

Bristol Community College 2025 Fact Sheet

Since its establishment in 1965, Bristol Community College has been guided by core values rooted in student success and lifelong learning. For 60 years, the college has served as a leading center for education and workforce development across the region, with locations in Attleboro, Fall River, New Bedford, Taunton and online.

Bristol works closely with businesses, industries, K–12 schools, higher education partners, and community organizations to ensure its credit and noncredit programs remain aligned with regional workforce and academic needs. The college offers a broad range of career and transfer pathways and flexible online options that prepare students for employment or successful transfer to four-year institutions.

Bristol's Business Solutions & Partnerships division delivers customized workforce training to support regional employers, while the National Offshore Wind Institute (NOWI) provides globally recognized training and certifications for the offshore wind, maritime, and related industries.

Committed to equity and access, Bristol offers comprehensive student support services designed to remove barriers and promote achievement. As one of the region's largest employers, the college fosters an inclusive environment that values diverse cultures, perspectives, and abilities.

On March 3, 2025, Sedgwick L. Harris, Ed.D., became Bristol's fifth president, bringing more than 25 years of distinguished higher education leadership to the institution.

Bristol Community College is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education.

About

Bristol's gross impact in Bristol County is \$160.6 million. Every \$1 spent by Bristol Community College generates an additional \$0.64 in the local economy, for an economic impact of \$1.64.

Bristol's annual tuition and fees for the 2025-26 academic year are \$5,952, based on academic year full-time enrollment or 24 credits. This is in comparison to Bridgewater State University at \$12,194 and UMass Dartmouth at \$16,233.

Bristol's student-to-faculty ratio in Fall 2024 is 16:1. Bristol has over 80 transfer agreements and 117 degree and certificate programs. Programs cover a broad range of academic and career-focused subjects, from art and design to veterinary healthcare.

Bristol's service area covers 20 cities and towns across southeastern Massachusetts, including North Attleboro, Attleboro, Norton, Taunton, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Dighton, Berkley, Lakeville, Swansea, Somerset, Freetown, Fall River, Rochester, Acushnet, New Bedford, Mattapoisett, Fairhaven, Dartmouth and Westport.

Bristol has 5 locations: Attleboro, Fall River, New Bedford, Taunton, and the National Offshore Wind Institute, plus online.

Bristol has 7 NJCAA programs including men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball.

Bristol's rooftop and parking canopy solar arrays generate 3.2 million megawatts of electricity annually. Bristol has 40 electric vehicle charging stations.

In fiscal year 25, Bristol had 15,452 no-cost course section registrations and 2,978 low-cost course section registrations.

Bristol Community College is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, gender identity, color, national origin, sexual orientation, genetic information, religion, age, veteran status or disability under state or federal law in any aspect of employment, admissions, access or treatment of its programs and activities.

Enrollment

8,010 students enrolled in Fall 2025 at Bristol, which translated to a full-time equivalent (FTE) of 4728.7. Enrollment is often measured by full-time equivalent (FTE). The FTE calculation is based on the sum of credits carried by all students divided by 15.

Age: The average age of Bristol Community College students in Fall 2025 was 27.3 years.

Gender: 66% of students identified as female, 33% identified as male, 1% did not report their gender.

Enrollment status: 71% of students enrolled part-time, 29% of students enrolled full-time.

Ethnicity: 39% of students identified as BIPOC, 53% identified as non-BIPOC, 8% did not report their ethnicity.

Residency: 88% of students live in Massachusetts, 10% live in Rhode Island, 2% live elsewhere.

The total unduplicated headcount in fiscal year 25 was 10,429, a 16% increase from fiscal year 24.

Bristol was ranked #4 in enrollment among the 15 Massachusetts community colleges for Fall 2024; Bristol consistently ranks as one of the largest in the Commonwealth's system.

36 high schools participated in college access programs for Fall 2025.

Basic Needs

About \$123,000 in emergency CARE funds helped 311 Bristol students.

Bristol's Basic Needs department distributed 125,131 pounds of food to 6,114 families, 17,679 individuals, through Bristol's Mobile Food Market.

Success Indicators

- 79% of 2025 graduates are continuing their education.
- 96% of 2025 graduates are likely to recommend Bristol to others.
- 894 degrees and certificates were awarded in fiscal year 25.
- 67% of 2025 graduates are employed full- or part-time or are self-employed.
- The retention rate of first-time, part-time students from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025 is 49.7%.
- The retention rate of first-time, full-time students from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025 is 60.9%.

Student Engagement

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) provides Bristol with eligible students useful insights into the college's student population. In Spring 2025, 778 (12%) students completed the survey.

We learned that many of our students are highly engaged in communicating with their instructors, completing course assignments and preparing for class. Students also reported that Bristol is providing the financial support they need to afford their education. This survey also collected valuable information about the frequency, satisfaction and importance of various college services.

Aspects of high engagement:

- 62.5% of our current students wrote 5 or more papers.

- 81.7% report Bristol provides the financial support they need to afford their education.
- 71.7% have engaged in academic advising or planning 2 or more times.

Data Analytics

Bristol's Student Success and Achievement dashboards ensure that Bristol data are accessible to the college community, balanced with security and governance. Strategic Analytics provides various forms of data to ensure that everyone at the college is empowered to make decisions that align with Bristol's goals and objectives. To learn more, visit BristolCC.edu/StudentSuccessAndAchievement.

Community College Value

In academic year 24-25, \$47.9 million in federal, state and local financial aid was disbursed to Bristol students.

60% of degree-seeking students received Pell grants.

20% of students received loans.

58% of new incoming students graduate without debt (federal, state and private loans that were borrowed by the student while enrolled at Bristol, Fall 2018 cohort).

269 scholarships totaling about \$394,000 were awarded from the Bristol Foundation.

Free College: A Bold Investment in Massachusetts' Future

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts continued to offer free community college through the MassEducate and MassReconnect programs. All eligible Massachusetts residents, regardless of age, who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree are able to earn a degree, tuition free. For more details, visit BristolCC.edu/FreeCollege.

5,432 students received free community college funding in fiscal year 2025. \$12.7 million in free community college funding was awarded in fiscal year 2025.

Student Leadership

7 elected members in leadership of Student Senate. 1 elected Student Trustee, 5 hired Student Ambassadors.

Economic Contributions

2,099 learners participated in Economic & Business Development courses in fiscal year 25.

Under Economic & Business Development, students engaged with adult education programs (e.g. HiSET, GED and ESOL and transition-to-college bridge programs). In addition, Business Solutions & Partnerships and the National Offshore Wind Institute continued to offer customized training, professional development and workforce development courses.

Bristol received \$10.4 million in total funding from 35 grants through the Office of Grant Development in fiscal year 25. These grants were awarded from private, state and federal sources and were submitted by departments across the college, including Academic Affairs, Student Services & Enrollment Management, and Economic & Business Development.

Credit for Prior Learning

539 credits were given by exam in academic year 24-25.

109 credits were given by credential in academic year 24-25.

Transfer Services

623 total students transferred from Bristol in 2024. The average number of credits transferred was 52.

The top transfer institutions were UMass Dartmouth, Bridgewater State University, UMass Boston.