THE CENTER FOR ACCELERATED & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BECKER COLLEGE
OUR VISION

BECKER COLLEGE will become a nationally recognized baccalaureate institution, renowned for its values and for its focus on delivering to the world highly educated, responsible citizens, prepared to contribute to a global society and rise to the top of their chosen professions.

OUR MISSION

The mission of BECKER COLLEGE is to deliver to each student a transformational learning experience — anchored by academic excellence, social responsibility, and creative expression — that prepares graduates to thrive, contribute to, and lead in a global society.

OUR CORE VALUES

At BECKER COLLEGE, we believe in the transformational power of a college education to impart knowledge and enlightenment in a global society. We believe higher education is a privilege, and that an educated person has a responsibility not only to seek personal and professional success but also to contribute to a greater good.

The following core values support these beliefs. They are fundamental to the success of the College and its community, reflecting the Becker College educational experience and guiding the College in its mission and decision-making at all levels.

EXCELLENCE

• We are committed to providing the best educational experience possible to every student.
• We seek opportunities to identify and celebrate excellence as part of our culture.

ACCOUNTABILITY

• We are committed to ensuring that all members of the Becker College community are accountable for their work in support of the College, its mission, and ideals.

COMMUNITY AND DIVERSITY

• We promote an open and diverse community that encourages an unfettered exchange of ideas, with civility and respect, and the empowerment of all individuals.
• We believe in a future interconnected with our neighbors, our nation, and our world.
• We believe that our diversity as a community is a strength that should be celebrated.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

• We believe that by helping others, we enhance our own lives and the lives of others.

INTEGRITY

• We uphold the highest ethical standards, striving for institutional and personal integrity in all that we do.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

• We believe that learning is rooted and grows in creative thought, inquiry, and self-discovery.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR ACCELERATED & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

The Becker College Center for Accelerated & Professional Studies is committed to the College’s mission of delivering to each student a transformational learning experience—anchored by academic excellence, social responsibility, and creative expression—that prepares graduates to thrive, contribute to, and lead in a global society.

OUR PROMISES

• We promise to provide relevant and practical customized training programs intended to keep pace with an ever-evolving global society.
• We promise to unlock the unique potential of every individual, transforming them into engaged citizens with the skills to thrive in a rapidly changing world.
• We promise to place a high value on community partnerships, academic excellence, social responsibility, and creative expression.
• We promise to provide a nurturing environment of faculty and staff who hold a genuine interest in each individual’s progress, as well as their personal and professional success.
• We promise to offer a consultative approach to program creation and to deliver tailored training designed to meet each student’s needs and the needs of organizations with whom we partner.
LETTER FROM THE DEAN

The landscape of higher education is significantly changing—and the Center for Accelerated & Professional Studies is keeping pace. Although Becker College is an institution steeped in a collective history that dates back to 1784, we have always kept an eye to the future. Every step we take in this new and ever-shifting educational landscape is done with the intention of keeping us focused on being relevant, connected, and engaged in meeting the needs of today’s professions.

Programs at Becker are specifically designed not just to prepare our students for jobs and industries that exist today, but to also instill within them the knowledge and skills they will need to help them be competitive when new jobs and industries emerge. We do this by creating an entrepreneurial ethos and by providing an education that delivers a transformative learning experience to each of our students.

We live in a global society. We instruct our students on the importance of being global citizens—those who have attained the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that enable them to understand world cultures and events, and appreciate social differences. Our mission is to prepare Becker College students to apply this knowledge and appreciation to their lives as citizens and professionals so that they may thrive, contribute to, and lead in a global society.

Here at Becker College we understand that a competitive society is formed by competitive people. The Center for Accelerated & Professional Studies strives to instill that competitive nature in our students through our curriculum, our culture, and our community.

We are proud of our graduates and of their accomplishments. The education they received at Becker has changed their lives in many ways, both personally and professionally. I invite you to learn more about our excellence and I look forward to the day I can call you a Becker College alumnus.

Colleen Bielitz, M.S.
Dean, Center for Accelerated & Professional Studies
1. There is no predetermined age to earn a college degree. You can start at any time in your life.

The value of a college education comes from the journey, not from when you attain a degree. Making the decision to attend Becker College as an adult is an investment in yourself, your future, and your family’s future.

2. Becker College offers academic programs that provide you with the skills you need to succeed.

Becker has been recognized as one of the best colleges in the country by The Princeton Review. Many of our programs are nationally recognized, and our graduates are well-prepared to thrive, contribute to, and lead in a global society.
3. Develop a higher level of confidence and boost your self-esteem.

