

# Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy

Bunker Hill Community College supports and recognizes the [Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy](#), a part of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education's [Equity Agenda](#).

## **What is the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy?**

The State Seal of Biliteracy is an award provided by the State of Massachusetts that recognizes public high school graduates who attain high functional and academic levels of proficiency in English and a world language in recognition of having studied and attained proficiency in two languages by high school graduation. The vision is to help students recognize the value of their academic success and see the tangible benefits of being biliterate. The State Seal of Biliteracy takes the form of a seal that appears on the transcript or diploma of the graduating senior and is a statement of accomplishment for future employers and for college admissions.

The Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy acknowledges linguistic equity because all world languages are included. Proficiency of the languages is evaluated via testing that measures all modalities of communication: listening and understanding spoken language, speaking with fluency (use of vocabulary), reading and comprehending the reading, and writing to demonstrate knowledge of grammar.

## **What Type of Credit is Recognized at BHCC?**

Massachusetts public high school students who prove by their language proficiency skills (biliteracy) with equal strength in a world language plus English earn the Seal of Biliteracy. Students will receive:

- Intermediate High level of proficiency will earn 6 credits (2 semesters at 3 credits each) of Foreign Language Electives for the Seal of Biliteracy
- Advanced Low Level of Proficiency will earn 9 credits (3 courses at 3 credits each) of Foreign Language Electives for the Seal of Biliteracy

## **Requirements for Eligibility**

- ***Students must have graduated from high school and be matriculated into a BHCC degree program.***
- ***For students interested in receiving language credits, they must speak to the PLA Coordinator and bring in their foreign language assessment results (if not AP/CLEP exams).***

## **Additional Notes**

- On student transcripts, these credits will not have a grade and will be identified as transfer credits (TR).
- These credits may or may not be transferable to another college. Each college and university determines if or how the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy will be recognized and, if so, the number of credits may vary.
- Students may opt to not have their Seal of Biliteracy credits recognized by BHCC if they wish to take Foreign Language courses for regular, graded credit in order to better facilitate transferability.
- Before a student can receive credit for Advanced Placement (AP) languages or specific Foreign Language courses taken at BHCC, the college will need to determine which language that student's Seal of Biliteracy was for in order to avoid double counting of credits for the same language.

## **Languages offered at BHCC**

Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Russian and Spanish

For more information, please contact the PLA Office at [pla@bhcc.edu](mailto:pla@bhcc.edu)