



## News and Notes Fall 2022

### Stay Near. Go Far.

What would you do if you were told you could earn an entire associate degree—two full years of fully transferable academic credit—in less than what it costs to attend just one semester at the average four-year university in New York State? You would likely give that college a serious look! SUNY Westchester Community College (SUNY WCC) has maintained an unwavering focus on offering students a high-quality education while retaining one of the lowest tuition rates in the tri-state region. SUNY WCC is one of the best investments you can make in yourself. More than 20% of students who begin their academic journey from the lower income brackets end up in the top bracket later in life. SUNY WCC is ranked 21<sup>st</sup> out of all two-year colleges nationwide on this measure. Whether you are looking to enter the [workforce](#) with the necessary skills as quickly as possible or are looking at SUNY WCC as the first step in your [post-secondary education journey](#), SUNY WCC is here for you!

SUNY Westchester Community College is a comprehensive educational institution where you can choose from a wide variety of resources and options. SUNY WCC offers [65 degree and certificate programs](#), including innovative programs in high-demand fields including [Cybersecurity](#), [Computer Science](#), [Nursing](#), [Health Information Technology](#), [Respiratory Care](#), and [Digital Filmmaking](#).

Wherever your academic journey takes you, starting at SUNY WCC will provide you with the tools and support you need to succeed. Thousands of students have started their higher education journeys at SUNY WCC taking advantage of our many transfer agreements with four-year institutions, our [opportunity programs](#) or our [many honors programs](#), before pursuing their academic goals at such local four-year institutions as Mercy, Lehman, Pace, Purchase, and highly selective universities like Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Columbia, Smith, NYU, and Sarah Lawrence.

Just as important as academics is the [sense of community](#) that WCC students join. As the first SUNY campus to be designated a Hispanic Serving Institution, the SUNY WCC community reflects the cultural and economic diversity of the region. We are a living, breathing part of Westchester that goes beyond the influence of a typical college and affects the lives of all who enter our doors. We are a showcase for the best of Westchester.

When you arrive at Westchester Community College, you will be able to immerse yourself in your passions, or find new ones, with 40+ [clubs and organizations](#), [multicultural programs](#), [e-sports](#) and [student government](#). Becoming an active member in clubs/organizations is a great way to meet new friends who share your interests, to learn a new hobby, to expand your understanding of an area of study, to explore new cultures, and to make a positive impact on the community!

SUNY WCC is committed to accessibility, which is why we have many classes and [support services](#), including [tutoring](#), [academic advising](#) and [personal counseling](#), offered in person and remotely. Furthermore, the college has [six locations around the county](#), including our new expanded location [in the Cross County Center in Yonkers](#). SUNY Westchester Yonkers offers more than 140 classes and courses for selected associate degree programs, as well as a full array of student services. In addition to the lowest tuition rates in the tri-state area, the WCC Foundation dispenses more than \$2 million in scholarships annually, which combined with other [financial aid](#) available, makes SUNY WCC one of the best decisions you can make!

**Are you ready to take that serious look at the best deal in local higher education? Stay near and go far at  
SUNY Westchester Community College!**

***Submitted by Mark Stollar, Director of Strategic Marketing and Communications***

## SAVE THE DATE!

Westchester Community College's  
**FALL 2022 OPEN HOUSE**  
will be held on  
**Saturday, November 19, 2022**  
**at 1:00 p.m.**

We invite you to visit our beautiful campus!

- ❖ Presentations will begin in the Hankin Academic Arts Theater! Students will receive a warm welcome from the President of the College! Students will get to hear from College officials and a college Alumni!
- ❖ Our Four Schools will be presenting! Meet our deans, faculty and administrators!
- ❖ Learn more about our programs, support services, student involvement, workforce development and community education programs, and so much more!

Students can join several demonstrations throughout the event, some of which will include:

- An Admissions Information Session
- A Financial Aid Information Session
- A variety of curriculum related sessions

**Parking is available in Lots 2 & 4**  
**For more information and to RSVP, visit**

**[www.sunywcc.edu/openhouse](http://www.sunywcc.edu/openhouse)**

## The Admissions Office Welcomes Our Newest Admissions Counselor

The Office of Admissions is EXCITED to announce our new Adjunct Admissions Counselor, Wendoli Tejada!

