



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 offers more than 60 associate degree and certificate programs in six Fields of Interest: Business & Entrepreneurship; Education & Public Service; Engineering, Science & Technology; Health & Wellness; Languages, Culture & Society; and, Visual & Performing Arts. Upon graduation most students transfer to four-year colleges, typically in CUNY, to complete their baccalaureate degrees. Graduates of career programs such as Nursing, Computer Technology, and Veterinary Technology enter the workforce.

In 2022, LaGuardia served over 23,000 students in pre-college, associate degree, and continuing education programs. Consistent with the demographics of Queens, 52 percent of LaGuardia students are born outside of the United States. They come from 130 countries and speak 54 heritage languages. 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), 57 percent are women, 29 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).

Seventy-three percent of LaGuardia students receive some form of financial aid. Fifty-four percent of students receiving aid and living independently earn less than \$25,000 per year. Close to half of LaGuardia students attend part-time (49%), often because they need to work to support their families. Annual tuition and fees are \$5,271.

Graduation rates for first-time, full-time LaGuardia students have risen steadily, from 20 percent in 2012 to 29 percent in 2019, just below the national average for 2-year public institutions of 31 percent. LaGuardia ranked fifth among U.S. community colleges in economic mobility – moving low-income students into the middle class and beyond – in studies by Stanford University (2017) and the Brookings Institution (2020).

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, the Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) Division offers hands-on occupational training, career guidance, job placement, and student support. Students earn industry-recognized credentials and, in some programs, college credits that can be applied to LaGuardia associate degrees. ACE's Small Business & Entrepreneurship programs provide training and technical assistance to business owners from across the region. LaGuardia's ACE Division is the largest provider of non-degree workforce training in CUNY and the largest provider of English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction in New York City.