

STEPS FOR APPLYING TO THE GATEWAY TO COLLEGE PROGRAM

Eligibility Requirements for the Gateway to College Program

- Student has not earned a high school diploma (includes currently enrolled students, GED/HiSET recipients, home schooled students and students who left high school prior to graduating)
- Are at least 16, no older than 21
- Live in Massachusetts
- Are motivated and willing to work hard

Step 1: Complete the application packet

- Complete the application packet in full, and sign the application.
- Complete the three essay questions.
- Obtain an official high school transcript from all high schools attended.
- Obtain a copy of Grade 9 Biology and Grade 10 Math and ELA MCAS scores, if applicable.
- Obtain a letter of recommendation from a guidance counselor or teacher.



Application packets may be obtained by calling Gateway to College at 978-630-9248 or through the Access and Transition Division website at <http://mwcc.edu/access/programs/gateway>.

Step 2: Attend a Two-Day Information Session

Reserve a slot for an Information Session by calling Gateway to College at 978-630-9248.

Applicants are expected to bring their completed application materials to the Information Session. Application materials include: the completed application (signed); three required essays; official (sealed) copies of high school transcripts; high school MCAS scores; guidance counselor/teacher letter of recommendation; MWCC consent form, MWCC Dual Enrollment application form, parent/guardian form, and school district information form.

At the Information Session, applicants will:

- Receive detailed information, including expectations and benefits of the Gateway to College program.
- Receive the opportunity to obtain answers to questions/concerns about the program.
- Receive a review of their application materials to make certain that they meet all basic eligibility requirements.
- Receive the opportunity to meet with Gateway to College students and staff members, and to share their reasons for being interested in this unique scholarship opportunity.

During the first day of the Information Session, students who meet basic eligibility requirements will be referred to the second day of the information session. During the second day, students will be given the opportunity to visit a Gateway career class to meet with current students and then they will take the college placement test (Accuplacer) in order to determine academic placement. The two-day information session requires 100% attendance both days, as well as completion of in-class and homework assignments. Students **must** arrive on time each day.

Step 3: Participate in a Personal Interview

Students who complete the Information Session will be scheduled for a personal interview. Interviews will take place one-on-one with an MWCC Gateway to College staff member. Staff members will use the interview as an opportunity to get to know a student better, to learn about his/her strengths, weaknesses and concerns. All Information Sessions and Personal Interviews will take place on the Gardner Campus of Mount Wachusett Community College. Students are required to make their own arrangements for transportation to and from the college.

Step 4: Selection Committee Review

The Selection Committee will review all applications for the Gateway to College program. It is very important that students submit all required application materials by the deadline date. Acceptance to the program is not guaranteed, and program space is limited to 40 students for September and 40 students for January.

The Selection Committee will take into consideration the applicant's motivation for the program, the completeness of the application packet, and information session attendance, which is why it is important to put your best foot forward.

All applicants will be notified of the Selection Committee's decision. Students who are accepted into the Gateway to College Program will receive a letter of acceptance, Resource Specialist contact information, and various other forms necessary for registration. Students will be asked to call their Resource Specialist to confirm or decline their acceptance. Students who are accepted and who are currently enrolled in a high school or other alternative education program will need to notify their school or program that they will be transferring to the Ralph C. Mahar Regional High School for the Gateway to College program. Applicants who do not receive a notification letter should call the Division of Access and Transition at 978-630-9248 to check their status. Students who change residences after applying to the Gateway Program are responsible for providing Gateway staff with their new address.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!

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