

Writing Your Transfer Essay

Where can you get help at BHCC with writing your essay?

- Attend an Essay Workshops – see the BHCC events calendar on the homepage for details
- The TASC (Tutoring and Academic Support) room E174, E Building, Charlestown Campus.
- The Writing Place, room E142, E Building, Charlestown Campus.
- Submit an essay for review to: transferservices@bhcc.mass.edu Make sure to include your full name in the file name (i.e. LiyaSansabarEssay). Make sure to include the exact wording of the essay question that you are answering on the top of the first page and put your full name and page number on the top of every page.

Links to sites with helpful information about essay writing:

- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays>
- <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/college-essay>
- <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2014/09/30/video-learn-how-to-write-a-great-college-application-essay>

The 3 top mistakes by BHCC students

1. Failure to answer the question.
2. Failure to answer the question.
3. Failure to answer the question.

The Transfer Essay is a part of your transfer application, but not the only thing that will determine whether you get in. The essay does, however, give you a chance to tell your future college why you are a good fit, something your transcript doesn't really do. Many students have excellent GPA's. BHCC students have interesting lives and inspiring dreams; the essay is where you can express these.

- The essay allows you to take responsibility for less than perfect grades. You have an opportunity to explain grades that aren't representative of the work you can do, but be careful do not complain or place blame on others.
- You have an opportunity to explain the academic challenges you have had to overcome, be specific.
- The essay is the place where you can explain WHY you want to attend. What are your goals? How will this college help you reach those goals?
- How has your time at BHCC helped you? Did it help you find your way? Become academically prepared? Is it where you discovered or confirmed your career/educational goals?

Make sure to:

- Take your time and start well in advance of the deadline.
- Follow directions exactly. Pay attention to details.
- Be aware of and stick to any word-count restrictions. Some colleges have character counts, not word counts. Be sure you know which you need to follow.
- Be specific. Use facts and examples. Be honest.

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- Use vivid details. Do not make statements anyone could write, for example, “I want to transfer to complete a degree in accounting because there are many good jobs in accounting.” This is accurate but shows nothing about you. Here is an example of the opening of a successful essay: “I have taken all the engineering courses I can at my two-year college. I am transferring to complete a degree in chemical engineering. With my degree, I will return home to Sri Lanka to clean up the water pollution that has made me angry since I was a child.”
- Edit and then edit again. Make sure to have multiple people help proofread. Make sure there are no typos or errors.
- Meet deadlines.