Becker College professors care deeply about the success of each student and are committed to providing one-on-one attention and support. Our faculty bring extensive academic, professional, and life experience to the classroom. Their focus is on helping students excel, both inside the classroom and beyond. Above all, they strive to bring out the highest potential of each student. Your confidence will grow through their support.

4. A college degree increases your earning potential and helps you achieve greater economic stability and security.

The financial benefits of a college education are significant. On average, those who have a college degree earn almost twice as much as those who do not (U.S. Census Bureau). Over a lifetime, a college degree can be worth almost a million dollars.

5. A college degree opens doors to opportunities.

Advancement in a career or starting on a new career path is often based upon having a college degree. What you learn at Becker College provides you with a broad base of knowledge that leads to greater job satisfaction.

Taking adult education courses not only expands your knowledge and expertise, but also makes you more attractive to employers, expands your career options, and can lead to higher pay.

The Becker College Center for Accelerated & Professional Studies offers programs designed to provide adult learners with flexible degree and certificate program options. Courses are 5, 7, or 15 weeks in length and are held one evening per week on campus or online.

Unique Program Benefits

- Curriculum designed for the adult learner
- Authentic, collaborative learning environment
- Student assessment on presentation, project, and research skills
- Flexible class schedule
- The ability to work full-time while earning a degree or certificate
- Financial aid available, including grants and scholarships for those who qualify

Current Programs

Associate’s Degree

- Associate of science in early childhood education (ECE)

Bachelor’s Degrees

- Bachelor of arts in psychology
- Bachelor of arts in psychology—forensics concentration
- Bachelor of arts in liberal arts—elementary education concentration (leading to initial teacher licensure in elementary education)
- Bachelor of science in business administration—management concentration
- Bachelor of science in nursing—RN to BSN

Certificate Programs

- Game design certificate program (online)
- Applied behavior analysis (ABA) certificate program
- Drug and alcohol counseling certificate program
“I’m really looking forward to bringing what I’m learning at Becker into a classroom.”

Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education (ECE)

Employment of childcare workers is expected to grow by 20 percent through 2020—faster than the average for all occupations—because of the increasing number of children who require childcare and continued demand for preschool programs. In addition, projected growth of employment of preschool teachers is 25 percent due to a focus on the importance of early childhood education and the growing population of children ages 3 to 5.

(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Program description:
The associate degree program in early childhood education is designed to maximize your career options in the field of early childhood education. It also prepares you to transfer to a four-year college program in elementary education, special needs education, child health work, child psychology, and human resources. Internships provide opportunities to experience a variety of career options involving young children. In addition, Becker College partners with a number of child care centers so you gain valuable practicum teaching experience. Upon graduation, you will be capable of planning and executing age-appropriate curriculum activities and demonstrating sound child development principles.

Laurie Nunn ’14

elementary education

• 36 years old
• Married/mother of three young boys
• Current position: Owner, Wachusett Family Day Care

Laurie Nunn has operated Wachusett Family Day Care out of her home for the past eight years. She went to college for business after high school, but discovered a passion for teaching from an aunt who was a kindergarten teacher and by working with children in her day care. Becker College is helping her attain her dream of having her own public school classroom.

Because she operates her business during the day, Laurie needed to find an evening program. “At first I was drawn to the community colleges, but they weren’t offering the courses I needed,” she says. “One of my friends graduated from Becker’s business program and suggested I learn more. So I came to the campus and fell in love instantly. I transferred right away.”

Any reservations Laurie had about the accelerated nature of the program were eased through the “well-rounded, complete education” Becker provides. “I can’t stress enough how enriching every single class is, and what wonderful role models the instructors are as they share their teaching techniques,” she says. “We benefit from their wisdom and experience, and they genuinely care. You may only be in their class for five weeks, but they really take the time to get to know you. They make it clear they’re always there if you need them. This is such a phenomenal experience.”
Career Opportunities

Popular career choices for those with an associate’s degree in early childhood education include:

- Private child care provider
- Preschool teacher’s aide
- Kindergarten teacher’s aide
- Head Start teacher
- Child care center manager

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts, Elementary Education Concentration
(Leading to initial teacher licensure in elementary education)

The *U.S. News & World Report* ranks the profession of elementary school teaching as one of the best jobs in 2012, due to demand and the projection of a 16.8 percent employment growth between 2010 and 2020, with the addition of 248,800 more jobs. Growth is expected because of declines in student-to-teacher ratios and increases in enrollment.

