

**SPRINGFIELD**

# School offering casino training

Registration  
begins Wednesday

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Students who complete training programs for at least two table games at the Massachusetts Casino Career Training Institute, soon to open in Springfield, will get a guaranteed tryout with MGM Springfield, according to a news release issued yesterday.

Prospective students interested in training to run table games like blackjack, poker, craps and roulette can start registering Wednesday at the new MCCTI Gaming School.

There will be an open registration event at 10:30 a.m. in the MassMutual Center, 1277 Main St., in the exhibit hall pre-function space. Computers will be set up so people can

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# Casino

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register on the spot.

Prices for the training courses vary, from up to \$199 for a four-week course, such as for mini-baccarat, to as much as \$599 for the 10-week course required for craps. Students will need good math skills.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

MCCTI, along with Holyoke Community College and Springfield Technical Community College through their Training and Workforce Options (TWO) collaborative, will host a news conference Dec. 6 to roll out the program.

A website with basic information on the program is already available at [mccti.org](http://mccti.org). The two colleges promise to add details — like times and dates of open houses, the cost students will pay for each course, and a course schedule — between now and Dec. 6.

Classes begin Feb. 26, 2018. MCCTI's goal is to run two cohorts of students through a 15- to 20-week program before the \$960 million MGM Springfield casino opens for business in September 2018.



William Bertke practices stacking chips during a training session at the Horseshoe Casino Cincinnati in Cincinnati. One of the safest bets at the new casino set to open this spring is that cheaters will be among the gamblers, targeting dealers who have only dealt cards in a training room.

(AL BEHRMAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS)

“HCC’s collaborations with STCC make this a top priority and this partnership with MGM Springfield aligns with our long history of helping people in the community find career pathways, HCC President Christina Royal said in a news release.

“A core value for us as a community college is to help strengthen our regional workforce,” said STCC President John B. Cook. “Through our MCCTI collaboration, we are absolutely ready to contribute

to this new and important aspect of economic development.”

MGM will provide \$1.4 million of in-kind funding for the training school. That will come in the form of space, equipment and staff to teach courses, the colleges have said in the past. The classrooms are under construction on the ninth floor of MGM-owned 95 State St.

The first classes will cover the basics of gambling operations, customer service,

security, problem gambling and the specifics of Massachusetts casino laws.

That basic class will be followed by courses on specific games of chance and how to run them. Advanced courses include: craps, baccarat, blackjack, poker, pai gow tiles, pai gow poker, roulette, slot machine attendant, slot machine repair and surveillance training.

The schools estimate there will be about 1,000 applicants and the school will enroll 550 in the next year. Of those, 400 will graduate and be the casino gambling floor workers MGM says it needs.

MGM Springfield has promised the state that it is creating 3,000 permanent jobs. A rough breakdown of those jobs calls for MGM Springfield to hire at least 1,000 workers on the casino floor including dealers, pit managers, slot machine technicians and the like. The casino also will need 800 food, beverage and culinary workers and 115 hotel workers.

MGM expects to hire 55 for engineering and maintenance, 500 for general administration and 80 for valet parking, bus greeters and similar jobs.