

EASTERN GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TIMELINE SUMMARY

Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC) served eastern Ohio for five decades before rapid expansion, regulatory problems and an enrollment collapse led to its 2024 closure.

EGCC Through the Years

1968–2018 / Traditional Regional College	EGCC grew from a technical institute into a community college offering affordable education in Jefferson, Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties.
2019–2022 / National Expansion	A free-college program for union members and their families drew online students nationwide, driving enormous growth. The Higher Learning Commission placed EGCC on probation in 2021, and federal authorities intervened over its handling of federal financial aid and the program.
2022–2024 / Enrollment Collapse	After the program ended, Fall 2023 enrollment fell 48.9% from Fall 2022, deepening the college's accreditation and financial problems.
2024 / Fiscal Watch and Closure	In March 2024, the Ohio Department of Higher Education declared EGCC on fiscal watch. Despite more than \$6 million in state advances, the board concluded it could not continue. The college formally dissolved on October 31, 2024.
2025–present / Audit Findings	EGCC's closure by operation of law occurred on Sept. 24, 2025. The Auditor's FY2023 audit is released and questioned more than \$17 million in costs (all federal student-aid programs reviewed) and cited weaknesses in financial records, internal controls, enrollment and attendance records, and financial aid. The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) continues a separate investigation.

Auditor of State Involvement: Key Dates

2018–2023	Routine audits uncover questionable credit-card spending; audit work continues as concerns grow.
June 2023	Auditor of State publicly documents an ongoing investigation.
August 2023	Former president and vice president/chief of staff indicted after Auditor findings.
January 2024	SIU and law enforcement execute a search warrant at EGCC.
July–November 2024	College ceases instruction, loses accreditation and dissolves.
November 2025	Audit released: \$17M+ in questioned costs and 44 findings.