

## Applying to HCC

All students interested in applying for an F1 Visa, transferring an F1 status from another school, or changing their current status to F1 must use the online International Student Application.

### IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

#### **Applying for an F-1 Student Visa**

June 1 - Fall semester (September)

November 1 - Spring semester (January)

#### **Transferring your F-1 Student Visa**

August 1 - Fall semester (September)

December 15 - Spring semester (January)

1. Complete the international student online application at [hcc.edu/apply](http://hcc.edu/apply). There is a **\$100.00 USD non-refundable application fee** that must be submitted with the application. The fee can be paid with a VISA, MASTERCARD or Discover.
2. High school transcript and/or leaving certificate – must submit a certified translation in English (if applicable) and all high school records must be evaluated to U.S. standards by a credential evaluation agency. Approved agencies are the Center for Educational Documentation (CED Boston) and all agencies listed by [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org).
3. Official evaluation reports – required for any type of advanced study including college or university-level coursework, “A” levels, or any other credits to be transferred toward your degree at HCC.

An official course-by-course evaluation report must be sent directly to HCC from an approved credential evaluation agency for students seeking college or university transfer credit. Students are strongly encouraged to send course descriptions for any course they are interested in transferring to HCC. Approved agencies are the Center for Educational Documentation (CED Boston) and all agencies listed by [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org).

4. English Proficiency: Applicants whose native language is not English must take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exam or HCC’s ESL (English as a Second Language) test. HCC’s ESL test is only available on campus. A minimum TOEFL score of 61 (Internet-Based test), 173 (Computer-Based test) or 500 (Paper-Based test) is required for admission to HCC. To register for the TOEFL and for test locations, please visit [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org). HCC’s TOEFL Institution (DI) Code is 3437. The minimum IELTS band score is 6. To register for IELTS and for test locations, please visit [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org). Official TOEFL or IELTS scores must be sent to the Admissions Office at Holyoke Community College. TOEFL or IELTS scores must be within two (2) years of the application deadline. The minimum score on HCC’s ESL test is 36 for the Reading & Listening Comprehension test and a score of 19 on the Grammar 1/2 test.
5. Affidavit(s) of parental/sponsor support – required of all candidates seeking an F1 visa. Each sponsor is required to fill out a form and have it notarized.
6. Proof of financial support-all applicants must submit a bank statement which verifies that the student has access to sufficient funds to attend HCC. The estimated cost of attendance is \$27,379 per year (see page 2 for cost breakdown). Bank statements must show adequate funding on deposit 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. It must be signed and sealed by a bank official and be on official letterhead. **FAXES AND E-MAILS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**
7. Transfer students – students choosing to transfer to HCC who are currently studying in the United States with F1 status must complete the enclosed Transfer Status Verification Form. International transfer students must be in good financial and academic standing with their current institution and that institution must release the student via the USCIS SEVIS database to Holyoke Community College.

## Questions & Answers

### 1. I have my official transcripts but they are not in a sealed envelope – is this okay?

All high school records must be evaluated by a credential evaluation agency showing equivalency to a U.S. high school diploma. Approved agencies are the Center for Educational Documentation (CED Boston) and all agencies listed by [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org). 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. Unless your country is at war, it should be possible to obtain high school records for evaluation. It can take a long time for transcripts to be sent and evaluated, so it’s important for the applicant to plan ahead.

### 2. I have completed a high school (lyceum, college, gymnasium) education only. Can I still apply to HCC?

If your high school completion and/or leaving certificate is the equivalent to a U.S. high school diploma, you are eligible to apply to HCC. Be sure to have your school records evaluated by a credential evaluation agency.

### 3. I am here on an H4, L2, or another visa, can I still apply to HCC?

Yes. If you are not seeking an F1 visa, you are required to submit a copy of your current visa and I-94. Only candidates seeking an F1 visa are required to submit the financial documentation (e.g. affidavit of support and bank statement). All of the educational requirements still apply.

### 4. Can I get financial aid/student loans to assist me with paying for college?

Unfortunately, there are no financial aid or loans available for F1 candidates or candidates on other types of non-immigrant visas.

### 5. I am on a visa other than tourist (B series) or F1 and have lived in Massachusetts for a year and pay state taxes – can I pay in-state tuition?

At this time, state regulations mandate that we cannot charge applicants who are in this country on a visa in-state tuition.

### 6. I am an International readmit candidate, what do I do?

New financial documents must be submitted if you have been out of school for more than one semester. If you have studied in the United States at the university level since suspension, you will need to follow the transfer I-20 form regulations. All other readmit rules also apply.

### 7. Are ESL classes available?

Students seeking an F1 visa must attend the college full time and enroll in an associate degree program. English as a Second Language (ESL) courses are available for credit and International students may use ESL courses toward the total credit count each semester.

### 8. Can I work while attending HCC?

F1 students are not eligible for financial aid and should not expect to be authorized for off-campus employment.

# Estimated Annual Student Budget

The estimated annual budget for one-year (12 months) of study and residence in the U.S. at Holyoke Community College is listed below. Tuition costs are estimated for full-time students carrying 15 credits or more per semester. As an International student, you must be full-time for each semester you are enrolled. Holyoke Community College does not have on-campus housing; however, there are various housing options within commuting distance to the college. International students are responsible for arranging their own off-campus housing. The following information will be helpful to you as you prepare your financial documentation for admission.

**These prices are in effect for the 2015-2016 academic year only and are subject to change for subsequent academic terms.**

## Non-residents & International students

Tuition per credit hour	\$230.00
Educational Services fee per credit hour	\$155.00
Facility fee per credit hour	\$4.00
<b>Total per college credit hour</b>	<b>\$389.00</b>

## Additional Expenses:

Student service fee	\$25.00 per semester
Transportation fee	\$25.00 per semester
Technology fee	\$85.00 per semester
Health Insurance* (Annual)	\$1,629.00 (rate adjusted for spring applicants)

## Other Expenses:

Books and supplies	\$1,600.00 – estimated per year
Housing and living expenses	\$12,210.00 – estimated per year**

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**Total Estimated Cost (Annual)    \$27,379 - 15 credit hours per semester**

\*\*There is an additional financial requirement for each dependant of \$6,000.

Note: Some selective programs may charge additional fees. (Examples include Nursing, Music, and Radiologic Technology). Also, an additional charge of \$15 per credit is assessed for all online courses.

\*Massachusetts State law requires that all students taking nine or more semester credits have health insurance (Massachusetts General Law Chapter 15A, Section 18). A charge for health insurance will be added to the student's tuition bill unless proof of comparable insurance from a U.S. based company is provided.

**HOLYOKE**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**COLLEGE**

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