

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

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NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Notice is hereby given pursuant to [M.G.L. c. 69, § 30](#) and the [Massachusetts Board of Higher Education's Policy Establishing a Process for Public Comment](#) that the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (Department) will open a comment period relative to **the revocation of the degree-granting authority of Cambridge College in the Commonwealth.**

Cambridge College, located in Boston, Massachusetts, was an independent institution of higher education accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education. The institution was founded in 1971 as the Institute of Open Education at Newton College of the Sacred Heart, offering a Master of Education program for teachers working in urban schools. In 1973, it became the Institute of Open Education/Antioch Graduate Center through an affiliation with Antioch College. Following the end of that affiliation in 1981, the institution was renamed Cambridge College/The Institute of Open Education, and in 1986 it amended its charter to assume its current name, Cambridge College. Throughout its history, the College provided accessible, career-focused education for adult learners. The College was authorized by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to confer undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees across a range of disciplines.

In February 2024, Cambridge College notified the Department of Higher Education of its intention to merge with Bay Path University and cease academic operations as a degree-granting institution of higher education. The merger was subject to the U.S. Department of Education's required two-step review and approval process and could not be completed until federal approval was received. In August 2026, the U.S. Department of Education notified Cambridge College and Bay Path University that Cambridge College would cease

to be approved as a separate institution of higher education effective August 31, 2026. Accordingly, after that date, Cambridge College would no longer have authority to confer degrees or participate in the federal student financial aid programs.

The public comment period for the revocation of Cambridge College's degree-granting authority begins on September 8, 2026, and will close 21 days thereafter, on September 29, 2026. At the end of the comment period, Department staff will review and take into consideration any and all comments received.

Submission of Comments

Written comments on the revocation of degree-granting authority of Cambridge College may be submitted at any time prior to 5:00 pm on September 29, 2026, directing the same to the following:

Email:

PublicComment@dhe.mass.edu

Postal Mail:

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
One Ashburton Place
Room 1401
Boston, MA 02108
Attn: Kristen Stone, Ed.D., Director for Academic & Veterans Affairs

Please submit electronic comments as an attached Word document and type "Cambridge College Public Comment" in the subject line. All submissions must include the sender's full name and address. For special accommodations for submission of public comments or information regarding submission of public comments in an alternative format, please contact Department Staff at PublicComment@dhe.mass.edu.