateway to College

Gateway to College is not accepting new students for Fall of 2019 or Spring of 2020, but will reopen for application in 2020 for fall of that year.

Through this program, students who have stepped out of traditional high school, who are behind in academic credits, or who are at significant risk of dropping out of high school, receive a second chance to achieve educational success. Students ages 16-21 can enroll at MWCC to earn both high school and college credits toward a high school diploma and associate degree or certificate. This program is offered through a partnership with the Gardner Public School District at MWCC’s Gardner Campus. Students interested in Gateway to College must attend an information session in spring of 2020 for entry in fall of 2020, complete an application, interview with a Gateway to College Resource Specialist and take the college placement test. Students from across the region are eligible to apply to the program; students from outside Gardner must school choice into Gardner to participate in the program. Additional information is available at this website (https://mwcc.edu/academics/k-12/programs/gateway), or by calling the Division of Access & Transition at 978-630-9248.

Pathways Early College Innovation School

Pathways Early College Innovation School is not accepting new students for Fall of 2019 or Spring of 2020, but will reopen for application in 2020 for fall of that year. Interested students may apply for enrollment in the Traditional Dual Enrollment program, indicating interest in Pathways, and if on track, may be accepted into the program as Seniors in fall of 2020.

The Pathways program is an Early College high school opportunity for motivated high school/home school students about to enter their junior year, who would like to get a jump start on college. The Pathways program provides an opportunity to earn a high school
diploma and Associate’s degree while completing the junior and senior years of high school at MWCC’s Gardner Campus. Admission into the program is a competitive process. This program is offered through a partnership with the Gardner Public School District and Mount Wachusett Community College. Students interested in Pathways must attend an information session in spring of 2020 for admission in fall of 2020, complete an application, take the Accuplacer test and place into College Level, and participate in an interview. Students must have a GPA of a 3.0 or higher to be considered for Pathways Early College Innovation School. Additional information is available at this website (https://mwcc.edu/academics/k-12/programs/pathways) or by calling the Division of Access & Transition at 978-630-9248.

**North Central Massachusetts Early College Academy**

Students enrolled at Gardner High School, Leominster High School, Fitchburg High School and Sizer School may apply for the North Central Massachusetts Early College Academy. Classes primarily take place at each high school, during the school day, and are taught by MWCC or Fitchburg State University faculty. Students will attain both high school and college credit for successfully completed courses, and are eligible to attain 12 or more college credits prior to high school graduation in a defined academic pathway, such as Healthcare or Liberal Arts & Sciences. There is no cost to students for these courses. This program is offered in partnership with these schools and Fitchburg State University. For additional information, interested students should contact their respective guidance office at participating schools.

**Dual Enrollment High School Partnerships**

Students enrolled at area schools in the North Central region who have established a dual enrollment partnership, including Montachusett Regional Technical Vocational School, Ayer-Shirley Regional High School, North Brookfield High School, and Athol High School also have the opportunity to participate in dual enrollment courses onsite at their respective high schools. Students can attain both high school and college credit for successfully completed courses. For additional information, interested students should contact their respective guidance office at participating schools.

Students at Athol High School, Gardner High School and Fitchburg High School are also partners with MWCC through the Health Career Opportunity Program (HCOP), and have the opportunity to participate in the HCOP Catalyst Program. Enrollment in HCOP is designed to provide an introduction to allied and behavioral health career fields, with exposure to coursework in health fields, medical terminology, cultural competence and professional behaviors needed for a future healthcare career. For more information, interested students should contact the HCOP Director at 978-630-9307, or visit the HCOP website (https://mwcc.edu/health-career-opportunity-program-hcop).