(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Program description:

The licensure program in elementary education consists of a liberal studies major combined with appropriate education core courses and a required supervised practicum in an elementary school classroom. After you successfully complete 60 credits, you are required to pass the Communications and Literacy section of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) to continue taking core courses. A pre-practicum course must be completed before beginning a second pre-practicum course.

Becker College is one of five institutions of higher education with the most Massachusetts Early Childhood Educators Scholarship recipients.

The Massachusetts Early Childhood Educators Scholarship Program, part of a larger scholarship program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, provides financial support for working early childhood educators returning to school to earn college degrees. The state awarded $3.2 million in FY10, FY11 and FY12—and preserves this funding level in FY13.

The Early Childhood Educators Scholarship Program was funded as a pilot initiative by the legislature for the purpose of increasing the quality and availability of teachers and care providers to work with young children and youth in inclusive settings. The scholarship is designed to provide financial assistance for currently employed early childhood and out-of-school-time educators and providers who enroll in an associate’s or bachelor’s degree program in early childhood education or related programs.
I want to show my kids that you need an education to get along in life. I want them to see me walk across that stage, get my diploma, and know that any sacrifices we made were worth it.”

Fred Nagle ’13
business administration
• 36 years old
• Married/father of three
• Current position: Human resources manager

Fred Nagle left college before finishing his undergraduate education to get a job, get married, and start a family. But for years he wanted to return to college and get a degree. Although he feels that in his current position as human resources manager he’s “been fortunate in that I’ve been able to work my way up, if I ever want to go anywhere else and get a similar job with comparable pay, I’ll need a degree.” So he enrolled in Becker College’s accelerated business administration program.

“When I was in college the first time around I didn’t see the future—I just saw the present time,” he says. “I’m in the future now and I appreciate school, I appreciate learning, and I appreciate Becker and the opportunity it’s giving me to further my career. I know what I want to be when I grow up now, so I’m focused. This program is structured to give you the most knowledge in the shortest amount of time. The classes are phenomenal. The professors really prepare you for the real world of business.”

Fred will graduate from Becker in May 2013, but he’s already using what he’s learned in his personal and professional life. He attributes all the reading he’s doing for classes with keeping his mind healthy and active. The public speaking class and group projects have improved his communication skills and strengthened his work relationships with his co-workers.

Fred values his education not only for himself, but also for being a role model to his children. “I want to show my kids that you need an education to get along in life,” he says. “Knowledge is power. I want to set an example.”
"I want to expand my knowledge about nursing assessment, intervention, and spiritual care. My professors want me to be successful, and provide me with whatever support I need to reach my goals."

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing, RN to BSN**

Employment of registered nurses is expected to grow 26 percent through 2020—faster than average for all occupations—due to an increased emphasis on preventative care, particularly because people are living longer and in need of health care services that will enable them to live active lives.

(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

The RN to BSN program provides you with the knowledge and skills necessary for a broad understanding of professional nursing practice, as well as for graduate study. Upon graduation, you will be prepared to practice as a generalist nurse, working with diverse populations in multiple practice settings.

**Program description:**
The RN to BSN is a two-year degree completion program that provides a well-delineated and broad knowledge base for contemporary nursing practice and graduate study in nursing. The curriculum focuses on the synthesis and application of knowledge and research from nursing, social and natural sciences, and the humanities. During the course of study, you will apply knowledge and skills in a variety of clinical settings. The inclusion of nursing elective courses allows you to increase your understanding of multiple nursing practice areas. The program is offered in a format that allows you to work full-time if desired.

**Tara Sargentelli ’09 RN, ’13 BSN**

- 22 years old
- Earned an associate’s degree from Becker in 2009
- Current position: RN, 28-bed cardiac telemetry/progressive care unit

Tara Sargentelli earned her associate’s degree at Becker College after high school, then worked full-time as an RN for a couple of years before returning to Becker to earn her BSN through the Accelerated & Professional Studies Program. “There are a lot of RN to BSN programs out there, but I just love the professors at Becker,” she says. “They work with you. They’re available. If you need help they’re always there, whether by email or phone. They’ll also meet with you one-on-one if you find yourself stuck. They’re such compassionate nurses and really do a great job teaching.” Tara also likes the class structure provided at Becker. “You have two classes in one night, 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. You can work the RN to BSN program around your life.”

The patients on the 25-bed cardiac telemetry/progressive care unit where Tara works are already reaping the benefits of her Becker nursing education. She has fine-tuned her patient assessment skills, increased her knowledge about the management aspects of nursing and different treatment options, and has a more well-rounded view of her chosen profession. “In pharmacology we’re learning in-depth about medication interactions. I’ve also taken holistic nursing. This program broadens your horizons.”

