

Executive Summary
BMCC has continued the policy to offer various types of tuition waiver programs to enable students to take summer classes tuition-free. Summer enrollments for 2016 continued to climb, and overall students receiving waivers made more progress toward graduation than those who did not receive the waivers. Students with tuition waivers completed an average of 0.34 more course credits than those without waivers. This difference is small but significant when the average number of credits attempted is 4.93. The pass rate for these students was at least as good or better overall than for those without waivers, though the semester GPA was slightly lower than it was among those without waivers (2.91 versus 2.99). More than 10% of those with waivers, compared to under 4% of those without waivers, graduated by the end of summer. In fall 2016, among those who did not yet graduate, 89.6% of those who received waivers are still enrolled in BMCC or in another CUNY compared with 73.6% of those without waivers. Overall, 91% of the students who used summer tuition waivers are either still enrolled in BMCC or another CUNY, or have earned their BMCC degree.1

Objectives
The success of the tuition waiver programs from 2015 needs to be confirmed for the summer 2016 group to ensure that these programs are still meeting the overall goal, which is to help students remain at BMCC, accumulate credits, continue their education, and graduate. Measures of success include increased summer enrollment, number of credits earned, pass rates, and numbers graduating.

Summer 2016 Enrollment
There are two general starting dates for summer classes at BMCC. Summer I begins at the end of May or beginning of June and can last 6, 7, 10, or 12 weeks depending on the course. Technically each of these lengths is a separate summer session, but all begin at the same time. Summer II includes just one session of 5 week courses, beginning in mid-July. Summer waivers were offered in both Summer I and Summer II time-frames, and students could receive one waiver in each time-frame. Altogether, 3,002 students were awarded one or two waivers and 2,965 individual students

1 In all cases, these percentages are based on those who enrolled in regular classes during the summer sessions. Students only taking immersion are excluded from most analyses in this report, other than the actual count of students in these workshops.
enrolled for at least one summer course, with 2,316 waivers used for Summer I courses and 1,073 waivers used for Summer II courses.

For the entire summer 2016, 8,861 students enrolled in a variety of courses and in immersion programs, 1/3 of whom had waivers for at least one course. Slightly fewer (27%) of those enrolled participated in summer immersion programs, also tuition free based on CUNY funding through the University Skills Immersion Program (USIP). Students enrolled in the Summer I time-frame took an average of 1.20 courses in the Summer I sessions, while those enrolled in the Summer II time-frame took an averages of 1.12 courses in that five-week session.

These numbers show a steady climb in enrollment for regular courses and for overall enrollment, while the USIP Immersion programs decreased slightly. (See Figure 1, below.)

![BMCC Summer Enrollment 2013-2016](chart.png)

**Figure 1. Overall Summer 2016 Enrollments for all sessions.**

**Graduation and Retention Rates**

Looking just at the 6,489 students who attempted at least one non-immersion summer course, **305 of the 3,002 students receiving at least one waiver — 10.3% — graduated by the end of the summer term.** Among those who did not receive any waiver and still took a course, just 103 students, or 3.7% of this group, graduated by summer’s end. This difference is large enough to be considered statistically significant and speaks to the goal of the 2,703 “Finish Line” waivers designed to help students graduate sooner by making it possible for them to take classes in the summer when they may not have otherwise been able to do so. Among the graduates, 53.4% of those without a waiver and 54.0% of those with a waiver transferred to another CUNY school in the fall semester.

**Progress toward Degree**

While most students did not complete their degree over the summer, those individuals receiving waivers completed an average of 4.68 credits or equated credits over the summer sessions, while those without waivers completed an average of 4.34 credits or equated credits over the same time.
While waivers were intended for only credit-bearing courses, regular remedial courses comprise 1% of all the courses taken by students with waivers, and 3.9% of all courses for those without waivers. Immersion workshops are not included in the equated credits.

Another way to measure progress is to look at the course completion rate: the number of credits or equated credits completed of those attempted. Both groups had excellent completion rates over the summer, but the students who had a waiver completed 95% of their course credits while those without waivers completed 94% of their credits or equated credits. The numbers are large enough to make this difference significant, with 96.7% confidence.

Retention of non-Graduates

Among non-graduates, 74.5% of those without a waiver were retained at BMCC for the fall 2016 semester, compared with 84.3% of those who received a summer tuition waiver. In addition, 4.6% of the non-graduates without waivers transferred out by fall to another CUNY school, compared to 5.1% of those with a tuition waiver in the summer. This leaves a greater than 10 percentage point gap between students with waivers and those without them in terms of overall continued enrollment within CUNY.

