



# JVS: Bridges to College Program

## Frequently Asked Questions



1. What is the Bridge to College program?
  - The Bridges to College program is a **FREE** 23 week college preparation program designed to help you develop the skills necessary to succeed in college. The program is structured to assist you in improving your English skills, math skills, and college placement scores.
2. If I already attended college, do I qualify for the program?
  - This is determined on a case by case basis for each applicant during the interview process
3. How do I qualify for the Bridges to College program?
  - All applicants must attend an official regularly scheduled information session at JVS.
  - All applicants must have a high school diploma/GED.
  - All applicants must be at least 18 years old or older.
  - All applicants must be a U.S. citizen or have legal permanent U.S. residency or a green card. (Refugee or Asylum status)
  - All applicants must have a high intermediate level, verbal and writing English skills.
  - All applicants must plan on starting college after successfully completing the program.
4. How do I apply for the program?
  - All applicants will be able to officially apply to the program at the required information session.
5. When is the next information session?
  - Please email Cindy at [cfirestein@jvs-boston.org](mailto:cfirestein@jvs-boston.org) or call Allison at 617-399-3226 to inquire about the next upcoming information session.
6. Where is the information session held?
  - All information sessions are held at JVS, 29 Winter Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Boston, MA.
7. How does the admissions/intake process work?
  - The admissions/intake process consists of attending an information session, completing the application, taking assessment tests and participation in an interview.
8. What documents should I bring to my interview?
  - 2 forms of MA residency
  - Proof of US residency
  - High School Diploma or GED
  - Proof of Income
  - Evaluated College Transcript if applicable.

9. When will I be contacted if I am accepted into the program?
  - After the interview, applicants are usually contacted within two to three weeks to be notified if about their acceptance status.
10. If I am not accepted, may I re-apply for the next program cycle?
  - Yes, we strongly encourage our applicants to reapply for the following cycle.
11. How often does the program begin?
  - The Bridges to College program has two cycles every year. One cycle begins in January and the second cycle begins in July.
12. How long is the program?
  - The program runs for 23 weeks.
13. How much does it cost to participate in the Bridges to College program?
  - The program is completely **FREE** to all accepted students. However, the program is privately funded. Private funders pay \$6,000 to cover the cost for each accepted student into the program. Space is limited!
14. Does the program offer tutoring?
  - Yes, FREE tutoring is always available in math and English for current program students.
15. What does the program expect from me?
  - We expect all of our students to enroll and attend college directly after completing the program.
  - All students are required to attend every class and be on time with their homework completed.
16. What class subjects are offered in the program and can students choose their classes?
  - The program offers English classes, math classes and academic group coaching.
17. What is academic group coaching? What is an academic coach?
  - You will be assigned to a coaching group that meets one hour a week and is facilitated by an academic coach. Your academic coach will prepare you to apply for financial aid, choosing a career path and college major that is right for you, help you apply to college and develop the skills necessary for college success.
18. When are the classes and coaching groups offered?
  - Classes are offered Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. No classes are held on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Coaching groups are one hour a week and coaching days vary per student.
  - Morning classes are held from 9:00am-12:00pm. Morning coaching groups are held 12:30-1:30pm.
  - Evening classes are held from 5:30pm-8:30pm. Evening coaching groups are held 4:00-5:00pm.
  - Academic coaching groups are held 1 hour a week. Students will receive their academic coaching group assignment at orientation.
19. Where are classes held?
  - All Bridges to College program classes are held at JVS, 29 Winter Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Boston, MA.

20. If I am default on a prior student loan, can I still be accepted into the program?
- If you are default on a student loan your application into the program will be put on hold until you are no longer in default on a prior student loan.
  - If you are default on a student loan or are not sure if you are in default we recommend you speak with American Student Assistance (ASA). ASA helps college bound individuals understand all aspects of the financial aid and student loan process. To find an ASA location nearest to you please call 617-536-0200 or go online at [www.asa.org](http://www.asa.org).
21. If I successfully complete the program, do I get to decide what college I attend?
- Yes, all students are encouraged to research different colleges with their academic coach to find the right school for them. Recent Bridges to College program graduates have attended schools such as Bunker Hill Community College, Quincy College, Fisher College, Cambridge College, Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, as well as University of Massachusetts – Boston.
22. Will the program help me pay for college?
- After completing the program in your first semester in credit bearing college level classes you will receive a textbook voucher for \$100 paid directly to the institution of higher education.
  - You will receive money toward a three credit course your second semester in college.
  - Students are strongly encouraged to apply for financial aid and scholarships. Students should also be prepared for the possibility they will have to pay for college.
23. Does the program help me with job searching?
- As a Bridges to College graduate, you will receive FREE job search assistance during your final semester of college.

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Website: [www.jvs-boston.org](http://www.jvs-boston.org) | Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bridgestocollege](http://www.facebook.com/bridgestocollege)