Our pre-licensure nursing graduates had a 99 percent first-time NCLEX pass rate in 2011. This placed our nursing program #1 among undergraduate nursing programs in Massachusetts, and #1 of all associate’s degree programs.
“Before coming to Becker, I didn’t know I was such a people person. My education has really helped me to better understand others…Becker really brought out the best in me.”

Howard Veal ’12
psychology

- 58 years old
- Married/two grown children
- Current position: Security officer

Howard first joined the U.S. Army, but switched to the U.S. Air Force soon after. “I mostly worked with inanimate objects in information systems, so I really didn’t have to interact much with others.” When he became a supervisor and was required to work with people, he discovered he not only enjoyed it, but was also good at it. “Spending so much time with people, I started asking questions about myself, other folks, and the human condition,” he says. Now retired from the military, the drive to find answers eventually led him to Becker for a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Completing his degree in September 2012, Howard has learned more about himself. “Before coming to Becker, I didn't know I was such a people person,” he explains. “My education has really helped me to better understand my background and how I got to where I am today, and it’s also helped me to better understand others and how they got to where they are. Listening to many of my classmates share deeply personal details about their lives—and laughing with them and crying with them—has made me empathetic. I’ve realized that not everything is necessarily how it appears on the surface. This has helped me in dealing with people because ultimately, deep down inside, we’re all the same even though we each have different experiences and are at different places in our journey. I know it sounds cliché, but Becker really brought out the best in me and encouraged me to look for the best in others. The professors inspired me to want to do what I can to change this world for the better.”

Howard’s plans for the future include earning his master's and Ph.D. He is leaning toward using his knowledge “in an educational setting helping inner city kids. Whatever direction I go in, the education I got at Becker has given me a solid foundation to build on.”

PSYCHOLOGY

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

The human services occupation is ranked among the most rapidly growing in the country. Employment of psychologists is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2018, with about a 12 percent increase in jobs. Those who specialize in addictions and behavior disorders can expect to see a 21 percent increase in jobs through 2012. Employment of social workers is expected to grow by 25 percent from 2010 to 2020—faster than the average for all occupations.

(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Program description:

The bachelor of arts in psychology program provides you with the knowledge and skills needed to begin a career in the human services field. You have the option to customize your course selections to particular fields of interests, such as young children, adolescents and families, and the legal system, and also specific content areas, including applied behavior analysis (ABA), forensic psychology, and drug and alcohol counseling. Upon graduation, you will be prepared for entry-level positions in a variety of community agencies and educational settings.

Career Opportunities

Popular career options include the following:

- Family planning agencies
- Early intervention counselor
- Residential counselor
- ABA specialist
- Social worker
- Family services; program coordinator
- Conflict resolution counselor
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology—Forensics Concentration

Over the last 20 years, the field of forensic psychology has maintained a steady growth rate. It is expected that over the next 10 years, consultation, research work, and clinical practice in psychology and the law will continue to grow. Positions working with lawmakers, attorneys, and the courts are predicted to have the highest demand.

(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Forensic psychology applies psychology to the law and the legal system. Forensic psychologists study problems of crime prevention, rehabilitation programs in prisons, courtroom dynamics, psychology and the law, and issues related to effective policing. Changing laws and the development of new ways to deal with juvenile offenders have become prevalent topics within the field. Forensic psychologists work at the intersection between psychology and law.

Program description:

The Becker College bachelor's degree program in psychology, with a concentration in forensic psychology, challenges you to apply research skills, psychological knowledge, and critical thinking abilities to a variety of issues facing the legal system. You will study subjects such as:

• How psychologists serve as expert witnesses and advisors in courts
• Motives and patterns of criminal behavior
• Treatment, rehabilitation and assessments used in corrections and in private practice

Career Opportunities

Popular career choices for those with a bachelor of arts in psychology with a concentration in forensics include:

• Research
• Counseling
• Victim advocacy
• Jury and trial system
• Juvenile services
“While I took my ABA classes to get ready for certification, I not only saw how so much of it works in the classroom, I also saw how much of it you can use on a larger scale.”

Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

Prepare for a career as a board-certified assistant behavior analyst (BCaBA). Behavior analysis is commonly used to modify the behavior of children on the autism spectrum or with other development disabilities. The ABA program provides the theory and practice needed to assist in delivering services to individuals in a variety of settings such as early intervention, group homes, schools, mental health agencies, and hospitals.

