

# LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Founded in 1971 in Long Island City, Queens, **LaGuardia Community College** is one of seven community colleges of the City University of New York/CUNY. LaGuardia's eight academic departments offer more than 50 associate degree and certificate programs. Major areas of study include Health Sciences, STEM, Business and Technology, and Liberal Arts. LaGuardia is the third largest producer of STEM graduates in the 25-college CUNY system. Upon graduation most students transfer to senior colleges, typically in CUNY, to complete their Baccalaureate degrees. Graduates of career programs such as Nursing, New Media Technology, and Veterinary Technology enter the workforce.

In 2019, LaGuardia served over 30,000 students in pre-college, associate degree, and continuing education programs. Consistent with the diversity of Queens, 56 percent of LaGuardia students are born outside of the United States. They come from 158 different countries, representing 81 percent of the nations of the world. More than half (54 percent) are first-generation college students. Sixty-nine percent live in Queens; the rest come from Brooklyn and beyond. Slightly less than half (48 percent) live independently of their parents.

Virtually all LaGuardia students are ethnic minorities (88 percent), 58 percent are women, 31 percent are over the age of 25. Forty-eight percent of LaGuardia students are Hispanic, almost double the threshold of 25 percent required by the US Department of Education for designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI).

Sixty-six percent of LaGuardia students receive some form of financial aid. More than 70 percent of students receiving aid and living independently earn less than \$25,000 per

**CONSISTENT WITH THE DIVERSITY OF QUEENS, 56 PERCENT OF LAGUARDIA STUDENTS ARE BORN OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.**



year. Slightly less than half of LaGuardia students (46 percent) attend part-time, often because they need to work to support their families. Tuition is \$2,400 per semester, plus fees.

Graduation rates for first-time, full-time LaGuardia freshman have risen steadily, from 20 percent in 2012 to 32 percent in 2017, well above the national average of 22 percent. Retention rates have remained mostly steady. LaGuardia ranked fifth among U.S. community colleges in economic mobility - moving low-income students into the middle class and beyond - in studies by a 2017 Stanford University (2017) study and the Brookings Institution (2020).

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**LaGuardia is also known for its workforce development programs**, which prepare Queens residents for careers in high-demand sectors of the NYC economy, including healthcare, IT, and construction. In cooperation with industry partners, LaGuardia's Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) division offers hands-on occupational training, essential workplace "life" skills, job placement, and student support. Students who complete their training obtain industry-recognized credentials and, in some programs, academic credit that can be applied to a LaGuardia degree. ACE's Small Business & Entrepreneur Services programs - which include the first Goldman Sachs *10,000 Small Businesses* located at a community college - provide education and specialized technical assistance to thousands of small businesses while partnering with employers to create talent pipelines, advance incumbent workers, and boost the local economy.



**50** YEARS OF  
**DARING  
TO DO MORE**