
UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

For information about admission to graduate programs, please consult the “School of Graduate Studies” section of this catalog.

Bridgewater State College seeks to admit students who give evidence of intellectual capacity, motivation, character and who have a record of scholastic achievement. An effort is made to attract candidates of diverse academic, economic, racial, religious and geographic backgrounds. The admission requirements and procedures are designed to assist the college to select a freshman class from those applicants who can benefit from the educational opportunities at Bridgewater State College.

Bridgewater State College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, color, religion, age, or national or ethnic origin. In addition, no otherwise qualified handicapped applicant shall, solely by reason of handicap, be excluded from admission.

FRESHMAN ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

APPLICATION FORM

Each candidate should submit the Bridgewater State College application. The form, aside from collecting biographical data, allows the candidate to provide additional information concerning their academic and extracurricular interests. The college prefers students to apply online at the college’s Web site, www.bridgew.edu, but also accepts the Common Application as well as other electronically formatted applications.

HIGH SCHOOL RECORD

Candidates must request an official transcript of their secondary school record be sent directly to the Office of Admissions. The strength of the applicant’s curriculum, grades, weighted grade point average and class rank as well as the level of competition in the applicant’s high school are taken into consideration.

The secondary program should include the following college preparatory subjects:

English (a)	4 units
Mathematics (b)	3 units
Science (c)	3 units

History/Social Science (d)	2 units
Foreign Language (e)	2 units
Elective Units (f)	2 units
Related Courses (g)	4 units

- a. These must be college preparatory courses in composition and literature, which include the development of reading, writing and comprehension skills.
- b. These must be college preparatory courses in such subjects as algebra, geometry, trigonometry, elementary functions and mathematical analysis. A fourth year of mathematics is strongly recommended for students who plan to enter fields such as computer science, management science, mathematics, pre-engineering or the sciences.
- c. Two of these courses must include laboratory work.
- d. This requirement should include one year of United States history and government.
- e. Students are encouraged to elect additional years of foreign language study.
- f. Students should choose from additional college preparatory courses in English, mathematics, computer science, foreign language, natural and physical science, visual and performing arts and humanities.
- g. Students are encouraged to elect courses that are consistent with their personal, educational and career goals. These courses may include, but are certainly not limited to, such offerings as computer science, business, communications, psychology and sociology.

Students graduating from vocational-technical high schools may substitute vocational-technical vocabulary course work for the foreign language requirement even if foreign language courses are offered in their high schools. Two vocational-technical courses may be used to fulfill the two required electives.

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Candidates for admission to the freshman class must submit the results of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT Reasoning Test) or the American College Test (ACT). Candidates should have official score reports forwarded directly from the Educational Testing Program or the American College Testing Program during the academic year in which application is made to the college.

For evaluation according to the provisions of Chapter 344, students with learning disabilities are expected to submit verification from their guidance office. In most cases, a copy of the student's current Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) is the appropriate verifying document. More specific documentation may be required for academic advising and special services when students enroll.

Chapter 344, Section 19 of the 1983 Acts and Resolves of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts states that: "No resident of the commonwealth who has been diagnosed as being developmentally disabled, including but not limited to, having dyslexia or other specific language disabilities, by any evaluation procedure prescribed by chapter seventy-one B, or equivalent testing, shall be required to take any standardized college entrance aptitude test to gain admittance to any public institution of higher education in the commonwealth. Admission shall be determined by all other relevant factors excluding standardized achievement testing."

Candidates who graduated from high school three or more years prior to their planned entrance date are exempt from the standardized testing requirement.

FRESHMAN ADMISSIONS REVIEW

Freshman admission to Bridgewater State College is selective. The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education has established minimum admission standards that require candidates to earn a "B" average for the required high school units mentioned above. Students whose average falls below this requirement can also meet the standard by the use of a sliding scale that begins with compensating SAT scores above 920, or an ACT composite score above 19. No student can be admitted whose high school grade point average falls below "C". Detailed information about the BHE admissions standards can be found on their Web site, www.mass.edu. Admissions decisions at Bridgewater are based upon the strength of the candidate's academic profile as compared to the pool of applicants. Generally, more than 6,000 applications are reviewed for a freshman class of 1,300.

Since Bridgewater State College seeks students who will contribute to the college in a variety of ways, other factors are considered in the admission decision. These include demonstrated leadership, participation in extra-curricular activities, motivation, maturity and special aptitudes and talents. Letters of recommendation and any additional supporting information a candidate wishes to submit are welcomed and encouraged.

Special consideration is given to applicants out of high school for three years or more, students from educationally disadvantaged environments, working adults, and candidates who exhibit exceptional potential.

