

International Student

Application & Information Packet



Thank you for your interest in furthering your education at Mount Wachusett Community College.

We invite international students to consider making Mount Wachusett Community College their choice for undergraduate study in America. Mount Wachusett offers quality education, convenience, small class sizes and all the support you need to be successful.

Students have come to study at Mount Wachusett Community College from many different countries, including: Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, China, Columbia, El Salvador, Ecuador, France, The Gambia, Greece, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Russia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, Zimbabwe and more.

English Proficiency Test Score Requirements.

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| TOEFL Paper: | 500 |
| TOEFL Internet: | 61 |
| TOEFL Computer: | 173 |
| IELTS: | 5.0 |

All English proficiency test scores must be within two years of the application deadline.

HOW TO APPLY

The following are required:

- Completed International Student Application. General evaluation of high school documents.
- Official copy of secondary/high school record, indicating grades earned with certified translations of any non-English records. Applicants must have these documents translated and evaluated to U.S. standards through an acceptable credential evaluating agency. A partial list of agencies can be found at www.naces.org. Confirm student has equivalent of U.S. high school diploma.
- Official copies of all college/university coursework, indicating grades earned with official explanation of grading system. If completed outside of the U.S., applicants must have these documents translated and evaluated to U.S. standards through an acceptable credential evaluating agency. A partial list of agencies can be found at www.naces.org. Course-by-course evaluation. Include information on evaluation.
- Completed Affidavit of Support and Financial Statement with accompanying evidence required for each funding source.
- Completed Transfer of I-20 Authorization Form (transfer applicants only) signed by your current college/university and current transcript indicating completed course and those in progress.
- Copy of your passport, current Visa (if applicable) and I-94
- Proof of minimum English proficiency - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Score Report or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Score Report or MWCC placement. This is required of all international students who are citizens of a country that does not have English as its primary language and who have not satisfactorily completed one full semester of English at a U.S. college or university.

To avoid delays in processing your application, please:

- Complete all items required in legible handwriting.
- Make sure the name on your application matches the names on your transcripts.
- Provide all required documentation prior to the deadline.

All documents must be submitted in English.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| May 15 | for Fall (September) admission | July 1 | Transfer |
| November 1 | for Spring (January) admission | Dec 1 | Transfer |

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application, transcripts, financial statement, and other documents are received before the application deadline. Files which are incomplete by the application deadline will be withdrawn from consideration for admission.

Current F1 student visa holders already studying in the United States, and who are in good academic and financial standing at their current institution, may apply to MWCC on a rolling basis. If/when admitted to Mount Wachusett Community College, you must bring your MWCC letter of acceptance to the International Student Advisor at your current school. Your current school will then transfer your SEVIS record to MWCC.

YOUR STUDENT VISA

In order to enter the United States to study, an international student will need a visa, usually either an F-1 or M-1, or a Student Visa. To obtain the necessary visa, the applicant must submit a valid Form I-20 for an F-1 visa, or a Form IAP-66 for a J-1 visa, to the United States Embassy or Consulate in his or her country. In addition to these forms, the applicant will have to present a passport, evidence of financial support, acceptance letter, and proof of intent to return to his/her home country.

Mount Wachusett Community College is authorized to issue the Form I-20. The Office of Admissions will send the Form I-20 to the applicant after he or she has submitted all required academic documentation, has submitted evidence of financial support, and been academically accepted. The I-20 is only valid for the semester for which admission is offered.

B1 students are encouraged to return to their home country and go through the visa application process again to return on their F1 visa. Change of status from B1 to F1 while remaining in the United States is not guaranteed or recommended.

STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM (SEVP) SEVIS FEE

The \$350.00 SEVIS fee may be made in the form of check or by credit card online to SEVIS. The Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is the database that allows SEVP to track international students, exchange visitors and their dependents to ensure that they are in the United States for the purposes they stated. SEVP website: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis> Once you receive your form I-20.

ACADEMIC RECORDS

All documents in languages other than English must be accompanied by a certified literal English translation. All documents submitted for review must be official, that is, they must be either originals or copies certified by authorized persons. A "certified" copy is one that bears an original signature of the registrar or other designated school official, an original impression of the institution's seal, or signature/seal of the examining board. Uncertified or notarized copies are not acceptable. All documents from outside of the United States must be evaluated to U.S. standards through a credential evaluating agency. A partial list of agencies can be found at naces.org.

