



Gateway to College

Gateway to College is a nationally recognized model that affords students who have disconnected from high school, or are in danger of disconnecting, a fresh chance to achieve academic success. The QCC and WPS version of this program will be the fourth in Massachusetts utilizing this innovative collaborative model. The Gateway to College program provides disengaged students who meet minimum scores in reading and who demonstrate motivation to succeed (based on a required application process which includes written essays and a mandatory interview) an alternative placement opportunity and a pathway to college and career success.

Worcester residents between the ages of 16 and 21 will be able to work simultaneously on the completion of a high school diploma while earning college credit toward an Associate degree or certificate at Quinsigamond Community College (QCC). This program is an Academic Year/Learning Community model, with new students able to apply for Fall or Spring semesters. The program is designed to accept 60 students in the fall and 40 students in the spring of each year. Continuing students attend courses year-round during the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

Gateway is an 'all college' model. All classes take place at the QCC campuses. In the Foundation semester (first semester) student's complete coursework in Reading, Writing and Math, in addition to strengthening academic skills in the First Year Seminar course (ORT 110). In subsequent semesters, students are guided toward a pathway or college major based on courses needed for a high school diploma and student interests in potential careers. Gateway students have full access to QCC support services, student activities, and free tutoring in addition to MCAS support. Each student is assigned to a Resource Specialist who will work collaboratively with WPS to ensure that all courses taken are applicable to high school completion.

The program is managed through the **Leadership Team**, which is a five-member team composed of QCC and WPS administrators. WPS members are designated and appointed by the Superintendent, QCC members are designated and appointed by the College President. A designated WPS Gateway to College Liaison (Tammy Boyle) is an active member of the **Leadership Team** and works closely with the Gateway to College Manager to coordinate all aspects of the program. The program is funded through a DESE start-up grant and sustained by an annual Memorandum of Understanding which designates a sharing of Chapter 70 funds to sustain the program.

For more information about the Gateway to College program, you can call 508-854-7587 or email gtinfo@qcc.mass.edu.