Interviews are not required. Students are encouraged to attend one of the many group information sessions offered throughout the year. Dates, times and a telephone reservation number are available in the *Viewbook* or on the college Web site, www.bridgew.edu.

Additional information concerning admission procedures, application fees, standardized testing requirements for admission, notification date and deferred enrollment may be found in the *Viewbook*. Copies may be obtained from the Office of Admissions – Gates House, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA 02325.

TRANSFER ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Bridgewater State College welcomes applications from qualified transfer students. To qualify for transfer admission, a student must have earned 12 semester hours of transferable credit; otherwise the applicant is considered under freshman admission requirements.

Transfer applicants will be evaluated on the basis of their previous college work and must request an official transcript to be sent from each college or university attended. Transfer applicants who have earned less than 24 transferable credits must also submit to an official high school transcript and standardized testing results.

It is expected that candidates for transfer admission will be in good standing at the last institution attended and will have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.2 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Students transferring less than 24 semester hours of credit must present a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Special consideration may be granted for exceptional high school performance, evidence of maturity and motivation, or other extenuating circumstances and will be handled on an individual basis. **Please note that these are minimum eligibility requirements and do not guarantee admission to the college or to a specific degree program.**

Transfer credit toward the degree will be granted for course work completed at other accredited institutions of higher education. A minimum grade of C- is

required for credit transfer. Courses that do not have a direct equivalent at Bridgewater State College may be counted as fulfilling elective requirements in the curriculum. Transfer students are required to fulfill the same degree requirements as any other student; however, any student who has completed the general education requirements of one of the other Massachusetts State Colleges will not be subject to additional general education requirements at Bridgewater State College. One half of the required courses in major and minor fields must be completed at Bridgewater State College. Students transferring from an accredited two-year institution are limited to 69 hours of transfer credit toward the degree. Students transferring from an accredited four-year institution are limited to 90 hours of transfer credit toward the degree.

Grades for courses taken at an institution other than BSC are not used to compute a student's grade point average. Only courses actually taken at BSC are used to calculate a student's BSC grade point average.

JOINT ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

Bridgewater State College participates with the Massachusetts Community Colleges, Dean College, and Quincy College in Joint Admissions. This program guarantees admission to Bridgewater State College for transfers from participating institutions who are enrolled in pre-approved programs of study, providing the associate degree is completed. Joint Admission students must maintain a cumulative grade point average at the two-year college of 2.5 or better to be eligible.

Transfers indicate their desire to participate in Joint Admissions by contacting either the Admissions Office or Transfer Office at their community college. A written application for Joint Admissions can be filed upon enrollment at the two-year participating institution. One semester prior to their planned enrollment at Bridgewater State College, Joint Admission students must file an Intent to Enroll form in lieu of a regular Bridgewater State College application. This form is available from the Transfer Counselor at the participating colleges or the Office of Admissions at Bridgewater State College. To complete the review process, an official transcript of all college work completed to date at any prior institution(s) and the community college must be requested by the applicant. BSC's Joint Admissions deadlines are November 1 for spring and March 1 for fall.

COMMONWEALTH TRANSFER COMPACT For students transferring from Massachusetts community colleges to Bridgewater State College (Effective January, 1990)

I. Requirements for Transfer Compact Status

A student shall be eligible for transfer compact status if he or she has met the following requirements:

- a. Completed an associate's degree with a minimum of 60 hours exclusive of developmental course work.
- b. Achieved a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.0 (in a 4.0 system) at the community college awarding the degree. This is merely a minimum grade point average and by no means guarantees admission.
- c. Completed the following minimum Core Curriculum Requirements, exclusive of developmental course work:

English Composition/Writing	6 credit hours
Behavioral and Social Science	9 credit hours
Humanities and Fine Arts	9 credit hours
Natural or Physical Science	8 credit hours
Mathematics	3 credit hours

The community college from which the student is applying is responsible for identifying on the transcript of the candidate that the student has fulfilled the compact specifications.

II. Credits to be Transferred

The 35 credits in Core Curriculum courses specified in section I will be applied toward the fulfillment of the Bridgewater State College general education requirements.

A minimum of 25 additional credits will be accepted as transfer credits. These credits may be transferred as free electives, toward any additional Core Curriculum Requirements, toward the student's major, or any combination, as Bridgewater State College deems appropriate.

Only college-level course credits consistent with the recommended standards set forth in the Undergraduate Experience publication are included under this compact. Credits awarded by the sending institution through CLEP, challenge examinations and other life experience evaluations for course credit may be included when the community college certifies that a student qualifies under this compact.

