

Bristol Community College, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School launch streamlined pathway to a Bachelor's Degree

Bristol Community College (Bristol), the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (UMassD) and Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School (Diman), today, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU), launching the *College Access Pathway (CAP) in Engineering* that allows students to simultaneously work toward a college degree while completing their high school's academic requirements for graduation.

By completing the *College Access Pathway (CAP)*, following their traditional 4-year high school education and graduation, students will earn their bachelor's degree in engineering in only three additional years. Students who complete the program with a bachelors in engineering from UMassD will see a cost savings of \$22,824!*

“This program responds to the high need for engineers in this area and provides many first-generation college students with a lower cost option of gaining a bachelor's degree. The salaries and career opportunities that come with this degree will only further our work of creating a college-going culture in Bristol County,” said Laura L. Douglas, Ph.D., President, Bristol Community College. “At Bristol we work together to change the world learner by learner – this program will be a life changer for many. This *College Access Pathway (CAP) in Engineering* is a template for creating similar programs in other high need areas.”

In this innovative program, students from Diman will undertake college-level courses with Bristol during their junior and senior high school years. Courses that students undertake with Bristol will seamlessly transfer to UMassD and be applied toward the university's bachelor degree requirements in Engineering.

“The Greater Fall River Vocational School District is proud to be part of this venture. These pathways are going to provide opportunities for so many students.” said Elvio Ferreira, Ed.D. Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School. “To be able to acquire a bachelor's degree in engineering in only three years will be a benefit to students, parents and the community.”

“We are excited to work with Bristol Community College and Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School to create a new pathway to success for students,” said Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D., Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, “The CAP in Engineering program is the latest example of UMass Dartmouth's strong commitment to expanding educational opportunities for our young people so that they are future ready with both the skillset and mindset to build their own American dream.”

Students who maintain the program's academic requirements of a 3.0 GPA at Diman and 2.5 GPA or higher at Bristol and UMassD, will also receive incentives such as guaranteed admission to UMassD and program-specific advising to ensure students meet their academic goals and objectives.

*Total *CAP* program costs compared to four years at UMass Dartmouth. Estimate based on 2019/2020 tuition and fees.

About Bristol Community College

Bristol Community College is a leading resource for education and workforce development in Southeastern Massachusetts. Bristol has locations in Fall River, Attleboro, New Bedford, and Taunton, along with flexible online offerings that lead to an associate degree, a career ready certificate, or the ability to seamlessly transfer to baccalaureate colleges throughout the state and country. The college's Center for Workforce and Community Education provides customized training for businesses and the community including healthcare, workforce and sustainable initiatives, and corporate services. The Bristol Community College Foundation, a nonprofit organization utilizing community donations and partnerships, supports the college's mission to meet the lifelong educational needs of the community. For more information, [visit bristolcc.edu](http://visit.bristolcc.edu).

About the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

UMass Dartmouth is a Tier 1 national research university located on a 710-acre park-like campus on the SouthCoast of Massachusetts, 15 minutes from the ocean, and 30 minutes from Cape Cod. With more than 50 undergraduate and 30 graduate fields of study, UMass Dartmouth prepares its students to be future ready in a rapidly changing economy. The university is well-known for its programs in the humanities, engineering, business, marine science, nursing and the visual and performing arts, and is the home of the Commonwealth's only public law school. Through its groundbreaking research and world-class academic programs, UMass Dartmouth serves as an anchor for the blue economy, leading world-changing discovery and fostering entrepreneurial activity. Frequently recognized for its commitment to civic engagement, UMass Dartmouth students perform more than 260,000 hours of community service each year, developing skills that will help them achieve professional success and become leaders in their communities.

About Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School

Diman Regional is a vocational high school serving the communities of Fall River, Somerset, Swansea, and Westport. With an enrollment average of 1400 students, the faculty and staff of Diman Regional strive to develop skills necessary for college or career. Diman Regional partners with numerous employers and community agencies to provide real world experiences for students, allowing them to apply school based knowledge into the professional arena. The school offers eighteen technical programs as well as challenging academic course work including honors and Advanced Placement. The school's Cooperative Education program offers employment opportunities to over 250 students every year in their chosen field. This experience provides time and preparation in technical fields giving students practical knowledge for future career or educational opportunities.

The school also offers a wide array of extra-curricular activities including sports, clubs, and groups. Diman Regional is involved in national and international programs such as SKILLS USA and DECA. The school is also fully accredited with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. These opportunities, coupled with ever expanding resources and events make Diman Regional an outstanding choice for the youth of southeastern Massachusetts.