

General Information



The Vision, Mission, and Goals

Santa Monica College: Changing Lives in the Global Community Through Excellence In Education

VISION

Santa Monica College will be a leader and innovator in learning and achievement. As a community committed to open dialog and the free exchange of ideas, Santa Monica College will foster its core values: knowledge, intellectual inquiry, research-based planning and evaluation, academic integrity, ethical behavior, democratic processes, communication and collegiality, global awareness, and sustainability.

MISSION

Santa Monica College provides a safe, inclusive, and dynamic learning environment that encourages personal and intellectual exploration — one that challenges and supports students in achieving their education goals. Students learn to contribute to the local and global community as they develop an understanding of their relationship to diverse social, cultural, political, economic, technological, and natural environments. The College recognizes that each individual makes a critical contribution to the achievement of this mission.

Santa Monica College's academic and career programs and support services are intended to serve diverse individuals from local, national, and global communities who are seeking high-quality, affordable undergraduate education. The College offers certificates, Associate degrees, a baccalaureate degree, and streamlined pathways for transfer to university and for career training.. The College promotes commitment to lifelong learning among students and the communities it serves.

GOALS

To fulfill this mission, Santa Monica College has identified the following Institutional Learning Outcomes and supporting goals.

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

Santa Monica College students will:

- Acquire the self-confidence and self-discipline to pursue their intellectual curiosities with integrity in both their personal and professional lives;
- Obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to access, evaluate, and interpret ideas, images, and information critically in order to communicate effectively, reach conclusions, and solve problems;
- Respect the inter-relatedness of the global human environment, engage with diverse peoples, acknowledge the significance of their daily actions relative to broader issues and events;
- Assume responsibility for their own impact on the earth by living a sustainable and ethical life style; and

- Demonstrate a level of engagement in the subject matter that enables and motivates the integration of acquired knowledge and skills beyond the classroom.

SUPPORTING GOALS

Innovative and Responsive Academic Environment

- Continuously develop curricular programs, learning strategies, and services to meet the evolving needs of students and the community.

Supportive Learning Environment

- Provide access to comprehensive student learning resources such as library, tutoring, and technology;
- Provide access to comprehensive and innovative student support services such as admissions and records, counseling, assessment, outreach, and financial aid.

Stable Fiscal Environment

- Respond to dynamic fiscal conditions through ongoing evaluation and reallocation of existing resources and the development of new resources.

Sustainable Physical Environment

- Apply sustainable practices to maintain and enhance the College's facilities and infrastructure including grounds, buildings, and technology.

Supportive Collegial Environment

- Employ decision-making and communication processes that respect the diverse needs of the entire college community.

About SMC

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Santa Monica College — a diverse and dynamic community of individuals from around the world — is committed to promoting global citizenship among its students, faculty, staff, and community.

To be a global citizen requires:

- Knowing about peoples, customs, and cultures in regions of the world beyond one's own;
- Understanding the interdependence that holds both promise and peril for the future of the global community; and
- Combining one's learning with a dedication to foster a livable, sustainable world.

To support its commitment to the development of global citizenship, SMC provides its community with a variety of courses, lectures, special events, and other educational opportunities to explore international and global issues, environmental challenges, and intercultural relationships.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Curricula

Santa Monica College offers four types of curricula for students to choose from, depending on their goals.

The general education curriculum offers a prescribed core of general education courses that provide opportunities for lifelong learning in various fields, including fine and applied arts, literature, foreign languages, science, and many other instructional areas.

Students desiring to transfer to a four-year college or university may take a transfer curriculum consisting of academic courses that meet college and university lower-division major requirements in liberal arts, the sciences, and a variety of pre-professional fields. After completing the transfer curriculum at Santa Monica College, students may apply to transfer to a four-year educational institution to complete their upper-division coursework.

The career preparation curriculum prepares students for immediate employment or occupational upgrading. This can be done in two years or less of full-time training at Santa Monica College. Persons who are already employed may take courses that lead to promotion or salary enhancement.

Santa Monica College also provides the community with many educational, cultural, social, and recreational programs to meet individual needs and personal interests. The programs include seminars, lectures, not-for-credit classes, art and photo gallery exhibits, concerts, theatrical productions, and planetarium shows.

Evening Classes

Santa Monica College offers a comprehensive selection of classes scheduled during evening hours to provide educational opportunities to students who are unable or do not wish to attend day classes. Evening classes are considered an integral part of SMC's educational program, and admission and enrollment procedures are the same for day or evening classes. All College policies — including those on admission, probation, and disqualification — apply equally to day or evening students.

