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## HCC ranked among best community colleges

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College ranks among the best community colleges in the U.S. for 2021, according to AcademicInfluence.com, a technology-driven education evaluation group.

HCC was listed at number 20 out of 839 community colleges nationwide.

In particular, HCC was noted for the strength of its academic programs in criminal justice, nursing, computer science, business, education and engineering.

“In rankings on other sites, students typically see only the largest community colleges. We believe we take a smarter and more comprehensive approach,” said Jed Macosko, academic director of AcademicInfluence.com and professor of physics at Wake Forest University.

Criteria for the schools in this ranking include a minimum of 1,000 enrolled students, full accreditation, and exclusively two-year (or associate) degree pro-

grams.

“We look at how influential the school’s faculty is and then factor in the student body size. We call this metric ‘Concentrated Influence.’ Those community colleges with a strong faculty but comparatively fewer students, schools that might otherwise get lost in the shadows of their larger competitors, now have an opportunity to shine,” said Macosko. “Because students often choose to attend a school nearby, this kind of illumination provides a truer view of how influential their neighborhood community college may actually be, regardless of its size.”

AcademicInfluence.com is part of the EducationAccess group, a family of sites dedicated to lifelong learning and personal growth.

The full list of AcademicInfluence.com’s Top 50 Rankings of Community College can be viewed at [academicinfluence.com/articles](https://academicinfluence.com/articles).