



## **About Holyoke Community College:**

The first two-year institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Holyoke Community College was founded in 1946 by faculty from some of the nation's most distinguished private colleges—Amherst, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges—to meet the needs of working adults, many of whom were recently returned veterans taking advantage of the GI Bill. Classes were held in the evening, in classrooms made available by Holyoke High School.

Today, HCC occupies a beautiful 135-acre campus in the heart of the Pioneer Valley, where it serves approximately 10,000 students annually through 90+ degree and certificate programs, as well as numerous non-credit workforce and professional development courses.

In keeping with its liberal arts heritage, HCC is known for its rich academic offerings as well as its collaborative transfer and joint admissions programs with public and private four-year colleges and universities in the region. The largest community college feeder to both the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Westfield State University, HCC also sends graduates to Amherst, Smith, and Mount Holyoke Colleges, as well as Brandeis, Brown, Cornell and many other distinguished colleges and universities.

HCC supports an array of instructional strategies, taking particular pride in its Integrative Learning programs, which offer interdisciplinary curricula, honors, and experiential learning opportunities that enable students to build connections not only within the classroom, but also with local communities, businesses, nonprofits, and colleges and universities statewide.

Responsive to the economic and social needs of the region, the college actively collaborates with business, government, and community groups to enhance the strength and efficacy of its programmatic offerings. In recent years, HCC has invested in a Center for Health Education to meet the demand for workers in the field of healthcare; a Center for Life Sciences (equipped with biotechnology suites and an ISO-certified clean room) to prepare students for careers in biotechnology and related sciences; and the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, to support the region's growing hospitality and tourism sector.

HCC is dedicated to providing an affordable, high-quality education that prepares students for career and transfer opportunities that enrich their lives and lift up the communities in which they reside. Located in a city that is home to the largest Puerto Rican population, per capita, of any city in the United States outside Puerto Rico, HCC is a designated Hispanic Serving Institution, with a student body that is 27% Hispanic as of fall 2019.

Serving an economically, educationally, and linguistically diverse population, the college has a special commitment to public school partnerships and adult literacy. In addition to its campus on Homestead Avenue, the college offers English for speakers of other languages and a variety of adult education programs at four other locations in the region.

Holyoke Community College is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education. The college has received the endorsement of the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and is a member of the American Association of Community College Council.