Wendoli would like to share the following message:

*Before joining WCC, I was an Admissions Counselor for a vocational training program. I was also an ESL instructor for three years. Currently, I am the point person for Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). I work with CBOs to provide information sessions, campus tours, and assistance with the WCC admissions process. Apart from that, I conduct general information sessions in Spanish and attend various community events as a WCC representative.*

If you are interested in scheduling an information session in Spanish for your students, please contact Wendoli at [Wendoli.TejadaPena@sunywcc.edu](mailto:Wendoli.TejadaPena@sunywcc.edu)!

## Admissions Virtual & In-Person Events

- Throughout the Fall 2022 semester, the Office of Admissions will be hosting Virtual and In-Person Admissions Information Sessions and Admissions Information Sessions in Spanish to help students learn more about the college, our programs and services, the admissions/enrollment process and the many opportunities that we offer!
- Admissions also offers Nursing Information Sessions and 24-credit GED Information Sessions!
- In addition to our excellent Virtual Campus Tour, in-person Campus Tours have resumed!
- By attending one of our Admissions Events, students can obtain an application fee waiver code that will help them to waive the \$50 application fee! (Please note, the application fee is non-refundable once submitted)

To RSVP for our Admissions Events visit

[www.sunywcc.edu/info](http://www.sunywcc.edu/info)

# Taking Steps Toward Successful Enrollment

**Applying to WCC:** Students are encouraged to apply online as soon as possible at [www.sunywcc.edu/apply](http://www.sunywcc.edu/apply) . We will begin to mail Admissions letters to students applying for the Spring 2023 term (which begins in January 2023) in early October 2022. Students applying for the Fall 2023 term (which begins in September 2023) will be mailed their Admissions letters as of early February 2023. A series of emails from the college's automated CRM communication system will follow guiding students through their next steps in the enrollment process. Please ask your students to check their emails regularly for updates after they apply.



**How Can Students Waive the \$50 Application Fee?** Students who financially qualify for free or reduced-price lunch programs, whose household income does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, or are from foster families are automatically eligible for an application fee waiver! By completing the SUNY Westchester Community College online application at [www.sunywcc.edu/apply](http://www.sunywcc.edu/apply) and answering the targeted questions to identify in one of the above mentioned categories, the \$50 application fee will automatically be waived upon submission. Other ways to waive the \$50 application fee include attending one of our Admissions Information Sessions or attending an Application Day hosted by a SUNY WCC Admissions Counselor at the high school!

**Our Admissions Counselors are excited to connect with you and your students!**

**If you are interested in having one of our Admissions Counselors set up an Application Day where all your seniors can get their \$50 application fee waived, please contact us at [Admissions@sunywcc.edu](mailto:Admissions@sunywcc.edu) and we will have an Admissions Counselor contact you to set it up!**

**Sending Official HS Transcripts:** Official HS transcripts can be sent from the high school to the Office of Admissions by mail to the address shown below or email to [HSTranscript@sunywcc.edu](mailto:HSTranscript@sunywcc.edu)  
SUNY Westchester Community College  
75 Grasslands Road  
Valhalla, NY 10595  
Attn: Office of Admissions  
Administration Building, Room 210

**Resources for High School Counselors Webpage:** The SUNY Westchester Community College Resources for School Counselors webpage was created just for you! It gives you easy access to SUNY WCC information all in one place! **The webpage is easily accessible by visiting the college homepage at [www.sunywcc.edu](http://www.sunywcc.edu) and clicking on the blue box called *High School Counselors* or you can go directly to the webpage at [www.sunywcc.edu/school-counselor](http://www.sunywcc.edu/school-counselor).**

**Future Students Webpage:** The goal of this webpage is to give prospective students a one stop landing page to explore our academic programs, new student guide, financial aid assistance guide, opportunity programs, how to apply to the college and more! Please encourage students to visit our Future Students webpage at [www.sunywcc.edu/future-student](http://www.sunywcc.edu/future-student).

**The Office of Admissions looks forward to connecting with you and your students!**

## **Viking VIP**

### **Valued, Informed and on a Pathway to Success**

The Viking VIP initiative was launched in the Spring of 2021 to give incoming new students an opportunity to formally commit to the institution of their choice-SUNY Westchester Community College (“SUNY WCC”)! May 1<sup>st</sup> has long held a sacred place in American higher educational tradition; it is the day when thousands of newly accepted students across the United States pick the four-year college of their choice during what’s come to be known as “National College Decision Day.” In Spring 2020, the Director of Enrollment Services and the Welcome Center received many messages from high school seniors around that time asking how they too could demonstrate their own college decision. Why wasn’t there an option for the two-year community college admitted student as well?

