

Student Services

Helping you make your way

That's the idea behind Bristol Community College. To reap the maximum benefit from your college education, you need opportunities to exercise your abilities in ways not always found in the classroom. And, you need some personalized attention to fulfill your educational and career goals.

We offer a whole range of extracurricular activities that can enhance your college experience, and the services that will support your educational progress and develop your potential for growth. The Enrollment Services staff and related support services are committed to helping you map out your educational road, make the transition into college, complete your goals successfully, and find employment or the right place to complete your education.

The key word here is personal – we want to work with you to make sure that your education is everything you want and need.

There is more to college than just lectures, papers, and classes. The best education is one where you are challenged to grow in all areas – physically, socially, and intellectually. And sometimes you just need support in that process – someone who cares about you and wants to help you become successful.

For more information

If you have any questions about financial aid, contact the Financial Aid office, ext. 2513.

Who goes to Bristol Community College?

Students at BCC come from every circumstance, representing every segment of the community at large. Our students tend to be older than the traditional college age, because many interrupted their education and are returning to start again. But there are many recent high school graduates, too, who take advantage of the affordable costs they find at Bristol Community College. More than 80 percent of our students are in the first generation of their family to attend college.

Approximately 11 percent of our students represent racial minority groups. Nearly 80 percent of our students work while attending school, and almost 60 percent receive financial aid. Because of the many responsibilities our students have in addition to school, BCC specializes in helping you fit educational goals into your busy life. Don't think you need to have your life planned before you come to BCC. Enrollment Services and Advisement staff can help you to determine your interests and strengths, either before or after you begin your education.

Starting your journey

Right from the beginning, BCC is there to help you adjust to life as a BCC student. You can find all these services in the new Enrollment Center in the Commonwealth College Center, Fall River Campus. The Enrollment Center provides registration and enrollment-related services for credit and noncredit enrollment. The Enrollment Center processes all registrations, course change forms, program changes, enrollment verifications, transcript requests, college withdrawals, and tuition waiver requests. Applications for admission to the College and financial

aid may also be obtained through the Enrollment Center. Enrollment Services are also available at the New Bedford Campus and the Attleboro Center.

Admissions

You start with Admissions, where you can get help in selecting an appropriate program. Our advisors work with you to evaluate your interests and educational experience. If you need preliminary courses before enrolling in a program, we will make recommendations for taking them. (Contact Admissions for detailed information.)

Financial Aid

The Financial Aid office provides assistance for all students in covering the cost of college. Staff members will help you file appropriate forms and direct you to alternative funding sources, including scholarships and loans. (You will find more details in the Financial Aid section.)

Placement Tests

All students entering a degree or certificate program are required by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to take assessment tests in order to ensure appropriate placement in classes. The tests assess students' skill levels in reading, writing, and mathematics. The results of the assessment, in conjunction with academic background information, are used by College advisors to help students choose courses prior to registration. Should developmental work be necessary, you'll receive help to select the courses you need. For Attleboro, call ext. 3527.

Student Health Insurance

By Massachusetts law, all residents are required to have health insurance. Only students enrolled in nine or more credits purchase the student health insurance through the College. The coverage may be waived only if comparable health insurance coverage can be demonstrated and a student health insurance waiver form is on file in the Student Accounts office before school begins. All students enrolled in any health science or early childhood education must carry health insurance. Brochures and ID cards may be obtained in the Student Accounts office, Health Services (G208), or by accessing www.universityhealthplans.com/intro/BCC.html

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires

- All full-time (12 credits), some part-time and all students on a visa or exchange program to present proof of vaccinations.
- All students with 9 or more credits to show proof of health insurance or participate in the student health insurance program.
- Parental consent for medical treatment if under 18 years of age. For information, call ext. 2232 or visit Health Services in G208.

Tobacco Free

As of Summer 2010, tobacco use is not permitted on any Bristol Community College campus or site.

Orientation

Orientation, offered before the semester begins, gives new students an opportunity to learn about their rights

and responsibilities, as well as the services offered to them by BCC. New students also come to campus prior to the start of classes to select courses and register with the help of an academic advisor.

Academic Advising

Before you start your first semester, you will meet with an advisor to plan your first semester's schedule. The advisor will ask questions about your future plans, interpret your placement test scores (English, reading, arithmetic, and algebra), or credits transferred from another accredited college to create your class schedule.