Online Classes

Through its Office of Distance Education, Santa Monica College offers a selection of classes online over the Internet, which may be accessed from home, office, or other locations by using a computer with a browser and Internet access. Classes offered online are especially convenient for students who, for a variety of reasons, are unable or prefer not to travel to the SMC campus to attend classes. Online classes, like evening classes, are considered an integral part of SMC's educational program. All SMC policies — including those on admission, probation, and disqualification — apply equally to online students as they do to day or evening students. Online classes cover the same content, award the same credit, and are listed on student transcripts in the same way that on-campus classes are; they differ from on-campus classes only in their delivery method. For details on SMC's online classes, enrollment procedures, and technical requirements, students should go to smc.edu/OnlineEd or see the Schedule of Classes.

Hybrid classes are a combination of online-delivered coursework and mandatory meetings on the SMC campus. Please see the Schedule of Classes for details about specific on-campus meeting dates, times, and locations for hybrid classes.

COLLEGE HISTORY

Four-year colleges and universities have their roots in medieval Europe, but community colleges are a uniquely American contribution to higher education.

Santa Monica College — located in the Santa Monica Community College District and operated under the principles first defined in School Law of California, 1917 — is proud to be a part of that rich tradition of community service and public education.

A seven-member Board of Trustees, elected to a four-year term by the residents of Santa Monica and Malibu, governs the Santa Monica Community College District. A student-elected representative with an advisory vote serves on the Board as Student Trustee.

The College opened its doors as “Santa Monica Junior College” in 1929 to 153 students.

Although born on the eve of the Depression and familiar with financial constraints, SMC has thrived. Today, enrollment is about 32,000 students. The College, which began by holding classes in Santa Monica High School, is now located on a 40-acre campus at 1900 Pico Boulevard, and has five satellite campuses.

Santa Monica College has been headquartered at three locations since it opened. Classes were moved from the high school to an old elementary school building across the street. When a 1933 earthquake rendered that building unsafe, classes were held in a village of wood-framed tents affectionately nicknamed “Splinterville.” The Technical School was founded in 1937 at 2200 Virginia Avenue, which is now the site of Virginia Park.

Corsair Stadium, the first permanent structure built on the present campus, was erected in 1948. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the first classroom building were held September 11, 1950. With the completion of the Administration, Art, Music, Library, Little Theatre, and Student Activities buildings in January 1952, all classes except the vocational ones and the science labs were located on the new campus.

SMC's original Science Building was completed in February 1953. Three vocational buildings were added in 1957 for the cosmetology, sewing, and home economics programs, which were moved from the Technical School. The remaining classes at the Technical School were moved to the main campus in 1969.

By 1960, several new projects were built on campus: a spacious gymnasium with men's and women's locker rooms, a cafeteria building with classrooms, an enlarged student bookstore, and an addition to the library. Santa Monica College continued to change through the years, with new construction and the relocation of many classes to satellite campuses. Major construction projects included the Concert Hall in 1979; the Library, Learning Resources Center, and Instructional Materials Center in 1980; and the Business and Vocational Education Building in 1981. In 1983, the former library was renovated and renamed the Letters and Science Building. A four-story parking structure was completed in

1981, followed by two more parking structures in 1991, and another in April 2002.

In 1988, SMC opened its first satellite campus in the former Douglas Museum and Library complex at the Santa Monica Airport. Two years later, the second satellite campus opened at the former Madison Elementary School site at 11th Street and Arizona Avenue in Santa Monica, known now as the SMC Performing Arts Center. The College opened its third satellite facility in February 1998, a 3.5-acre campus on Stewart Street in the heart of Santa Monica's media and entertainment business district and dedicated to instructional programs in entertainment technology and design.

The College's completely modernized three-story Science Complex opened on the main campus in fall 1999, and a major expansion of the SMC Library opened in fall 2003. Both award-winning projects were funded by Proposition T — a bond measure approved by local Santa Monica and Malibu residents in 1992 — and earthquake restoration and other funds from the Federal and State governments.

In recent times, Santa Monica and Malibu residents have approved four safety and modernization bond measures to upgrade and enhance SMC's facilities. The first of these, Measure U for \$160 million, was approved in March 2002. The second, Measure S for \$135 million, was approved in November 2004. The third, Measure AA, for \$290 million, was approved in November 2008. The fourth, Measure V, for \$345 million, was approved in November 2016. With funding from Measure U, the College acquired two additional properties: a new four-story office and classroom building at 1227 Second Street, which became the permanent home for SMC's Emeritus program in fall 2003, and a 10.4-acre site near the Santa Monica Airport at Bundy Drive and Airport Avenue. The Bundy Campus — SMC's largest satellite campus — opened in summer 2005 and is home to SMC's Health Sciences, Education, and Community Education programs.

