

## Specifics about the Direct Support Certificate Program (DSC)

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Permit # 304  
Worcester, MA

- Students who are employed by DDS or work in a program under contract with DDS pay only \$50 per course plus cost of books for each of the DSC courses.
- The certificate can be completed in one calendar year when students register for at least 2 courses per semester.
- Students can also take courses one at a time, as their schedules allow.
- Students are required to take the QCC English placement exam.
- Students receive support, guidance and assistance registering from the Coordinator of the Direct Support Certificate Program.
- Students have access to QCC support services.
- Student applicants are required to demonstrate support from their agency supervisor.
- Students can apply credits earned through the Direct Support Certificate Program toward a higher degree.

The Direct Support Certificate Program is a great opportunity to further your education!

### Contact

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## Direct Support Certificate Program

A project of The Massachusetts  
Community Colleges and  
The Massachusetts Department  
of Developmental Services

[www.QCC.edu](http://www.QCC.edu)

## The Program is Career Focused

- The Direct Support Certificate Program is based on the National Community Support Skill Standards which include twelve skills and competencies. These standards are woven into the DSC courses providing an appropriate balance between academic and career skills.
- The courses focus on skills used by Direct Support Professionals in their work and include effective communication (both written and verbal), facilitating community membership and supporting person centered decision making.

## Direct Support Certificate students must complete 7 required courses:

- Introduction to English Composition 100 or English 101
- Introduction to Human Services
- The Helping Relationship: Human Services Delivery
- Introduction to Psychology
- Introduction to Developmental Disabilities
- Special Topics in Developmental Disabilities
- Direct Support Practicum

## Challenging, Accessible, Rewarding

### The program is challenging:

- Direct Support Certificate courses are college-level.
- Course credits can be applied to further study at Massachusetts Community Colleges. At QCC, 21 DSC credits can be applied toward an Associates Degree in Human Services.

### The program is accessible:

- Every effort is made to schedule classes at times that are convenient for working students.
- Employers realize the benefits of this program to their employees. Many have been flexible in scheduling work time.

### The program is rewarding:

- Direct Support Professionals gain skills, knowledge and inspiration that enhance their work with the individuals they support.
- Participants enrich classroom discussions due to the breadth of their work experience.

## QCC Direct Support Certificate Student's thoughts:



*"Unbelievable opportunity to enhance your education! I have enjoyed this program so much! Everyone I have had contact with at QCC has been so nice and helpful. I would love to continue my education here in Human Services."*

– Martha Quirk  
Matson Community Services



*"The program has given me the opportunity to reaffirm my skills as a person who has worked in the field for many years at a significantly lower cost than if I had pursued this course of study on my own. It has given me the opportunity to attend classes in my field with other-like-minded students. I have learned a lot about myself as a person and a lot about the field of Human Services. I recommend this program to anyone looking to obtain a degree or certificate in the field."*

– Laurie Purdy  
Seven Hills Foundation



*"This program helped me understand many of the issues that individuals are facing and it helped me prepare to help and support people more."*

– Cleris Bethancourt  
Community Health Link