SECONDARY SCHOOL RECORDS

International applicants are eligible to apply for admission to Mount Wachusett Community College if they have completed the equivalent of an American secondary school education (approximately twelve years of formal education starting at age six) and have the appropriate diplomas or satisfactory results on leaving examinations. Secondary school records are required for both new and transfer applicants. If you complete secondary school in a country where a secondary school leaving examination (GCE, GCSE, CXC, French Baccalaureate, Abitur, etc.) is administered, you will be required to provide the results of the examination. All documents in languages other than English must be accompanied by a certified literal English translation and, if completed outside of the U.S., evaluated to U.S. standards through a credential evaluating agency. A partial list of agencies can be found at naces.org.

POST-SECONDARY RECORDS

If you attend a post-secondary institution outside the United States, we require official transcripts which include all subjects studied each year and the grade/mark earned in each subject. A key to the marking system with minimum passing mark should be included. In addition, we require course descriptions of all classes you have taken and intend to take up to the semester in which you hope to enroll at Mount Wachusett Community College. If descriptions are not available, please provide 3- 5-sentence descriptions of each course. Include the content, scope, and credits/number of hours for each course or the number of hours per week, and the number of weeks per semester. All documents in languages other than English must be accompanied by a certified literal English translation and, if completed outside of the U.S., must be evaluated to U.S. standards through a credential evaluating agency. Agencies can be found at www.naces.org. If you attend a post-secondary institution in the United States, official transcripts should be sent directly from the institution to Mount Wachusett Community College.

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

All international applicants are required to submit proof of proficiency in the English language. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): A minimum score of 500 on the paper-based exam or a minimum score of 173 on the computer-based exam or a minimum score of 61 on the internet-based exam. TOEFL scores are valid for two years from the application deadline of the term to which a student applies. Original results of the TOEFL must be sent directly from the testing agency to Mount Wachusett.

OR

International English Language Testing System: A minimum score of 5.0 is required. IELTS scores are valid for two years. Original results of the IELTS must be sent directly from the testing agency to the Office of Admissions at Mount Wachusett Community College. Applicants already in the United States may take the Accuplacer at MWCC in lieu of TOEFL/IELTS.

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (CONT'D)

TOEFL or IELTS scores will not be required from an international applicant, if:

1. English is the native language of the applicant's country of citizenship, or
2. The applicant has successfully completed at least one full semester of English composition (not developmental or remedial) at a United States college or university and received a grade of "C" or better, which is confirmed by an official transcript.

AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial assistance from Mount Wachusett Community College is not available to international students. For general information about financial assistance, students may request the booklet "Financial Planning for Study in the United States" from the U.S. Information Agency or binational advising center in their home country.

International students pay the same tuition as out-of-state domestic students. Please consult our website (www.mwcc.edu) for current out-of-state/International student rates for the academic year you are applying. The expenses listed below do not include travel expenses to and from Massachusetts and are considered reasonable minimum estimates for students. If a student is accompanied by family members, add \$6,000 per dependent. Additional Affidavits of Support must be completed for each family member. This estimate represents the amount you will be asked to prove you have available when you apply for a visa.

Estimated Expenses for an F-1 student for one Academic Year (US Dollars)

| | | |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Tuition and fees for one academic year (approx 24 credits) | \$11,080 | Students planning enrollment in summer/intersession courses (twelve months in the U.S.) should estimate an additional \$4,000 for housing, meals and personal expenses and an additional \$2,500 to 3,500 for tuition/fees. If accompanied by spouse and/or dependents you must include an additional \$6,000 per dependent. Please note that this is only an estimate and is subject to change without notice. *This includes 12 month student health insurance coverage with supplemental health/accident insurance. |
| Room and Board for nine months | \$9,998 | |
| Universal Health Insurance (mandatory) | \$4,379 | |
| Books and Supplies | \$1,570 | |
| Miscellaneous | \$4,558 | |
| Total: | \$31,585 | |

Before the Office of Admissions can issue the Form I-20 for use by applicants in obtaining a visa, it must have proof that applicants have sufficient funds to study for one year with a reasonable expectation that the funding will continue for the full course of study. The information requested on the enclosed Affidavit of Support and Financial Statement is required by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and by U.S. consulates to ensure the financial stability of persons admitted to the U.S. as students. You should not plan on supplementing your financial support with employment because there are very strict limitations on the employment of international students in the U.S.