If you are in a degree program and taking more credits in the daytime, you will be assigned an advisor to advise you before registration each semester. Students are assigned advisors based on academic program and the advisor's specialty. In some instances, students are assigned to a staff member in the Advisement Center. At most times of the year, walk-in advisement is available. For more information, contact ext. 2777. For Attleboro, call ext. 3527, for New Bedford, call ext. 4000, for Taunton satellite, call ext. 3767.

Advisors assist students with short-term academic planning (course selection) as well as long term plans most often related to a student's career and/or transfer goal. Additionally, advisors assist students in learning about the numerous student services on campus such as academic tutoring, co-op experiences, career planning, transfer advising, and job placement.

VA Educational Benefits

Gives eligible veterans and eligible dependents access to a whole range of services at Bristol Community College. The College is approved to provide all services under the V.A. Rehab, VEAP, Dependent Educational Assistance, the Reserve G.I. Bill, and Montgomery G.I. Bill.

The College's certifying official can assist you with processing your application for benefits to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. For more information, contact Advisement and Counseling services, ext. 2227.

Once you are on your way

Throughout your time at BCC, you can receive assistance and support for your educational and career goals as you need it. Here is a sample of what we offer.

Services for students with disabilities

Students with documented disabilities can get extra support in achieving their educational goals. Contact the Office of Disability Services for more information. Buildings are wheelchair accessible.

Tutoring and Academic Support Center

The Tutoring and Academic Support Center (TASC), ext. 2295, B110, offers tutoring in most BCC courses with a special emphasis on "learning how to learn." Special group tutoring called Supplemental Instruction is also available at TASC. Peer tutors staff this comprehensive tutoring center. Tutoring is also offered at the New Bedford Campus and Attleboro Center. All services are free to BCC students.

Connections Services

Connections Services supports students experiencing problems in a specific course. Referrals are made by faculty, staff, or students may make an appointment. Advisors work with each student to help him or her get the services needed to become more successful at school. Connections literally "connects" the student to a variety of services on campus including tutoring, personal, career, or academic counseling, and other services to help get the student back on track. Call ext. 2761 for more information or stop by room G208 to learn more.

Student Engagement

At Bristol Community College, education extends beyond the classroom. You can develop new skills by participating in extracurricular activities. No matter what your interests, you can find a group of like-minded students who get together at BCC. Many of the degree programs sponsor clubs where you can gather with your fellow future professionals to learn more about the field. If you are a writer or photographer, you can utilize your talents on the student newspaper, *The BCC Observer*. If acting or production interests you, join the College drama association, BCC Club Theatre. We also have clubs that focus on the celebration of the many cultures represented on Campus.

If you have an eye for politics, you can represent the interests of fellow students on BCC's Student Senate. The Senate offers a great opportunity for the development of leadership, interpersonal, and public relations skills. You may also represent students by participating on a College-wide committee. Along with faculty, staff, and administrators, you can make recommendations on such issues as academic standards, the College budget, bookstore, cafeteria concerns, and Orientation Day.

In addition to the opportunity to develop valuable skills that employers will find attractive, the Student Life office works to provide opportunities to meet others and have fun. During the year, the Student Life office sponsors many events such as lectures, picnics, comedy shows, bands, off-campus trips to museums, sporting events, and movies.

Contact the Student Engagement Office in the Commonwealth College Center, G102, ext. 2222, at the New Bedford Campus at ext. 4000.

Fitness Center and recreation

The Fall River Campus has a fully equipped, staffed fitness center located in the Commonwealth College Center. It offers weight training equipment, Life Fitness treadmills, ellipticals, and Lifecycles as well as Stairmasters, Concept2 rowers, and a free-weight dumbbell area.

There are men's and women's locker rooms and showers available. Fitness instructors are on staff to show proper use of the exercise equipment. Instructional exercise classes are offered during the fall and spring semesters including Pilates, yoga, cardio, and Tai Chi. Special informational sessions are offered about wellness, nutrition, and body composition. Outdoor space includes tennis courts, a basketball court, the Albert G. Pierce half-mile walking path, and exercise area. The Attleboro and New Bedford Campuses have YMCA passes available for use.

Athletics

Bristol Community College is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) at the intercollegiate level in men's and women's soccer and basketball.