The Enrollment Services Director, Dr. Sandra Ramsay, brought together a cross-functional team comprised of representatives from Student Involvement, Academic Affairs, Creative Communications, and the Welcome Center to brainstorm ideas around a formal college acceptance process for SUNY WCC. The idea of using the acronym “VIP” emerged from those sessions, to signify: (a) the value the college placed on its new students and on their success, (b) the college’s comprehensive efforts to arm students with the information they needed to successfully navigate and complete college, and (c) as a nod to the college’s Guided Pathways activities designed to get students on paths right for them, to help them stay on their individual paths, and to ultimately become academically successful. As Viking VIPs, committed students would receive special assistance with getting ready for the fall semester, to interact with faculty, administrators, and staff in their respective Academic Schools, and to speak to professionals about course selections, college financing, and successfully navigating their college experience while at SUNY WCC.

The next step was the creation of attractive marketing campaigns using the college’s customer relationship management (CRM) technology. Student-friendly emails and landing pages were created that allowed new students to say “yes” to the college via a form that was pre-filled with the majority of the newly admitted students’ information; all they needed to enter were their current phone numbers! New students also had the option of indicating they needed more time, or to simply let us know they had selected another college. Viking VIPs (new students who committed to SUNY WCC for the fall term) then received exclusive invitations via the same CRM system, allowing them to RSVP for the first-ever virtual “Commitment Day” event held at the end of May in 2021.

Not only did the “Viking VIP” (valued, informed, on a pathway to success) initiative allow new students to formally commit to the college for the first time in the institution’s history beginning in the spring of 2021, but the college also saw immediate and sustained results: an initial 89% increase in new student registrations year-over-year by mid-July, during the first year of the program’s inception; steady new freshman registrations in a period of enrollment declines in other groups; VIP yield that almost doubled that of accepted students overall; and a current 6% increase in VIP commitments over fall 2021 as at the end of August 2022. Most importantly, however, the Viking VIP initiative also fostered a sense of community and belonging among the VIPs, as evidenced by new students exchanging their social media information via chat during our first-ever Commitment Day in 2021.

This high-impact initiative has shown the power of dedicated individuals to make changes that enhance the student experience at SUNY Westchester Community College. Looking ahead, we hope to bring other partners onboard as we continue to fulfill our access mission, and to “fortify the student journey with robust recruitment activities and redesigned intake and onboarding” as laid out in the college’s current strategic plan.

*Submitted by, Dr. Sandra Ramsay, Ed.D. Director of Enrollment Services, Office of Enrollment Management*

# LAS: Social Science

The LAS: Social Science degree explores the disciplines of Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology. These fields all focus on the study of human behavior. Students gain crucial skills important to any career, such as critical thinking, organization, oral and written communication, as well as an appreciation of social, cultural, economic, and political diversity.

The degree provides an easy transfer to four-year institutions for these majors which are useful for preparing students for many careers, including teaching at the elementary, secondary and college levels; pre-professional programs such as medicine, law, speech, occupational therapy; and many additional areas such as public relations, library science, social work, mental health services, human resources, research and data management, finance, marketing and design, museum curation, cultural resource management, conservation, non-profit organizations, consulting for business and government organizations, and International agencies.

The coursework in this major will allow students to sample three or more of the following disciplines:

- **Anthropology:** Students learn about what makes us human, from our past to the present. This includes surveys of fossil hominins and ancient civilizations, exploring modern human cultural diversity, and examining the challenges facing humanity today.
- **Economics:** Students learn about the forces that drive our economy, focusing on the production, distribution, and consumption of goods from a global to an individual perspective.
- **Geography:** Students learn the relevance of geographic concepts to human problems, including the study of peoples, cultures, and resources.
- **Political Science:** Students learn about political ideas and processes in order to gain an appreciation of the significance of government, law and diplomacy in local and international affairs.
- **Psychology:** Students learn about the human mind and how it influences human behavior by exploring biological, sociocultural, and mental factors.
- **Sociology:** Students learn how human social behaviors affect (and are shaped by) society.

Last spring, the Curriculum held three successful advising workshops with students review on how to use Degree Works, answering Social Science students' enrollment and career questions, and providing guidelines for this fall's coursework. The Social Science degree Curriculum Chairs plan to offer similar **Fall Advisement Workshops** and **Common Hour Showcases** of the various disciplines within the Social Science. Look for upcoming announcements of the Common Hour Showcases designed to help students envision their future in the Social Sciences fields. The Social Sciences degree has a team of program managers, counselors, curriculum chairs, and skilled faculty ready to support our incoming and continuing students. If you want to learn more, please reach out to [socialsciencedegree@sunywcc.edu](mailto:socialsciencedegree@sunywcc.edu)!