Program description:

The certificate in applied behavior analysis is designed to prepare you for a career as a BCaBA. Completing a bachelor’s degree in a related field as well as the three required courses and three intensive supervised practicums will qualify you to sit for National Certification, an examination sponsored by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). Success on the examination will qualify you to be listed as a board-certified assistant behavior analyst (BCaBA) on the national register.

Additional Admissions Requirements:

- Bachelor’s degree or currently matriculating through a bachelor’s degree program
- Successful completion of an Introduction to Psychology course

Kristin Langord ’14
psychology

- 42 years old
- Married/mother of two teenagers
- Current position: Assistant behavior analyst – Burncoat Middle School

Kristin Langord was working as an instructional assistant (IA) in the public school system when she found a flyer for the accelerated ABA program in her mailbox at work. “One of my co-workers was a student at Becker, and she shared the things I could do with an ABA degree,” Kristin says. “One of the things I appreciate most about the program is focusing on one subject at a time. I don’t have to divide my time between a few different classes. It’s intensive, but I can really delve in and give each class my full attention.”

Having classroom experience as an IA gave her an edge over other applicants for the position of assistant behavior analyst at Burncoat Middle School in Worcester, where she is currently employed. “I’m already doing the job I’m in school to learn how to do—it’s amazing!” she says. “When the behavior analysts write plans for students, I can follow their shorthand because I have all the vocabulary down pat. At this point I’ve seen models, so now it’s all practical application.”

For her class projects, Kristin took a creative approach to apply what she was learning—using her two overzealous dogs. “We had to write a plan to change the unwanted behavior of something or someone, keeping detailed records with data,” she explains. “When it came time to present the project in class, I used my dog Oliver to demonstrate what he’d been taught. He did an outstanding job, and my instructors and classmates really got a kick out of it.”

Kristin highly recommends the Becker ABA program. “While I took my ABA classes to get ready for certification, I not only saw how so much of it works in the classroom, I also saw how much of it you can use on a larger scale,” she says. “This is a fantastic program.”
Certificate in Drug and Alcohol Counseling

Becker College’s certificate in drug and alcohol counseling covers a range of topics taught by instructors who have professional experience in drug and alcohol counseling.

Topics of study include:
- Knowledge of alcoholism and drug abuse
- Assessment
- Clinical evaluation
- Treatment planning
- Case management
- Cultural competency
- Ethics
- Pharmacology
- Patient, family, and community education for alcohol and drugs, HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, and tobacco cessation

Program description:
The certificate in drug and alcohol counseling gives students the option to work as an addiction counselor in many types of treatment settings, including:
- Detoxification
- Residential programs
- Out-patient programs

Certificate in Game Design (Online Only)

Becker College has been called "a destination for game designers" by U.S. News & World Report. The College’s computer game design and development programs are among the most innovative and best in the nation, consistently ranked in the top 10 by The Princeton Review. Becker College is the only Massachusetts college to maintain a top-10 spot in The Princeton Review video game design listing for the last three years.

Program description:
Becker College’s new online game design certificate program is aimed at professionals with a degree in computer science, information technology, or art, who seek entry into the growing digital games industry. You will finish with the skills you need to start creating games.

Points of Pride: Game Design Program
- Becker College is a nationally recognized leader in game design education.
- The Becker College game design program has been ranked in the top 10 for three years in a row by The Princeton Review.
- Becker College is the home of The Massachusetts Digital Games Institute (Mass DiGi)—a statewide center for facilitating cooperation and innovation among the digital games industry, the public sector, and academia.
- Becker College game design graduates attain employment in the game industry, software development companies, advertising agencies, web and multimedia development companies, and more.
Online Learning

There are a variety of courses available in an online format for our adult learners. This includes all courses for the certificate in game design. The Center for Accelerated & Professional Studies also offers online courses over intersession each winter.

Benefits of online learning include:

- Taking classes anytime, from anywhere
- Easily fitting your studies into busy personal and professional schedules
- Enhancing your technological knowledge
- Learning at your own pace and determining your optimal time for study
- Saving on commuting costs

Please contact us to learn more about our online courses.

Admissions Requirements

The Center for Accelerated & Professional Studies offers a rolling admission process, which means applications are accepted throughout the year. General requirements include:

- Completed signed application and payment of application fee ($40.00)
- Prior college credit(s) earned/copy of official college transcript(s)
- Assessment testing may be required.

Depending on the program, additional requirements may be needed.

(If no previous college experience, then proof of high school diploma or GED is required.)

Accreditation

- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission

Contact us.

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Email: accel@becker.edu
Visit: www.becker.edu/academics/accelerated

WE PROMISE. WE ACT. WE DELIVER.