The Financial Statement must be accompanied by supporting evidence (in U.S. dollars), such as originals of: notarized bank statement in the applicant's name; a scholarship award letter from a foundation, agency, or government; a notarized letter from an individual sponsor indicating the intention to provide support for the specified amount and which is accompanied by a bank statement showing the ability to do so. We recommend that you retain duplicate copies of the Financial Statement and supporting evidence to facilitate your dealings with the U.S. consulate and/or the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

TRANSFER APPLICANTS

Transfer applicants must submit all documentation required of new applicants, plus the following:

- a completed "Transfer of I-20 Authorization Form" signed by your current college/university (attached).
- Official transcripts of all college/university coursework completed in the US indicating grades earned and, if currently enrolled, a list of courses in progress.
- Copy of current I-20, passport, VISA, and I-94.

CERTIFICATE OF HEALTH

The college requires all full-time students (domestic and international) enrolled in degree programs to have a physical examination by his/her private physician conducted within the last two years. Students must also provide:

- 1) Proof of current immunizations (DPT, MMR, Mantoux, Varicella, Hepatitis B series vaccine (3 doses) or proof of immunity. Allied Health applicants require Intradermal tuberculin Test. Forms must be provided to the Health Office. Contact the health office at 978-630-9136 for more information.
- 2) Proof of adequate health insurance. Students who fail to waive health insurance will be automatically enrolled in and charged for the College-sponsored plan.

Students must complete and have on file all Certificate of Health requirements prior to the first day of classes. Documentation should be mailed directly to Health Services Office, Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440. U.S.A. Immunization forms are available on our website at mwcc.edu.

Mount Wachusett Community College seeks to provide equal educational and employment opportunities and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, or disability.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Can I get credit for college courses I took at a college in my country? How?

Yes. You can get credit for courses that are equivalent to our courses. You will need to first have your transcripts translated and evaluated by an outside credential evaluating agency, then submit the official documentation to us for transfer credit.

How/Where do I have my transcripts translated and evaluated?

There are many outside agencies that translate and evaluate transcripts. You can obtain help from the embassy/consulate or you can find a list of agencies at naces.org.

Do you have on-campus housing?

No. You will need to make your own arrangements for housing. A partial list of available local housing is available on request.

When will I get my Form I-20?

Once we receive all required documentation, your file will be evaluated by the Office of Admissions. If you meet the minimum admissions requirements and are applying to an open enrollment major, you will be issued your I-20.

What if I am applying to a selective program (Nursing, Medical Assisting, Physical Therapist Assistant, Dental Hygiene, Clinical Lab Science, or Practical Nursing)?

You must meet the criteria for those programs as well as the minimum admissions standards. Program applications are available on our website at mwcc.edu. If you meet all the requirements, your file will be evaluated by the committee after the deadline for application. If you are accepted to the selective program, you will be issued your Form I-20 in that program. If you are not accepted to the selective program, you will be issued an I-20 in the General Studies Allied Health program.

When do I make an appointment with the Embassy?

Because the speed of mail delivery differs by country, we recommend you schedule your appointment only upon receipt of your I-20.

What do you do for me if the Embassy denies me a student visa?

Issuance of a Form I-20 does not guarantee your approval for a student visa by the U.S. embassy. The I-20 is only an application for a student visa. The embassy will make the decision whether or not to grant you a student visa.

Can I do a change of status if I am here on a visitor's visa?

Applicants entering the United States on a visitor's visa (B-1/B-2) without the "Prospective Student" classification, which is issued only in exceptional circumstances, will find it very difficult to change to student classification. You will need to apply to the college and provide all the required documentation. Your current visa and I-94 must be valid and not expired. US Immigration Authority advises students to return to their home country to change status from B-1/B-2 to F-1 or M-1.

Can I change my major once I am in the US?

Yes. You may change your major, but we must issue you a new Form I-20 with your new major and completion date.

Can I transfer from another college in the US to Mount Wachusett? What do I need to do?

You will need to submit all documentation required for new applicants as well as the additional items listed on page 3 under "Transfer Applicants".

Can I transfer to another college? How do I go about it?

As long as you are currently in good standing both financially and academically with MWCC, we will sign a transfer approval form issued by the school you wish to transfer.

Who can I get to sponsor me? Does it have to be someone in the US?