*Submitted by Curriculum Chairs Professor Julie Linden and Professor Maria Stalias-Mantzikos*



# Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management A.A.S.

With total foodservice and restaurant sales projected to top \$898 billion by the end of 2022 according to the National Restaurant Association, the restaurant and hospitality industry has continued its extraordinary growth. Westchester Community College's (WCC) Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management's Associate of Applied Science Degree program is poised to supply the growing needs of hotels, restaurants, clubs, and food adjacent industries with graduates. Unique to the Westchester County area, the culinary and hospitality program does not require students to declare a major in culinary arts or hospitality but weaves hands-on practical training in both front-and-back of the house areas allowing students and graduates the ability to pivot into a variety of career paths. This nimble feature of the program enables students to work in sectors of employment that best fit their personalities and strengths. Students who seek fast paced and physical work environments might find running a kitchen and day-to-day hotel management operations to their liking. Other students might find using their skills translate into a career in areas such as purchasing, marketing, or event planning.

For those concerned about paying the cost of college there are many opportunities to help defray costs in the Culinary Arts and Hospitality program. Some high schools participate in the Westchester Community College Early College Experience (ECE) program. This program enables students to earn WCC credit at a reduced cost while in high school. The Culinary Arts and Hospitality Department has many scholarship opportunities including the Anne D. Yearley Scholarship. The Yearley scholarship is awarded to incoming, full-time students who successfully complete their first semester in the culinary and hospitality program, register for their second semester in the program, and have filled out their FAFSA forms. The scholarship covers the onboarding costs that students incur in their first semester such as admissions, lab, and activity fees, and the costs of culinary arts and management textbooks. In addition, the department offers program specific scholarships including the Great Chefs, Abigail and Bob Kirsch, and Scharf scholarships. Students are also eligible for college wide scholarships.

The student run café is a Best of Westchester award winner with students participating in both front of the house service and back of the house production. While some students are mixing up mocktails, others are producing a 4-course tasting menu that is offered to the campus and community. These students have completed courses to earn three nationally recognized ServSafe certifications. All of the textbooks and certification exams are currently offered at no cost to the students through the Perkins grant.

The Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management program at WCC encourages students who have a love for working in a dynamic and growing industry to contact the admissions office at WCC and schedule a visit to the Valhalla campus. While the world and food has changed considerably over the past few years, we have seen that our love of gathering together and sharing hospitality hasn't diminished. At WCC we are helping the next generation of professionals do just that.

***Submitted by Professor Toni D'Onofrio, Curriculum Chair for Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management***



## **QUICK BITS:**

**Winter 2023 and Spring 2023 Registration begins on October 31, 2022**

**Fall 2023 Registration is anticipated to begin in March 2023**

**Please check our Academic Calendar for updates at  
<https://www.sunywcc.edu/academics/academiccalendar>**

### **Tuition& Fees**

**Application Fee: \$50**

#### **Full Time Tuition (per semester)**

Resident: \$2,365.00

Non-Resident: \$5,885

#### **Part-Time Tuition (per credit)**

Resident: \$197

Non-Resident: \$493

### **Financial Aid**

Financial Aid Priority Filing Deadline

**SPRING: October 31**

**FALL: May 1**

Students can apply for Financial Aid now! For information regarding workshop dates and to inquire about what financial information is needed to successfully complete the Financial Aid Forms contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance at **[Finaid@sunywcc.edu](mailto:Finaid@sunywcc.edu)**.

### **Westchester Community College Foundation Scholarships**

Students must file either a FAFSA (US Citizens and Permanent Residents), TAP (US Citizens and Permanent Residents) or the New York State DREAM Act Application (Dreamers, DACA or Undocumented) to be automatically considered for a WCC Foundation Scholarship. International Students will need to fill out an International Scholarship Form (F-1 International population).

Priority deadline for filing Financial Aid forms to be considered for a WCC Foundation Scholarship for New students is April 15<sup>th</sup> for the fall semester! This process will allow the college to provide students with a comprehensive financial assistance package in a timelier manner.

For more information visit: **<https://www.sunywcc.edu/admissions/finaid/>**

#### **Published by the Office of Admissions**

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Thank you to the WCC Faculty, Staff and Administration for your contributions to the Newsletter

**[www.sunywcc.edu](http://www.sunywcc.edu)**