On SMC's main campus, a modernized replacement Theater Arts instructional building opened in fall 2007, along with a 64,000 square foot Humanities and Social Science Building. At the SMC Performing Arts Center, a professional-quality 541-seat performing arts theater (the Eli and Edythe Broad Stage) opened in fall 2008.

SMC's main campus underwent a recent facelift, and now has a beautiful Quad with palm trees and environmentally friendly water features. Through its Center for Environmental and Urban Studies (CEUS), which is also headquarters for Sustainable Works, the College has embarked on an ambitious, award-winning program to develop and implement campus sustainability initiatives and research.

One of the greenest campuses in the state, SMC became the first community college in California to earn a Bronze-level Bike-Friendly University award from the League of American Bicyclists. Along with the Center for Environmental and Urban Studies and active student clubs, SMC offers a 'live laboratory,' an organic learning garden, a recycling program for electronic waste, commercial worm composting, and many other opportunities for students to become environmental leaders.

Three other buildings funded by Measures AA and V have recently opened on the main campus. A 14,000-square foot building opened in 2015 to house SMC's Center for

Teaching Excellence in addition to SMC's information technology resources. A 66,000-square foot three story structure, the Core Performance Center, opened in 2017 and is home to SMC's dance and athletic programs, with spacious dance studios, men's and women's locker rooms, physical fitness labs, and a climbing wall. The building also houses a central cooling system for the campus. A new spacious three-story Student Services Center and underground parking garage opened in summer 2019. Also, a new one-acre site has been acquired immediately adjacent to the main campus, intended to house all of SMC's visual arts programs. Projects under design on the main campus include a new addition to the Science Complex for environmental sciences, earth sciences, math, and related programs; and an outdoor amphitheater.

At its Bundy Campus, SMC acquired an additional three acres adjacent to the campus for use for additional overflow parking and for future program expansion.

At the Performing Arts Campus, SMC has acquired a 26,000 square-foot three-story commercial building adjacent to the campus as offices for the theater staff and presenting company. A new 21,000 square-foot three-story wing for the Center opened in 2017 that provides a large Music Hall for rehearsals, performances, and special events; a piano teaching lab; and a classroom for voice and choir instruction.

SMC's newly rebranded SMC Center for Media and Design — formerly the Academy of Entertainment and Technology — reopened in fall 2017 and features an expansion and remodeling of the original campus to accommodate design and media-related programs. The new Bachelor's program in Interaction Design is also housed there, along with SMC's NPR radio station KCRW. The new campus features an auditorium for screening films, a TV studio, and radio broadcast labs.

Other current projects in design or construction include a new Early Childhood lab school; a joint use project with the local school district for a 750-seat auditorium adjacent to SMC's main campus; and a new satellite campus with classrooms, art studio, science lab, community music hall, emergency operations center, interpretive center, and Los Angeles County Sheriff's substation in the Malibu Civic Center area.

Santa Monica College was selected to be one of the first 15 California community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees, as part of a historic pilot program. SMC's Bachelor of Science Degree in Interaction Design will help prepare students for careers as interaction designers, and offer a gateway to professional and economic advancement for many students. The first class graduated in June 2018.

The College's reputation as the Westside's leading job trainer was also heightened by its role in creating an LA-based consortium called the "Los Angeles High Impact Information Technology, Entertainment & Entrepreneurship, and Communications Hubs." Better known by its acronym LA HI-TECH, the group was recognized in 2015 by President Obama's TechHire Initiative for its work in preparing students for jobs in the information, communication and technology sector.

To encourage more students into pathways toward careers and further higher education, SMC expanded dual enrollment opportunities for high school students, creating special programs to give first-generation college students

a head start. Also, the SMC Board of Trustees waived enrollment fees for high school students, and those who qualify can now take classes at SMC for free. SMC has also launched the “Santa Monica College Promise,” which offers free tuition and up to \$1,200 in textbook vouchers to incoming full-time freshmen who qualify.

The coming of the first commuter train to Santa Monica in more than 60 years also led to a significant move that spelled out SMC’s importance in the community: the Expo Light Rail station at 17th and Colorado includes “Santa Monica College” in its name.

