

## CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE/BAY PATH UNIVERSITY

### Frequently Asked Questions

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) resource is designed to provide you with important information about the joining of Cambridge College and Bay Path University and what it will mean for you.

## GET TO KNOW BAY PATH

### 1. What are the values, mission, and strategic goals of Bay Path University?

Bay Path's core values, mission, and strategic goals provide the blueprint and guidance for every facet of our organization, shaping how we teach and support our students to how we work together to preserve our 125-year plus legacy. They help define our identity and foster a strong organizational culture by creating a sense of unity and purpose among students, faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni. Our core values are mirrored in the core values of Cambridge College, and this like-minded perspective is a common denominator in our forward-looking plans. Among these values, we share a similar pledge to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. Dr. Jennifer Wade, executive director and special assistant to the president for DEIB, provides leadership to strengthen our commitment to diversity and equity across the University. Visit our [web page](#) to learn more about Bay Path's core values, mission, and strategic goals.

As part of our vision of the future for Bay Path and Cambridge College, our **Strategic Partnership Plans** outline the strengths, opportunities, and growth aspirations for our combined institution, aiming to connect our dynamic educational environments with the ultimate goal of being "Stronger Together." [Click here](#) to read more about our Strategic Partnership!

### 2. What are the main campus locations and facilities of Bay Path University?

Our main Longmeadow, MA, campus is located on 65 acres, including 12 acres of athletic fields and is primarily home to the traditional undergraduate women's college; the Philip H. Ryan Health Science Center (RHSC), which houses many of our co-ed graduate programs and certificates in the health sciences, education, and psychology, is located in East Longmeadow, MA. The American Women's College offers entirely online, flexible, accelerated bachelor degree programs and certificates for adult women. To take a virtual tour of our Longmeadow or RHSC campuses, please [click on this link](#) (to skip the information intake screen, hit "X" in the upper right hand corner).

### 3. What academic programs and disciplines does Bay Path University offer?

Bay Path University's academic structure includes several schools focused on different areas of study. The **School of Management and Technology** offers programs that blend business and technology education. Students can pursue degrees in areas such as business administration, cybersecurity, leadership, and data science. The **School of Education, Psychology & Humanities** focuses on programs that develop skills and knowledge in education, psychology, and the humanities. Key programs include education (various specialties such as special

education, elementary education, and educational leadership), psychology, creative nonfiction writing, and justice studies. The **School of Health and Natural Sciences** provides programs aimed at preparing students for careers in healthcare and scientific research such as nursing, occupational therapy, public health, biology, mental health counseling, genetic counseling, and physician assistant studies.

#### **4. How is Bay Path University accredited?**

Like Cambridge College, Bay Path University is accredited by NECHE, which ensures that the institution meets rigorous standards of quality and effectiveness. Many of our graduate programs have earned discipline-specific accreditation, such as the MS in Physician Assistant Studies and the MS in Genetic Counseling, or have curricula that align and prepare students for professional testing and licensure.

#### **5. How does Bay Path support diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives?**

BPU supports [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging](#) (DEIB) through a variety of initiatives and programs aimed at fostering an inclusive and supportive environment. Here are some of our key efforts: our campus-wide representative [Community Council](#); the [Office of Multicultural Affairs](#), which provides support and programming; community partnerships such as with the Western Massachusetts Food Bank in support of our [Wildcat Food Pantry](#); celebrations that highlight various cultures, traditions, and histories, such as Black History Month and National Hispanic Heritage Month; and inclusive hiring practices by the BPU HR department. Dr. Jennifer Wade, executive director and special assistant to the president for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, provides the leadership and is responsible for developing and managing initiatives designed to promote diversity and equity within the University..

#### **6. What is the student population like at Bay Path University?**

Just as Cambridge College is a place that "... offers a dynamic and inclusive environment where adult learners can build their education on a lifetime of learning and rich experiences," Bay Path is also a space where adult learners flourish – the average age of our students is 32. In fact as of the 2023 total student headcount of 2,641, 82% are adult learners. Three student populations contribute to this number: Slightly over 50% of our students – women and men – are enrolled in graduate programs; 30% are TAWC (The American Women's College) students; and just under 20% are resident and commuter students in our all-women traditional College. Bay Path students, like Cambridge students, are wonderfully diverse: 35% in total and 40% of all undergraduates are first-generation college students; 19% in total and 25% of our undergraduates are Hispanic; and 11% in total and 12% of our undergraduates are Black Americans. Overall, 55% of our students are Pell eligible.

# ACQUISITION UPDATE

## **1. Why is Cambridge College becoming part of Bay Path University?**

In taking steps to come together, Bay Path and Cambridge College are uniquely positioned to continue to adapt to the needs of the adult learner population in a dynamic education and economic environment. Cambridge College believes that joining together with a like-minded college will provide the size and resources necessary for success.

## **2. Why Is Bay Path the right choice for Cambridge College?**

Like Cambridge College, Bay Path University empowers students to become leaders in their careers and communities. Its nationally regarded undergraduate and graduate programs are offered on campus and online, providing a flexible, 21st-century education for learners at all stages of life and career. Bay Path excels at offering students a supportive, diverse, and inclusive community; close mentoring; and rigorous preparation for workplace success. Together, our larger size and track record of effectively educating a wide array of learners will support continued success.

## **3. When will the acquisition be considered complete?**

We are excited to have [celebrated](#) our Phase I closing on July 1, 2024. Our next step in the process is Phase II: for the next 18-24 months both institutions will continue to operate distinctly in many ways as we progress towards merging the two institutions. This is known as the “two-step process.” The ultimate designation as one institution and the completion of the acquisition is dependent upon the US Department of Education’s process and timeline.