Course Outcomes

Tuition waivers were given for specific courses and based on specific requirements. STEM waivers had no GPA or minimum credits earned requirement but were given only to students taking a
college-level math, science, computer programming, or a psychology introductory course. Other finish line waivers were offered for a variety of college-level classes but came with restrictions of various types, including number of credits earned, enrollment of at least half-time in spring 2016, prior participation in the CUNY Start program, and GPA of 2.5 or better. There was some flexibility built into the system, however, allowing advisors to use their discretion in giving out tuition waivers to students.

Pass and completion rates are not the only measure of course success. An examination of the semester GPAs for both those with waivers and those without shows that those with waivers have an average semester GPA of 2.91 compared to 2.99 for those without waivers. This difference is considered statistically significant with 99.4% confidence. However, when compared course by course, the difference between the grades reduces to 0.005 points. Many of the college-level math courses taken in the summer earn 4 credits compared with the traditional 3 credits for most other courses. Though only 26% of courses taken by students with waivers were worth 4 credits, the average course GPA points for waiver students in these courses were 2.53 compared to 2.89 for those without waivers. On the other hand, waiver students taking 3-credit courses had course GPA points of 3.12 compared with 3.02 for non-waiver students. If these courses were not weighted differently and all college level courses were included, the average grade points for the college-level courses

\(^2\) Independent Samples t-test results.
courses taken by both groups would be 2.97, just shy of a B grade. Overall, course pass rates and GPA levels for both groups are fairly similar.

Among students with tuition waivers, 59% of the courses they took were in math, science computer programming, or psychology, as encouraged by the STEM waiver program. This compares to 57% of non-immersion courses in these subjects taken by students without tuition waivers.
To: The College Community

From: Senior Vice President Karrin E. Wilks and Vice President Marva Craig

Re: BMCC 2016 Summer Finish Line Tuition Waiver Program

Date: Friday, February 26, 2016

___________________________________________________________________________________

During summer 2016, Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) will continue its successful tuition waiver program to assist students in accumulating credits toward degree completion. The tuition waivers detailed below are offered to eligible students who are New York State residents (U.S. citizen or permanent resident) and matriculated students enrolled at BMCC. Each eligible student may use no more than one tuition waiver in the summer session starting May 31, and no more than one tuition waiver in the summer session starting July 19. To be considered, the summer course must count toward degree completion at BMCC. Please see below a description of the initiatives.

**BMCC 2016 SUMMER FINISH LINE INITIATIVES**

**Acceleration Waiver**
*Incoming students who have no remedial requirements are invited to get a head start on their degree completion and receive a tuition waiver for their first credit-bearing course at BMCC. As funding is limited, waivers will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.*

**Completion Waiver**
*Eligible students who have ten (10) or fewer credits left to complete their associate degree requirements will be able to receive a tuition waiver for one of their remaining courses. As funding is limited, waivers will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.*

**Jump Start Waiver**
*Eligible students who have successfully completed the CUNY Start program in spring 2016 will be able to receive a tuition waiver for a credit-bearing summer session course that counts toward their degree completion. As funding is limited, waivers will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.*

**Momentum Waiver**
*Eligible students who have a minimum 2.5 GPA, earned at least 12 credits and were enrolled full-time in spring 2016 will be able to receive a tuition waiver for a summer 2016 course that counts toward their degree completion. As funding is limited, waivers will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.*

**Part-Time Momentum Waiver**
*Eligible students who have a minimum 2.5 GPA, earned at least 12 credits and were enrolled at least half-time in spring 2016 will be able to receive a tuition waiver for a summer 2016 course that counts toward their degree completion. As funding is limited, waivers will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.*

**STEM Waiver**
*Eligible students who enroll in a credit-bearing mathematics, computer programming, science or Introduction to Psychology (PSY 100) course that counts toward their degree completion in summer 2016 will be able to receive a tuition waiver for the course. As STEM waiver funding is limited, waivers will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.*
Please note:

- Only the tuition for the course(s) will be waived, and students will be responsible for all fees and materials, such as textbooks. They must complete the summer course, otherwise the waiver will be revoked and they will be financially responsible for the tuition bill.
- Students will also receive a 30-day MetroCard to assist in commuting to their classes.
- To receive a 30-day MetroCard, students must complete their registration for the summer course by the deadlines listed below. Students who register after the deadlines listed below will not receive a 30-day MetroCard and will be considered for a tuition waiver on a funds-availability basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Priority Consideration will be given to students who register by:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Session I 2016 (6W1, 7W1, 10W, 12W)</td>
<td>May 20, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Session II 2016 (5W2)</td>
<td>July 8, 2016</td>
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- Students who have been granted the tuition waiver will receive official notification to their BMCC email address only once eligibility has been confirmed.

If you have any questions or need advisement for the summer session, please visit the Academic Advisement and Transfer Center (Room S108), or contact them by email at advisementandtransfer@bmcc.cuny.edu.