INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS PACKET

Admissions Checklist:

☐ Complete the International Student Application online

☐ Copy of Passport and I-94 (if applicable)

☐ Submit official transcripts and or/leaving certificates (high school, university, etc)

☐ Prove English Language Proficiency (ELP)

☐ Submit proof of financial support and additional documents

☐ For Transfer Students - submit Transfer Status Verification Form and current I-20

Application Deadlines:
Applying for F-1 Status from home country:
- June 1 - Fall Semester (September)
- November 1 - Spring Semester (January)

Transferring F-1 Status from other institutions:
- August 1 - Fall Semester (September)
- December 15 - Spring Semester (January)

Estimated Annual Expenses for International Students
Academic Year 2018-2019
(Based on 15 credits per semester)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and fees</td>
<td>$12,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing, living, and personal expenses**</td>
<td>$12,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and supplies</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance (annual)***</td>
<td>$1,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,929</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All costs are subject to change and may vary for each student.

**There is an additional financial requirement for each dependent of $6,105.

***Massachusetts law requires that all international students have health insurance (MA General Law Chapter 15A, Section 18). A charge for health insurance will be added to the student’s tuition unless proof of comparable insurance from a U.S. based company is provided.

Note: Some programs may charge additional fees (ex: Culinary Arts, Nursing, Music, etc.)
**Admissions Checklist Details**

**International Application:**

- Found at hcc.edu/apply
- Create an HCC Admissions account and submit an International application.
- Pay $100 non-refundable application processing fee. This can be paid with a VISA, MASTERCARD, or Discover credit card online, or be paid in person at our Student Accounts office in the Frost building, room #201.

**Passport and I-94**

- Please submit copies of passport pages with demographic/biographical information.
  - If you are a transfer F-1 student, please also submit a copy of the visa page(s).
- If you are **in the United States** at the time of your application (F-1 transfer students or prospective students applying for a change of status), submit a copy of the I-94 Arrival and Departure Record.
  - To find your I-94 online, go to https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov

**Official Transcripts:**

- All foreign documents must be translated and evaluated to US standards before being submitted to HCC.
- Please use any evaluation agency listed on naces.org

**Proving English Proficiency:**

**If applying outside of the United States:**

- Submit official TOEFL or IELTS results taken within the last two years to Admissions
  - **Minimum TOEFL scores:** 61 (internet based test)
    - To register for the TOEFL and to see test locations, visit toefl.org (HCC’s CEEB code is 003437).
  - **Minimum IELTS Band score is 6**
    - To register for the IELTS and for test locations, visit ielts.org

**If currently inside the United States:**

- Any of the above options
- Submit official transcripts from a U.S. college/university demonstrating successful completion of college English.
- Take English as a Second Language Test with HCC's ESL department.
  - **Minimum ESL Test Score:** 36 for Reading & Listening Comprehension; 19 on Grammar
  - To schedule, please contact the ESL office at 413-552-2553 or go to room 205 in the Donahue building on campus.
Proof of Financial Support and Additional Documents

All submitted financial documents must be dated within 90 days of application

☐ All students must show adequate funds are available to support the student while studying in the United States by completing the following:
  ★ Submit a certified bank letter or bank statement verifying sufficient funds to attend HCC for a minimum of one year. The estimated annual cost of attendance is $27,929.
  ▶ Bank letter/statement must be in the applicant’s or sponsor’s name.
  ▶ Bank statement must show adequate funding in either a checking and/or savings account and must specify what currency the balance is in if it is not from a U.S. bank.
  ▶ Bank statement/letter must be signed and sealed by a bank official and be on an official letterhead.

☐ All students and sponsors must fill out attached Affidavit of Parental/Sponsor Support
  ★ Required of all candidates seeking an F-1 visa. Each sponsor is required to fill out a form
  ★ One form is required per sponsor

Transfer Student Information

☐ Students choosing to transfer to HCC who are currently studying in the U.S. with an F-1 status must complete the attached Transfer Status Verification Form.

☐ Transfer students must be in good financial and academic standing with their current institution
  ★ Please note that we do NOT accept transfer students who have an F-1 status that has been terminated

☐ Submit a copy of your form(s) I-20 from schools you have previously attended

☐ Submit official transcripts from all U.S. based colleges/universities you have attended to HCC to evaluate for possible transfer credit

Additional Information:

• International students are charged out of state tuition rates while attending Holyoke Community College. Students must be enrolled in a degree program and take a minimum of 12 credits each semester.

• Federal Financial Aid is not offered to International Students.

• There is no campus housing available.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. **What is the SEVIS I-20 Form?**
   The Form I-20 is your “certificate of eligibility” issued by Holyoke Community College indicating you are attending (or planning to attend) Holyoke Community College. It is like a pass to stay in the United States while studying. You need your I-20 to obtain your F-1 visa.

2. **What is the F-1 Visa?**
   The F-1 Visa is a student visa issued to persons who will be full-time students seeking a degree or certificate at an approved institution in the U.S. Your F-1 Visa is issued by a U.S. embassy or consulate in or near your country and is on one of the pages of your passport with your picture, personal information, and name of the school on it. It is like a ticket to enter the United States.

3. **When will I get my Form I-20?**
   Once we have received all required documentation, your file will be reviewed by the International Admission officer. If you meet the admission requirements, you will be issued your I-20. Please note: the I-20 cannot be issued more than 120 days prior to the start of your academic program.

4. **I have my official transcripts but they are not in a sealed envelope – is this okay?**
   Please refer to the evaluation agency you are working with to determine if official transcripts in a sealed envelope are required for evaluation. The evaluation agency must send the evaluation report directly to the Admissions Office, Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA, 01040. It can take a long time for transcripts to be sent and evaluated, so it’s important for the applicant to plan ahead.

5. **I have college transcripts, but I don’t have access to my H.S transcripts — is this okay?**
   As long as the evaluation of your college transcripts states that the U.S. equivalency of a high school credential is required for admission, that is acceptable.

6. **I am here on an H-4, L-2, or another visa, can I still apply to HCC?**
   Yes. If you are not seeking an F-1 visa, you are required to submit a copy of your current visa and I-94. Only candidates seeking an F-1 visa are required to submit financial documentation (e.g. affidavit of support and bank statement). All of the educational requirements still apply.
7. **Can I get financial aid/student loans to assist me with paying for college?**
   No. Financial aid and loans are not available through Holyoke Community College for F-1 candidates or candidates on other types of non-immigrant visas.

8. **Who can I get to sponsor me? Does it have to be someone in the U.S.?**
   You will need to obtain your own sponsors. The sponsors do not need to be in the US. Our only requirement is that the sponsor(s) have sufficient funds to meet your financial requirements and complete the sponsorship agreement.

9. **I am on an F-1 or other non-immigrant visa and have lived in Massachusetts for a year and pay state taxes – can I pay in-state tuition?**
   No. At this time, state regulations mandate that we cannot charge applicants who are in the U.S on a non-immigrant visa in-state tuition.

10. **I want to take only English language classes without pursuing an academic program — Can I do this as an F-1 student?**
    No. All F-1 students must be pursuing an academic degree program. For prospective students looking to only take English courses, please contact our partner institution, the International Language Institute located in Northampton. For more information, visit ili.edu

11. **Can I work while attending HCC?**
    No. F-1 students are not eligible for financial aid and should not plan to work while in F1 status at HCC.