

Commonly Asked Questions

How do students apply? There is no special application to participate in this program; simply complete the Fitchburg State College admissions application. Students can mention their interest in participating in the Institute via their application essay or guidance counselors can recommend a student via a letter of recommendation.

How many students are admitted to the Institute? The program is reserved for 50 students each year and is filled on a rolling basis. Please have students who may be eligible for this program apply by the priority deadline of March 1. A student's admission and housing deposit must be received by May 1 in order to participate.

Is there a GPA requirement for participation in the Institute? Students must have a recalculated GPA of at least a 2.0 to be eligible.

Are there any limitations for students enrolled in the Institute? Institute participants are afforded all rights and privileges of our matriculated students with exception of participation in NCAA Division III Intercollegiate sports and student government.

Are there any majors that prohibit students from receiving offers to the Institute program? Due to the competitive nature and limited space available for transfer students, applicants to the Communication Media and Nursing programs will not be offered admission to the Institute.

For more than a decade, the Institute program has provided students with a unique path to college success. For more information, please contact the Fitchburg State College Admissions Office at (800) 705-9692 or admissions@fsc.edu.

Institute Program



Institute Program



Students enrolled in the Institute benefit from Fitchburg State College and Mount Wachusett Community College's long-standing tradition of collaboration, articulation agreements, close proximity, shared regional transportation system, and commitment to support students' academic, co-curricular, and social development. One of the major benefits of the Institute is the opportunity for participating students to take advantage of the facilities, resources, and

activities at Fitchburg State while attending classes at Mount Wachusett Community College. Accordingly, Institute students are required to live on the Fitchburg State College campus.

Students enroll in the Liberal Arts & Sciences Transfer Program at Mount Wachusett. Academic advisors on both campuses ensure that students register for appropriate, transferable coursework and meet necessary prerequisites to be applied to Fitchburg State majors. Students also participate in a First Year Seminar class, designed to support the successful transition of students into the college community.

The Institute is a collaborative program sponsored by Fitchburg State College and Mount Wachusett Community College to serve the needs of a select group of students who demonstrate the potential to succeed at a four-year college but who currently do not meet the admission standards set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. The Institute provides the opportunity for students to begin their college coursework at Mount Wachusett Community College while living on the Fitchburg State College campus. At the conclusion of each semester, Fitchburg State and Mount Wachusett evaluate Institute students' Mount Wachusett transcripts; if students meet the transfer requirements they are eligible to matriculate at Fitchburg State the following semester.

"The Mount Wachusett/Fitchburg State College Institute Program offered me a chance to prove to myself, my family and the College that I was ready for a four year residential college experience. Within one semester, I had accomplished my goal through hard work and with the support of staff and friends. The community of fellow Institute students, all there to accomplish the same goal, played a big part in my success in the program. Late night phone calls about the homework and early bus rides to the Mount made the experience one of a kind. I am proud to be an accomplished graduate of the Institute Program. I am thankful for having been given this chance to succeed and look forward to continuing my education at Fitchburg State College."

*—Brian Harrington, Business Administration,
Fitchburg State College Class of 2012*