Those interested in competing as student athletes must enroll in a minimum of 12 credits and maintain a 2.0 GPA. All information regarding tryout dates, eligibility, medical forms, etc. can be found by visiting the school's Web site and clicking on Athletics. The Athletic Director and coaching staff are located in the Commonwealth College Center (G building), room G101. You may contact the Athletic Director by calling ext. 2818.

Advisement and Counseling Services

The Center can help you sort through all the issues involved in staying on the track you've chosen. Our advisors serve as your advocates in achieving your goals. Personal counseling by our staff of professional counselors can help you with any issue that may affect your academic progress. Call ext. 2234 to schedule an appointment.

Campus Ministry provides opportunities for personal growth through prayer, Scripture reading, counseling, and fellowship. The Campus Ministry office sponsors retreats, lectures, social justice projects, and a variety of other activities for spiritual growth and development. The Campus Ministry office is located in G208. A Protestant minister is also available.

Health Services

The Health Center is located on the second floor of the Commonwealth College Center (G208) and is accessible by elevator. The Center is staffed during the day by a registered nurse. A physician sees students on campus by appointment one day a week. The Health Center provides first aid and a private area to rest and free HIV/STD and pregnancy testing. All services provided by the Health Center location are free of charge and confidential. The staff offers health fairs, lectures, and workshops on healthy lifestyle topics such as nutrition, how to stop smoking, avoiding colds and flu, and more.

Dental Hygiene Clinic

The BCC Dental Hygiene Clinic provides dental hygiene services under the supervision of faculty members. Services provided include blood pressure screening, oral cancer examinations, dental and periodontal (gum) evaluation, dental x-rays, oral health education, periodontal debridement (professional scaling and polishing), fluoride treatments, and sealants. The clinic is located in the Siegel Health Technologies building.

Campus safety and traffic control

The College's Campus Police office, ext. 2218, maintains a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week security operation. The staff is committed to the safety and security of the campus community and all visitors. Campus police officers and security personnel provide an on-campus transport service upon request.

Located at key spots on campus are emergency telephones, enclosed in yellow boxes and marked with blue lights. They provide instant connection to the Campus Security office. For emergencies, call ext. 3911.

Parking is free and available on a first-come, first-served basis. The College has 12 parking lots with more than 1,800 spaces on the Elsbree Street Campus. All traffic and parking laws are strictly enforced and infractions are subject to monetary fines, especially those involving handicapped spaces, fire lanes, parking on the grass, and parking outside white lines. At the New Bedford Campus, students are offered discounted parking at downtown garages.

HeadStart to College is a special learning opportunity at the New Bedford Campus. Students receive tutoring, career planning, and academic assistance. Geared specifically for students who have been away from school awhile, it provides extra support to help returning students succeed in college courses. For more information, call ext. 4000.

Charting your next step after BCC

Whether you enter the workplace immediately or transfer to a four-year college first, we provide the tools and services that assist you in making practical use of your education.

Career services

Career Services can help you explore careers, define your career interests, research your major, and plan your career path. Career counselors can also help you with every aspect of your job search including résumé writing, interviewing, and job search strategies. Call ext. 2231, or in New Bedford, ext. 4000.

Job Placement Services

Counselors are available to discuss résumés, cover letters, job search strategies, and information on specific organizations. Once a student has registered with the Job Placement office, we are able to make referrals for appropriate positions. Call ext. 2231.

Transfer counseling

Should you decide to transfer, our transfer counselors can help you meet the requirements of the four-year institution of your choice. Refer to the catalog section called Transferring or check the transfer Web site for information about services and articulation agreements with other colleges.

BCC student clubs & organizations

Anime Club (Attleboro Campus)
 Christian Fellowship
 Clinical Lab Science
 Club Theater
 Comp HC/Massage Club
 Criminal Justice Society
 Deaf Studies
 Dental Hygiene Club
 Gaming Association
 Gay/Straight Alliance
 International Club
 Medical Assisting Club
 Music Club
 NALS
 Nursing
 Observer
 Occupational Therapy
 Office Administration
 Portuguese Club
 Press Club
 Radio Club
 Rotaract
 Ski and Snowboarding Club
 SkillsUSA
 Travel Club
 Tutor Club
 TV Club
 Video Club
 Visual Arts

Don't see a club that interests you? Then start one that does. For more information, contact the Office of Student Engagement, G101.

