

STEM STARTER ACADEMY

Statewide

STEM Starter Academy is a state-funded initiative to inform, engage, recruit, retain, and graduate significantly more students in STEM at all 15 community colleges.

Program Goals:

1. To graduate more community college students with STEM degrees and certificates, prepared to enter the workforce or transfer to a four-year institution.
2. To recruit more students into the STEM pipeline at the community colleges.

For More Information:

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MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

www.mass.edu/stem

At Mount Wachusett Community College



STEM is a College Priority:

- STEM Awareness Day (fall & spring semesters)
- Open house with hands-on STEM activities
- Guest speakers from the industry
- STEM academic & career advising



We're Student Centered:

- 71 summer academy students (2014–2016)
- Enrolled in up to 2 college-level courses
- Individual academic advising & tutoring
- Customized summer schedules to meet student's needs & satisfy STEM Degree Requirements



Our Students are Engaged:

- Six week summer STEM academy
- Four-day academy orientation (career exploration, site visits to STEM employers & guest speakers)
- Two-day Leadership Academy run by MWCC Student Services



Our Students are Ready:

- 2015–2016 Math Modeling: 650+ high school seniors
- 69% placed out of MWCC's developmental math course prior to graduating high school
- 2017 Math Modeling: 400+ students anticipated



Our Students are Successful:

- 69% placed out of MWCC's developmental math
- 95% of the summer academy students enrolled in STEM at MWCC the subsequent fall semester
- 85% of the summer academy students enrolled in STEM at MWCC the subsequent spring semester

Contact Veronica Guay, Assistant Dean at
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AA/EEO Institution | IP528-07



Mount Wachusett
Community College



Statewide

Key highlights from the first two years of the statewide STEM Starter Academy program:

More than **10,000 students**
directly participated

Another **20,000 students**
participated in recruitment events
and information sessions

SSA population reflects the overall demographics
of the community colleges:

12% African American

14% Latino/a

51% Female

SSA students are more likely to
enroll full time
compared to general community college students

75% of SSA students
who completed developmental math in summer 2015
enrolled in college-level math in fall 2015

70% of
degrees & certificates
earned by SSA students are in STEM