Over the years, the College has offered continuing education classes to meet the needs of the community through such programs as SMC’s Emeritus program founded in 1975 to offer classes to people age 55 and older, and SMC’s Community Education program, which provides a broad range of classes and workshops to individuals who wish to explore their personal interests or enhance their careers. The College also presents guest speakers, performers, films, and other special events to the community, and brings the best of public radio to Southern California through its award-winning NPR station KCRW (89.9 FM).

Santa Monica College has responded to the needs of its increasingly diverse student body through such academic and counseling support programs as the Scholars program (for honors students planning to transfer to four-year institutions), Latino Center, African American Collegian Center, Center for Students with Disabilities, and International Education Center. The College boasts the largest student support system among all California Community Colleges and the cornucopia of special programs has grown with the inclusion of programs like the Veterans Resource Center, Young Collegians, STEM Learning and Leadership Innovation Center, the DREAM program in support of undocumented students, and the Guardian Scholars Program for foster youth.

Santa Monica College’s academic excellence has always been driven by world-class faculty who are here because they believe in the power of the student-teacher connection. In the last decade, SMC has hired more than 120 new full-time professors with distinguished credentials, representing the best in their fields. SMC’s Center for Teaching Excellence — one of just a handful of such centers at community colleges — serves as a “pedagogical playground” where instructors can learn how to address the particular challenges of teaching in a multicultural and technology-driven world.

Today, Santa Monica College is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and offers courses in more than 100 fields of study. SMC is the Westside’s leading job trainer and the nation’s undisputed leader in transfers to the University of California system, including UCLA. Additionally, Santa Monica College’s reputation for quality attracts students from more than 100 countries around the world, and currently, more international students choose Santa Monica College to begin their higher education than almost any other community college in America.

Community Support

SMC ASSOCIATES

The Santa Monica College Associates was established in 1981 by a group of community leaders committed to SMC and its mission. The community-based support group promotes, fosters, and encourages educational, scientific, literary, and artistic endeavors at the College. Funds raised by the Associates are used to bring world-class guest speakers and special events to SMC to stimulate student excellence and enrich campus life. Membership in the SMC Associates is open to the public, and yearly membership contributions of \$100 or more are entirely tax-deductible. For more information, please visit the SMC Associates website at smc.edu/associates or call 310-434-4100.

GENERAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Santa Monica College General Advisory Board is a College support group composed of diverse representatives from neighborhoods, businesses, and public and private agencies. General Advisory Board members serve at the invitation of the SMC Board of Trustees and the President of the College.

Through regular meetings, the General Advisory Board is kept informed about current offerings, future plans, and special events. General Advisory Board members also have the opportunity for informative exchanges with College leadership in an informal setting, as well as in-depth discussions with key staff in various SMC departments and programs. For more information about the General Advisory Board, please call 310-434-4100.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The Santa Monica College Foundation is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation founded in 1956 to enhance the quality of education at the College by attracting individual, corporate, and other financial support. The Foundation operates as a private fundraising and “friendraising” organization separate from, but affiliated with Santa Monica College.

The Santa Monica College Foundation seeks and accepts contributions — which are tax-deductible for the donor — to support a variety of College programs, meet campus needs that may not be met by traditional avenues of funding, and lend a “helping hand” when the College needs it.

The Foundation administers both restricted and unrestricted gifts, donations, and bequests for the benefit of Santa Monica College and its students. One of the Foundation’s primary missions is to provide scholarships to SMC’s new, continuing, and transferring students.

For more information, please visit the Santa Monica College Foundation website at santamoniacollegefoundation.org or call 310-434-4215.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE ALUMNI RELATIONS

The Office of Campus and Alumni Relations works to build and re-establish lifelong connections with SMC graduates and former students across the country and around the globe. The Alumni Relations Office fosters goodwill, financial support, and other resources to support current and future alumni, promote school spirit on the SMC campus,

and extend that spirit into the broader community. The Alumni Vision is to create a sustainable alumni network grounded in authentic relationships that give current and future alumni access, social, and cultural capital, and that connect them through a robust digital infrastructure that identifies SMC alums who will greet and receive SMC students when they arrive at their transfer destination, whether it is a four-year college, new workplace, new city, or back in a home country.

Throughout the year, SMC Alumni Relations hosts a number of gatherings and events, including the popular Alumni Lounge at the annual VIP Welcome Day and the Graduation Alumni Reception following Commencement ceremonies. For more information, and to join the Alumni Network, please visit alumni.smc.edu or call the Office of Campus and Alumni Relations at 310-434-8400.