



Life-Changing Free Access to Higher Education for Bay State Residents 25+

Nearly two million Massachusetts residents over the age of 25 have a high school diploma or equivalent, but no higher education credential, limiting their career opportunities. MassReconnect is a \$20M initiative led by the Department of Higher Education in partnership with Massachusetts' public community colleges to make higher education more affordable and accessible to students 25 years of age and older. Part of the Healey-Driscoll administration's groundbreaking support for higher education in Massachusetts, this signature education program provides more residents with access to higher education to help them reach their goals and pursue rewarding careers that drive the Commonwealth's economy.

Removing the Financial Barriers to Higher Education for Massachusetts Residents

The financial assistance and support services offered through the MassReconnect program enable students 25 years of age and older to attend one of Massachusetts' 15 public community colleges and earn an associate degree or certificate at no cost to them. MassReconnect covers the cost of full- or part-time tuition and fees, and participants receive an allowance to cover books and supplies.

MassReconnect provides the Commonwealth's community colleges with more funding to create greater access for students from lower-resourced communities. This includes the 700,000 students with some higher education credits who do not have a degree or credential.

To be eligible, Massachusetts residents must:

- Be at least 25 years of age or older as of the first day of classes
- Have been a resident of the Commonwealth for at least one year as of the start of the enrollment term
- Have not previously received an associate or bachelor's degree or the equivalent
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Awards will be made directly by the community colleges at the point of enrollment throughout the academic year.

Additional information can be found at www.mass.edu/MassReconnect