



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 offers more than sixty 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 2023, LaGuardia served approximately 24,000 students in pre-college, associate degree, and continuing education programs. More than one-third of LaGuardia's degree-seeking students are born outside the United States; they come from 136 countries and speak 43 heritage languages. Sixty percent are first-generation college students. Sixty-nine percent live in Queens; the rest come from Brooklyn and beyond. Forty percent live independently of their parents.

Virtually all LaGuardia students are ethnic minorities (89 percent), 58 percent are women, 27 percent are over the age of 25. Forty-six percent of associate degree 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-six percent of full-time LaGuardia students receive financial aid. Fifty-three percent of students receiving aid and living independently earn less than \$25,000 per year. Close to half of LaGuardia students attend part-time (48%), often because they need to work to support their families. Annual tuition and fees are \$5,217.

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's Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) Division is the largest provider of non-degree workforce training in CUNY and the largest provider of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction in New York City. LaGuardia's vocational training programs prepare Queens residents for careers in high-demand sectors of the NYC economy, including healthcare, IT, and construction. In cooperation with industry partners, the ACE Division offers career guidance, internships, job placement, and student support. Students earn industry-recognized credentials and, in some programs, college credits that can be applied toward associate degrees. ACE's Small Business & Entrepreneurship programs, including Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses, provide training and technical assistance to small business owners and entrepreneurs from across the region.

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