III. Credits Beyond the Associate's Degree

To complete the baccalaureate degree, a student who transfers under this compact may be required to take no more than 68 additional credits unless:

- a. The student changes his or her program upon entering Bridgewater State College, or
- b. The combination of additional Core Curriculum Requirements, if any, and the requirements of the student's major at the receiving institution total more than 68 credits.

Under these circumstances, transfer students will be subject to the same requirements as students who began their undergraduate education at Bridgewater State College.

IV. Admission to Competitive Majors or Programs

If because of space or fiscal limitations the receiving institution does not admit all qualified applicants to a given major or program, the receiving institution will use the same criteria for applicants who are transfer students under this compact as it does for its native students.

V. Student Appeals

A student who believes that the provisions of this compact have not been applied fairly has the right to appeal.

Initially, differences of interpretation regarding the award of transfer credit shall be resolved between the student and the receiving institution. If a difference remains unresolved, the student shall present his evaluation of the situation to the institution from which the student is transferring. Representatives from the two institutions shall then have the opportunity to resolve the differences.

Absent a satisfactory resolution, differences of interpretation may be presented to the State-wide Transfer Coordinating Committee.

DECISION AND NOTIFICATION DATES

Early Action Program

Freshman candidates may apply under the Early Action Program. Candidates need to have fulfilled the standardized testing requirements on or before the November test date and will need to have their application complete and transcripts on file in the Office of Admissions by November 16.

Early Action applicants are notified by mid-December. The college either 1) offers admission, 2) denies admission, or 3) defers admission and reviews the application again during the regular admissions cycle. A student offered admission under the Early Action Program has until the May 1 Candidates Reply Date to respond to the college's offer.

Regular Freshman Admissions

Freshman applicants for the fall semester must submit their completed application by February 15. Candidates are notified of the Admissions Committee decision by April 15. A limited number of freshmen candidates are accepted for the spring semester each year. The application deadline is November 1.

Transfer Admissions

Transfer applications should be filed by April 1 for September admission or by November 1 for January admission.

Notification for transfer candidates is done on a rolling basis as the application file becomes complete. Notification for September admission begins in March.

Note: The college reserves the right to close admissions at any time.

REINSTATEMENT AND READMISSION

Undergraduate students who have not registered for courses for one or more semesters, or who have been academically separated from the College and who wish to re-enroll must file an application for reinstatement/readmission with the Office of Admissions. An official transcript from all colleges attended (if any) since last enrolling at BSC as well as a personal statement explaining the circumstances of separation/non-enrollment must be submitted with the application while meeting the above published priority deadlines for transfer students.

Upon readmission/reinstatement, transfer credit, if applicable, will be awarded according to established policies. The grade point average achieved at BSC upon separation will be resumed as grades achieved at other institutions are not included when calculating a student's BSC grade point average.

Students who have been academically separated from the College must meet the requirements of separation outlined by their appropriate Dean before being considered for readmission.

INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS

International students who wish to apply for admission to the college should address a letter of inquiry to the Office of Admissions indicating their educational background and intended area of study. Eligible candidates will be mailed a special international student admission application and asked to submit official transcripts and credentials. Students for whom English is a second language will be required to submit an official copy of results from the “Test of English as a Foreign Language” (TOEFL), unless they have at least two years experience in an American College or University.

Documentation of financial support resources is required.

All students applying as freshmen are required, in addition to TOEFL, to submit official results of the SAT Reasoning examination.

During the initial orientation/registration period, international students’ TOEFL examination records and academic transcripts will be evaluated for placement in 1) appropriate English as a Second Language courses offered through the Department of Foreign Languages, and 2) in writing courses offered through the English Department. In addition to the above-mentioned mandatory records, other institutional placement exams may be required. Candidates should begin the application procedure no less than **nine months** in advance of the expected date of admission.

PROGRAM FOR REGISTERED NURSES

Provisions have been made for graduates of three-year diploma schools of nursing to complete programs leading to degrees in any of the academic majors being offered at the college.

While encouraging registered nurses to pursue degree work for personal enrichment, the college supports the guidelines of the National League of Nursing for the professional education of nurses. These guidelines caution nurses whose career goals include the opportunity to assume supervisory and/or teaching responsibilities in the field of nursing, that degree programs to be pursued should be taken only at those institutions which offer degrees in nursing education.

Through this special admissions program, students accepted to the college are granted 60 credit hours for their school or nursing work. Where applicable, these

credits may be used to meet general education, major or elective requirements. As with all others transferring into the college, registered nurses are expected to meet the same degree requirements as outlined in the “Undergraduate Academic Policies” section of this catalog.

