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

Entering college for the first time can be challenging, particularly if learners are coming from adult basic education programs. Often the gap between achieving the high school equivalency diploma and entering college can seem enormous. The Future Focus Program is a one year program 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 assist learners in exploring both career and personal interests.

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

Future Focus students are enrolled as part-time students taking classes in during the day or evening.

Future Focus students must successfully complete four courses for a total of 12 credits. Those courses include:

1. ORT 110 *Strategies for College and Career*,
2. CIS 111 *Introduction to Microcomputer Applications*
3. An English course
4. A Math course

Once a student has been accepted into the Future Focus Program, Future Focus will pay for the cost of the tuition, and books pertaining to the Future Focus classes. The program will also pay for bus passes if needed by the student and provide Financial Aid Counseling.

Please note that at this time, the Future Focus Program cannot cover the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mandatory health insurance fee for those students taking 9 credits or more in one semester. Students with current health insurance coverage may fill out a form to waive this fee.

Future Focus students are required to fill out an official college application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine program eligibility.
All Future Focus participants must participate in a program orientation, attend an ongoing orientation seminar, and regularly meet with other peer mentors and the Program Coordinator.

❖ **Who can participate in the Future Focus Program?**
Eighty-five percent (85%) of the Future Focus participants must come from Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education funded Adult Community Learning (Adult Secondary Education or ESOL) programs. In addition, candidates must have attended these classes within the last five years.

The remaining fifteen percent (15%) may come from other adult learning community programs as long as the GED or HiSET has been awarded within the last ten years.

All prospective students must:
- **Have** their GED, HiSET, or a foreign-documented high school diploma
- **Take** the college placement test.

Applicants will be selected based upon the demonstrated ability to participate and complete all program components.

❖ **Who pays for this program?**
The Future Focus program is funded by three sources:
1. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) - covers tuition, books, class supplies and student support services.
2. Pell Grant (if eligible) - covers college fees
3. Quinsigamond Community College: covers all other fees not covered by the Pell grant or DESE.

❖ **If I have questions, who can I call?**
Contact Gilmarie Vongphakdy, Program Coordinator of Future Focus.

1. **By telephone at** 508-854-2876
2. **By email at** gvongphakdy@qcc.mass.edu
3. **By mail at:** Quinsigamond Community College, Box#: 54
   670 West Boylston Street
   Worcester, MA 01606-2092
Future Focus Application Process

1. Meet with your counselor and teacher to make sure you have a reading and math MAPT test on your record.

2. Fill out the application form with the help of your teacher.

3. Submit two letters of recommendation from individuals to whom you are not related and who can comment on your qualifications and motivation to participate in the Future Focus Program.

4. Write a typed essay (300-500 words) about a time in your life when you achieved a goal that was particularly significant to you. Think about your experience and ask yourself these questions:
   a. Why was this goal important to achieve?
   b. What specific details would be necessary to re-create an achievement like this again?
   c. What was the motivation behind this goal?
   d. What were the steps taken to meet this goal?
   e. What was learned from this experience that could be useful in the future?

5. Send the application form, letters, and essay to:
   
   Gilmarie Vongphakdy  
   Program Coordinator of Future Focus – Box 54  
   Quinsigamond Community College  
   670 West Boylston Street  
   Worcester, MA 01606  
   
   Or send via email to: gvongphakdy@qcc.mass.edu

6. Once all paperwork and documents are received, an interview with Gilmarie will need to be scheduled to determine final eligibility.

For any questions, please contact Gilmarie at: 
gvongphakdy@qcc.mass.edu or at 508-854-2876
Future Focus Application for FY2016

Name of Referring Site Program: ____________________________ Today’s Date: __________

Applicant’s Name: ____________________________________________
                   (Last name, First name and Middle name)

Address: ____________________________________________________ Apt. #: __________

City: ___________________________ State: ___________ Zip Code: ___________

Home Phone: _______ - _______ - _______ Cell Phone: _______ - _______ - _______

Email: ______________________________________________________

Gender:   Male _____ Female _____ Social Security Number: _______ - _______ - _______

Date of Birth: _______ - _______ - _______ Location of Birth: ____________________________
               (MM/DD/YEAR)                     (List city and state if US, List city and Country if outside US)

Race/Ethnicity- Check as many that apply:
  □ Native American or Alaska Native   □ African-American/ Black   □ Caucasian   □ Asian
  □ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander   □ Hispanic/Latino   □ Other: __________________________

Immigrant:  □ Yes   □ No

First Language: ___________________________ Language Spoken at Home: _____________________

Are you a United States citizen?   □ Yes   □ No
    If no, which one of the conditions do you meet?

  □ Permanent Resident (Green Card) - Registration Number (USCIS): __________________________

  □ Legal Asylee (Refugee) - Registration Number (USCIS): __________________________
    Or

  □ Please state your Visa or Immigration status: _______________________________________
    (Visa issued and Home country)

EDUCATION- Check as many that apply

  □ High School Diploma or GED/HiSET: ____________________________
    (List your diploma and Include year of completion)

  □ Foreign Country High School Diploma: __________________________
    (Country)

  □ College/Technical (in United States): _____________________________
    (Name of Institution)   (Years completed)   (Degree- if applicable)

Please list your MAPT scores with dates taken:

  MAPT Math __________________ Date _______________________
  MAPT Reading ________________ Date _______________________

SMARTT ID#: ____________________________