Future Focus Program
Quinsigamond Community College

- **What is the purpose of the Future Focus Program?**

Entering college for the first time can be challenging, particularly if you do not know what to expect. Often the gap between achieving the high school equivalency diploma and entering college can seem enormous. The Future Focus Program has been designed especially for those who are interested in exploring opportunities in higher education but may be unsure about what the college experience entails. The Future Focus Program will ease this transition and help you in exploring both career and personal interests as you complete your certificate or degree.

- **What does the Future Focus Program offer?**

Future Focus participants may enroll in day (before 4 PM) or evening (after 4 PM) classes.

Day and evening participants must successfully complete at least three courses for a total of 9 to 12 credits. Those courses include:

1. ORT 110 *Strategies for College and Career* (This includes an online component.)
2. An English course – as determined by the Accuplacer (ENG 091/096, or 100, or 101) OR
3. A math course - as determined by the Accuplacer (MAT 095, or 099, or 100)
4. A computer course (CIS 111)

Once a student has been accepted into the Future Focus Program, Future Focus will pay for the cost of the tuition, fees, and books pertaining to the Future Focus classes. The program may also pay for City of Worcester MBTA bus passes if needed by the student. Future Focus students also fill out an official college application.

All Future Focus participants participate in a program orientation, attend an ongoing orientation seminar, and regularly meet with other peer mentors and the Program Coordinator.

For the September 2014 Cohort, ORT 110 and CIS 111 are required components. ORT 110 meets on Mondays at 4:00 pm, and CIS 111 meets on Thursdays at 4:00 pm. All Future Focus students take these courses together as a group. These are 3 hour, 3 credit transferrable classes. They must be taken at the Worcester Campus.
Who can participate in the Future Focus Program?

The program must serve adults who were enrolled previously in Department-funded Community Adult Learning Centers and who meet the following criteria:

- have received a General Educational Development Test credential, an Adult Diploma Programs diploma, or a United States high school credential and have placed into Intermediate Writing Skills (ENG 096) and Basic Algebra (MAT 095) per the Accuplacer (the college placement test);
- have a 400 on the MAPT Math and a 500 on the MAPT Reading;

or

- have a high school credential diploma or equivalent from a foreign country and have placed into Intermediate Writing and Basic Algebra per the Accuplacer;
- have a 400 on the MAPT Math and a 500 on the MAPT Reading;

and

- have a Student Performance level (SPL) of 8 or above on the BEST Plus if a non-native speaker; and
- are able to participate in post-secondary level academic classes conducted in English.

The Future Focus Program is funded for thirty students per year at fifteen students each semester. Of those students, twenty four must come from Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education funded programs and have a SMARTT ID. The other six students may come from any program in Massachusetts as long as they meet the entrance criteria.

Who pays for this program?

Future Focus is funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
If I have questions, who can I call?

Contact Kirsten Daigneault, the Future Focus Program Coordinator.

1. By telephone at 508-854-4353
2. By email at kdaigneault@qcc.mass.edu
3. By mail at: Quinsigamond Community College
   670 West Boylston Street
   Worcester, MA 01606-2092
   Box#: 164
   Office: 261A