You will need to obtain your own sponsor. They do not need to be here in the US. Our only requirement is that they have sufficient funds to meet your financial requirements.

How much will it cost to attend your college and obtain a degree?

Please refer to page 3 "Affidavit of Support and Financial Documentation". The estimate provided is based on one academic year. Your degree can be completed in two years, but additional time may be required for students who need to improve their English, reading or mathematics skills prior to entering coursework required for their degree. When planning your financial needs, it is advised that applicants estimate financial need to be between 2 and 3 years.

Can I work on a student visa?

No. This is why INS requires financial documentation that demonstrates sufficient funds available to support your education.

What happens if I do not complete my degree before my I-20's expiration date?

We can file for an extension to your Form I-20 so you may complete your degree.

Can I travel outside the U.S. during school breaks? What do I need to do?

Yes, you may travel during school breaks. You will need your Form I-20 signed by a college official granting you permission.

Can I drive while in the U.S.? Will I need a U.S. drivers license?

If you have a valid drivers license from your country, you may not need to apply for a license in the US. Each state within the US, however, establishes their own requirements and accepts only certain countries drivers license. For information on Massachusetts drivers license requirements, you can visit mass.gov/registry.

International Student Application

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Ethnic Background: Do you identify yourself as: Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino _____

Race: Select one or more races, as you identify yourself:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American White
 Cape Verdean Native Hawaii or Pacific Islander

Marital Status: Married Single Divorced Separated Widowed

Emergency Contact Person: Name: _____ Relationship to the Applicant: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____
Street & Apt. # City State Postal/Zip Code

EDUCATION INFORMATION

Have you been awarded your high school diploma or GED certificate? yes no

If yes, you must provide the following information: I have a: (check one)

- High School Diploma GED Certificate Certificate of Completion Home School Diploma

Name of High School/Home School/Testing Center: _____ Location: _____

Date Awarded (month/yr): ____/____/____ (documents awarded outside of the U.S. must be evaluated to meet U.S. standards) City State

If no, select and complete one of the following:

I am a current high school/home school student at _____ intend to graduate ____/____
Name of school City State Month Year

I am not a high school student and do not have my GED

Have you completed courses at a college other than MWCC? yes no (if no, move to "Residency Information")

Highest level of college completed? Completed some college Associate Degree Bachelor Degree
 Master Degree or higher Certificate/Degree from MWCC

Please list all colleges you have attended (other than MWCC):

College _____ City _____ State _____

College _____ City _____ State _____

I understand that I cannot work and must maintain full-time status while in the U.S. on a student VISA. I also understand that I must report to the college within 3 days of entering the U.S. I certify that the information stated on this application form and submitted to the college for consideration is accurate and complete. Concealment of facts or false statements may result in dismissal and cancellation of your VISA.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Affidavit of Support

Financial Statement for International Applicants

Please enclose with your application – USE ONE FORM FOR EACH FUNDING SOURCE

Family (Surname): _____ Given (First) _____ Middle: _____

Permanent Address: _____
Street Name Apt# City/Town State/Province Zip Country

SECTION A: FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Mount Wachusett Community College estimate of expenses for F-1 students for one academic year.

Mount Wachusett Community College does not award financial aid to foreign students. This form is necessary to certify that you will have US \$30,000 for your first 9 months in the United States and an additional US \$6,000 per dependant must be available. Transportation to and from the United States is not included in the estimate. A Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20) will not be issued unless this form is completed and the necessary certifications are obtained. You may, in lieu of this form, send a certified bank letter addressed to Mount Wachusett Community College indicating that your education and living expenses for the amount stated will be provided by your sponsor. Please retain copies of all submitted documents for your records and bring these with you when you meet with the U.S. consular official when applying for your visa as proof of adequate funding. The actual cost that a student incurs during the nine-month school year can vary significantly, particularly in housing, meals, and personal expenses. Estimates given here are generally minimum costs.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Tuition and fees for one academic year (approx 24 credits) | \$10,320 |
| Room and Board for 9 months | \$9,812 |
| Universal Health Insurance (mandatory) | \$3,461 |
| Books and Supplies | \$1,540 |
| Miscellaneous | \$4,474 |
| Total: | \$29,607 |

Students planning enrollment in summer/intersession courses (twelve months in the U.S.) should estimate an additional \$4,000 for housing, meals and personal expenses and an additional \$2,500 to 3,500 for tuition/fees. If accompanied by spouse and/or dependents you must include an additional \$6,000 per dependent. Please note that this is only an estimate and is subject to change without notice.