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Bridgewater State College participates in the New England Regional Student Program. The program is administered by the New England Board of Higher Education and is designed to permit qualified New England residents to study at the in-state tuition rate plus surcharge tuition in certain programs at Bridgewater State College.

Information about the program can be obtained from the Bridgewater State College Admissions Office.

ADVANCED STANDING

Advanced standing with college credit is granted to entering students who have demonstrated college-level proficiency through established procedures.

Advanced Placement Program

Bridgewater State College participates in the Advanced Placement Program of the College Board, providing academic credit for students qualified for advanced placement standing. Those interested should take the College Board Advanced Placement tests and have the results submitted to the Office of Admissions for evaluation. Students scoring three, four or five receive placement and credit from the college.

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)

Bridgewater State College encourages able students to seek advanced standing through one or more of the CLEP examinations described below. Credit is awarded for scores at the 50th percentile or above. Please note that foreign language percentiles are slightly higher.

CLEP credit may not be awarded if equivalent college level course work has been completed either prior to, or later than, the comparable CLEP examination.

Students may arrange to take the CLEP Examination at any of the national test centers, including Bridgewater State College. Those students interested in taking the exams at Bridgewater should contact the Test Center, Academic Achievement Center at 508.531.1780.

There are two types of CLEP Examinations: the General Examinations and the Subject Examinations. Both measure factual knowledge and understanding, as well as the ability to see relationships and apply basic principles to new problems. The examinations are not based on courses given at Bridgewater State College but on typical courses in a variety of colleges throughout the country.

There are five General Examinations which can be applied toward the General Education Requirements at Bridgewater as follows:

General Examinations	Credit Allowed	Area of Course Equivalent
English Composition without essay (not recommended)*	3	Writing I (ENGL 101)
English Composition with essay (preferred choice)	6	Writing I and II (ENGL 101, 102)
Mathematics	6	Mathematics (MATH 100, 105)
Natural Sciences (Biology/Physical)	6	Natural Sciences (BIOL 102, Physical Science elective)
Humanities	6	Humanities and Creative Arts (ARTH 101, ENGL 221)
Social Sciences/History	6	Social Sciences

The subject examinations are comparable to the final or end-of-course examinations in particular undergraduate courses. The following subject examinations are offered:

Composition and Credit Allowed

Literature

American Literature (ENGL 231, 232)	6
Analysis and Interpretation of Literature	6
English Literature (ENGL 221, 222)	6
Freshman English (not recommended)*	6

* Bridgewater requires a supplementary essay to be taken at the college.

Foreign Languages

College French – Levels 1 and 2 (LAFR 101, 102, 151, 152)	3 -12
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College German – Levels 1 and 2 (LAGE 101, 102, 151, 252)	3 -12
College Spanish – Levels 1 and 2 (LASP 101, 102, 151, 252)	3 -12

Behavioral Sciences, Social Sciences and History

American Government (POLI 172)	3
American History I: Early Colonizations to 1877 (HIST 221)	3
American History II: 1865 to the Present (HIST 222)	3
Introductory Psychology (PSYC 100)	3
Human Growth and Development (PSYC 224)	3
Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 101)	3
Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 102)	3
Introductory Sociology (SOC 102)	3
Western Civilization I: Ancient Near East to 1648 (HIST 111)	3
Western Civilization II: 1648 to the Present (HIST 112)	3

Science and Mathematics

Calculus with Elementary Functions (MATH 141, 142)	6
College Algebra	3
Trigonometry	3
College Algebra – Trigonometry (MATH 100)	3
General Biology (BIOL 100, 102)	6
General Chemistry (CHEM 131, 132)	6

Business

Information Systems and Computer Applications	3
Introduction to Management (MGMT 130)	3
Introductory Accounting (ACFI 240, 241)	6
Introductory Business Law (ACFI 305)	3
Marketing (MGMT 200)	3

Credit decisions are adjusted on the basis of total score in relation to prior years of study.

SECOND DEGREE OPTION

A student who has earned a bachelor's degree at Bridgewater State College or at another accredited institution may be admitted to the college to pursue an additional bachelor's degree in a field of study substantially different from the initial degree program.

That student should make application through the Undergraduate Admissions Office, providing official transcripts from all previous colleges other than Bridgewater State College. Please note that second bachelor degree

candidates are subject to transfer admission deadlines of April 1 for fall entrance and November 1 for spring entrance.

Admission is dependent on approval of the department in which the student wishes to pursue a major. Certain departments may recommend that the student pursue a graduate program with some prerequisite courses rather than a second bachelor's degree. Some majors have specific admission requirements and/or limited space, which may result in a student not being accepted into the desired major.

For second undergraduate degree graduation requirements, see the "Undergraduate Academic Policies" section of this catalog.