## **4. Will Cambridge College maintain its name?**

Cambridge College will retain its name throughout Phase II (approximately 18 - 24 months following the July 1, 2024 close). You will continue to see the Cambridge College brand/name used in marketing efforts and social media.

During Phase II, we will undertake a branding initiative to determine the best positioning for the united institution, one that reflects the strength and legacy of both Cambridge College and Bay Path University. This may result in a name change that would go into effect once Phase II is completed.

## **5. How are Cambridge College campuses/locations/sites impacted by this affiliation?**

Cambridge College’s site in Boston, Massachusetts, its campus in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and its online platform (Cambridge College Global) will remain active and continue to welcome new students. Students at the Lawrence and Springfield locations will continue to take classes remotely via Zoom or fully online. Their programs of study and courses continue unchanged. While we have closed our California campus due to low enrollment, students enrolled at the California location will be able to continue in their Cambridge programs by taking remote or online classes. If you are a student in California, please reach out to your academic advisor with any questions you may have.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

### **1. Will Cambridge College continue to confer my degree?**

Yes. Until the affiliation is approved by the federal Department of Education, Cambridge College will continue to operate as an independently authorized and accredited institution of higher education. During this period (until at least August 2025) you will continue your education at Cambridge College, academic programs will be unchanged, and degrees will continue to be granted by Cambridge College.

### **2. How will you make sure the Cambridge College name (and therefore my degree) maintains its value?**

We expect that the brand and reputation of both institutions will be enhanced as a result of this affiliation.

### **3. Will I be able to continue my current classes?**

Yes. Until the affiliation is approved by the Department of Education, Cambridge College will continue operating largely as it does today. Your program and courses will continue unchanged, and when you complete your program, your degree will be granted by Cambridge. Once all regulatory approvals have been gained, degrees will be conferred by Bay Path.

### **4. How will my program be impacted?**

The College frequently assesses and improves its programs. Those processes will continue. Catalog of record (the year you first enrolled) determines requirements you must meet and those will not change. Cambridge College and Bay Path are working together to ensure the transition process is as seamless as possible.

### **5. Will available classes change as a result of this affiliation?**

Our priority has always been to assure that our students have access to the courses they need for degree progress and degree completion. This will not change and is also a priority at Bay Path.

### **6. Will the course modality of my classes change as a result of this affiliation?**

Cambridge College will continue to offer classes in all the modalities you prefer. If you are currently taking all or most of your classes remotely, you will be able to continue to do so. And if you currently need to take classes on campus, we will continue to schedule on campus classes for you.

### **7. Will my classes be offered on campus in Boston as they always have been, or do I have to go to Longmeadow?**

Our Boston campus will continue to operate fully even after Cambridge College has been fully integrated into Bay Path University. You will not have to go to Longmeadow for your classes.

**8. Will I be transferred to Bay Path at the end the transitional 18-months?**

Yes, after the transitional period, all Cambridge College students who choose to continue in their program of study will be given the opportunity to transfer into Bay Path University. This will allow you to continue your studies without interruption.

Students who do not wish to transfer to Bay Path University will have other options, which will be announced soon. We are currently negotiating transfer pathways with several universities to ensure that you will receive credit for all your Cambridge College coursework and that you can continue your studies at the same tuition rate.

**9. How will the affiliation with Bay Path affect my class schedule?**

Cambridge College will continue to offer a class schedule that is designed to meet the needs of our busy working adult student population. We will continue to schedule evening classes and weekend intensives.

**10. Will I be able to access Bay Path University programs?**

Bay Path is excited to welcome Cambridge College students into its programs. We will keep you updated regarding when that will be possible.

**11. Will my tuition change as a result of this affiliation beyond the standard rate increase?**

Bay Path is committed to keeping tuition affordable for our students. We do not expect any changes in tuition beyond modest standard rate increases.

**12. Will there be another Cambridge College commencement?**

Yes, we are planning a commencement ceremony for June 2025. We will inform you once an exact date is known.

**13. How will I access my transcripts?**

You can continue to access your transcripts via Cambridge College. Once the affiliation is complete, we will share more information about points of contact for transcripts. We will maintain continuity of access to your transcripts.

**14. How do I access student services?**

Our Student Success Center is a dedicated hub for connecting students to advising, curriculum planning, academic coaching, internships, and career services. In addition, we will provide mental health counseling services, assistance with financial aid questions, IT help, and other essential services to students. We've provided a list of resources and contacts to help students navigate and access the appropriate assistance [here >](#).

**15. How do I access Disability Support Services?**

Our Student Accessibility Services Office, formerly the Disability Services Office, strives to create an inclusive campus environment for students, allowing them to have full access to courses, programs, and activities during their time at Cambridge College. We coordinate accommodations and support services that promote equal access for undergraduate and

graduate students with disabilities. If you would like to apply for accommodations, please email [accessibility@baypath.edu](mailto:accessibility@baypath.edu) or call 413-565-1602.

**16. To whom should I submit my immunization records?**

Please send your immunization records and any questions related to the immunization requirement to Health Services at [healthservices@baypath.edu](mailto:healthservices@baypath.edu) .

**17. Who should I contact if I have questions that are not answered here?**

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your academic advisor or your success coach. If you are an international student, please contact the International Student Office. Our staff will be happy to meet with you and is committed to supporting you through this transition. Please also see our [resource guide](#) for information about student services and offices.