*This includes 12 month student health insurance coverage with supplemental health/accident insurance.

SECTION B: SOURCES OF FUNDING (PLEASE PRINT)

Enter the expected amount of financial support from sources listed below. Enter amounts in US dollars. Use an additional sheet of paper for explanations, if necessary. An Affidavit of Support must be completed for each sponsor to certify the accuracy of this source of support.

PERSONAL OR FAMILY SAVINGS:

(Print Name of Bank) _____ \$ _____ (U.S. Dollars)

Bank Official's signature required if the student is partially or fully funded by personal savings.

PARENTS:

Father's Name (print) _____ \$ _____ (U.S. Dollars)

Mother's Name (print) _____ \$ _____ (U.S. Dollars)

SPONSORS: (money available from sources other than parents)

Sponsor's Name (print) _____ \$ _____ (U.S. Dollars)

GOVERNMENT AGENCY:

Name of Agency (print) _____ \$ _____ (U.S. Dollars)

Attach to this form a signed copy of your letter of award. The letter must indicate which fees will be paid through the agency. You must submit additional certification for those fees not provided.

OTHER: (Specify/print) _____ \$ _____ (U.S. Dollars)

Send a signed affidavit from an authorized person to certify the accuracy of this source of support.

What is the present exchange rate of your country's currency to US dollar (for example, 3100 pesos=\$1)? _____ =\$1 U.S. Dollar

SECTION C: OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION OF SOURCES OF FUNDING

I certify that I have read the information provided by the applicant on this form, that these are true and accurate statements, and that the funds described above are available.

Bank or Sponsoring Agency Signature _____

Name of Bank/Agency _____

Address of Bank/Agency _____

Date: _____



I certify that I have read the information provided by the applicant on this form, that these are true and accurate statements, and that the funds described above are available.

Parent Signature _____

Sponsor Signature _____ Relationship to Applicant _____

Date: _____

I certify that the statements given by me in this form are complete and accurate. Furthermore, I take all financial responsibility should my source(s) of funding, as specified above, be interrupted or stopped.

Student Signature: _____ Date _____





Transfer of I-20 Authorization Form

International Students

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT

Complete only if already attending university in the U.S. Please enclose with your application:

Family (Surname): _____ Given (First): _____ Middle: _____

Foreign Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year SEVIS ID Number _____

I intend to transfer my I-20 to Mount Wachusett Community College beginning in the _____ semester.

I hereby grant permission for the information requested below to be made available to Mount Wachusett Community College.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DESIGNATED SCHOOL OFFICIAL

| Yes | No | |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | The student whose name appears above is authorized by INS to attend school. |
| _____ | _____ | The student has met all his/her financial obligations to this institution. |
| _____ | _____ | The student has been enrolled full-time this most recent semester (Fall/Spring/Summer) 20____. |
| | | If registered part-time, please provide a letter stating the reason for part-time status. |
| _____ | _____ | To the best of my knowledge, this student is currently in status. |

Please list all periods of authorized PRACTICAL TRAINING with beginning and ending dates. Specifically whether curricular or optional:

Dates: _____ circle one: Curricular Optional

Dates: _____ circle one: Curricular Optional

Designated School Officer Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Signature of designated official _____ Title _____ Date _____

Name of Current School/College/University: _____

School Address: _____
Street City State Zip

_____ I recommend transfer _____ I do not recommend transfer

International Student

Application & Information Packet

Contact & Campuses

Office of Admissions

Tel: 978-630-9447
Fax: 978-630-9554
Email: admissions@mwcc.edu
Web: mwcc.edu/admissions

Financial Aid Office

Tel: 978-630-9169
Fax: 978-630-9459
Email: financialaid@mwcc.mass.edu
Web: mwcc.edu/financial

Student Accounts Office

Tel: 978-630-9386
Fax: 978-630-9459
Email: bursar@mwcc.mass.edu
Web: mwcc.edu/student-accounts

Records Office

Tel: 978-630-9106
Fax: 978-630-9554
Web: mwcc.edu/records

Gardner

444 Green Street
Gardner, MA 01440
978-630-9110

Leominster

100 Erdman Way
Leominster, MA 01453
978-630-9810