

Admission and Attendance Information



Eligibility

ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT PROGRAMS

Students eligible for regular admission to Santa Monica College must be 18 years of age or older or must possess either: (1) a high school diploma from a U.S. regionally accredited or from a foreign high school; (2) a GED; (3) a California High School Certificate of Proficiency (CHSPE); or the equivalent (i.e., a HiSET score report; a TASC [Test Assessing Secondary Completion] score report). Any apprentice, as defined in Labor Code Section 3077, or any other person who is over 18 years of age who, in the judgment of the Dean of Enrollment Services, is capable of profiting from the instruction offered at the College may also be admitted.

A student under the age of 18 who has completed high school from a U.S. regionally accredited or foreign high school or who possesses a GED or a California High School Certificate of Proficiency or the equivalent, may be admitted as regular students, but must submit official proof of completion to Admissions & Records in order to remove the "Under 18" years of age hold from the student's record.

SMC will not accept the CHSPE, HiSET, TASC, or GED diploma without the score report.

Students who have completed 8th grade and are at least 13 years of age or who are currently attending high school may be admitted to Santa Monica College as part of the High School Concurrent Enrollment program and receive credit for SMC courses. Students may only attend on a less than full-time basis. For further information, refer to smc.edu/hsce or visit the Admissions Office.

Each student applying for admission or enrollment is classified as a "resident" or a "nonresident" for purposes of admission and/or tuition. Please see the Residency information below for important details regarding California residency requirements and how they apply to students attending Santa Monica College.

ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY FOR NONCREDIT PROGRAMS

Students eligible for admission to noncredit programs must be 18 years of age or older or must possess a high school diploma from a U.S. regionally accredited or foreign high school, a GED, California High School Certificate of Proficiency, or the equivalent (see above). A student seeking to enroll exclusively in noncredit courses, such as career development and college preparation courses, may be admitted to SMC once a noncredit application is completed. These students are not subject to the residency determination requirements of students enrolling in credit programs/courses. Students with F-1/F-2 status may not be admitted to noncredit programs. Students residing outside California are ineligible for enrollment in noncredit programs.

ADMISSION OF F-1 AND F-2 STATUS STUDENTS

Applications will be accepted from those who wish to enter Santa Monica College with an F-1 or F-2 status. F-1 and F-2 students will be admitted for all terms. F-1 students are required to enroll in credit programs of 12 or more units in the fall and spring semesters. F-1 students admitted for

winter or summer sessions must enroll in 4 or more units their first term. F-2 students are limited to enrolling on a less than full-time basis. Neither F-1 nor F-2 students may enroll in noncredit courses.

Residency

The following is a summary of Santa Monica College's residency rules and their exceptions. Students who need more detailed information should visit the Residency webpage ([go to *smc.edu/residency*](http://go to smc.edu/residency)), see the College Policies section of the Schedule of Classes, or contact a residence specialist in Admissions & Records.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

To establish residency, a student needs to meet the three conditions below, subject to verification by submitting required proof as noted in the "Acceptable Proofs of California Residence" section. The burden of proof to demonstrate legal status, physical presence, and intent to establish residency in California is on the student (EC 68041).

1. Legal status that permits the establishment of domicile in the United States. Essentially, student must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, eligible temporary resident, hold an eligible visa, etc. Legal status must be sustained for at least one year plus one day prior to the start of the academic term for which the student was admitted. This date is known as the "Residency Determination Date" (Title 5 § 54045).
2. Physical presence is proved by being physically and continuously present in California for one year plus one day prior to the start of the academic term (the Residency Determination Date). (Title 5 § 54020 and § 54022).
3. Intent to establish residence is proven by providing evidence demonstrating intent to make California a permanent home of residence (see "Acceptable Proofs of California Residence" section below). Taking any of the following actions (not an exhaustive list) demonstrates a lack of intent to make California a permanent home of residence: filing or paying taxes in another state or country as a resident of that state or country; filing for divorce or a lawsuit in another state; paying resident tuition in another state; registering to vote or voting in another state. Moving to California for educational purposes alone does not grant residency (Education Code, § 68062(d)).

RESIDENCY PROVISIONS

- Each person applying for admission to, or enrolled in, a California Community College is classified for tuition purposes as either a "resident" or a "nonresident" of the State of California.
- A "resident" is defined as a citizen of the United States or a person who holds a status that allows him or her to establish residency in the United States for a minimum of one year and one day, who has proof of physical presence in the State of California for one year and one day PRIOR TO the start of the semester for which California residency is being claimed, and who presents evidence of intention to make California his or her permanent home. Dates on any

documentary evidence should correspond to dates of physical presence in California.

- A “nonresident” is a person who does not meet the residency requirements of the State of California or who is a citizen of a foreign country and holds only temporary status in the U.S.
- A student classified as a resident will be admitted to the College and be exempt from paying nonresident tuition. Enrollment fees still apply.
- A student classified as a nonresident is required to pay a tuition fee *in addition to the* enrollment fee. A student classified as a nonresident, with an out-of-status citizenship, and/or a nonresident U.S. citizen who attended three years and graduated from a California high school may apply for nonresident tuition exemption. An official, sealed transcript must be submitted with the exemption form.
- All nonresident students between the ages of 19 and 23 (inclusive) requesting reclassification to resident status must submit a petition for change of residency status (Residency Questionnaire, obtained from smc.edu/residency or from a residence specialist in the Admissions Office), show proof of financial independence, provide documents that show the students were not claimed as dependents for income tax purposes by their parents in the past year, and present evidence of intent to establish California as their place of residence. Please visit the Residency website at smc.edu/residency for helpful tips on establishing California residency.

RESIDENCE OF AN ADULT

A student who is 19 years of age or older and who has lived in California continuously for the last two years shall be presumed to have the intent to make California his or her home.

A student under 19 years of age shall be presumed to have the intent to make California his or her home if both the student and his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have lived in California continuously for the last two years.

A student who is 19 years of age or older applying for admission who has less than two years, but more than one year, of residence in California should be prepared to show proof of residence. Examples of evidence that aid the College admissions officer in identifying intent include, but are not limited to, those noted in the “Acceptable Proofs of California Residence” section below.

Acceptable Proofs of California Residence

All students requesting reevaluation of their residency status must submit a Residency Questionnaire online at smc.edu/residency and submit as many documents as necessary to prove California residency to Admissions Office. Documents submitted for consideration must be dated at least one year and one day prior to the Residency Determination Date for the term for which resident status is sought. The Residency Determination Date is the day before the term begins. Acceptable proofs of residency are included in the Residency Questionnaire. Santa Monica College reserves the right to request additional documents when those presented do not sufficiently demonstrate legal

status, physical presence, intent, and/or financial independence (as relevant).

RESIDENCE OF A MINOR

Unmarried minors (those younger than 18 years of age) are, by law, incapable of establishing their own residences, notwithstanding their physical presence within California. The Admissions Office will use the following guidelines for determining a minor’s residence:

- A minor’s residence is the residence of the parent or legal guardian with whom the minor is living;
- If the minor is not living with a parent or legal guardian, then the residence of the parent or legal guardian with whom the minor last lived will be the residence of the minor.

When the residence of a minor student is derived from the parent or legal guardian, the durational requirement (one year in California) must be met by the parent or guardian, but is not required of the student.

A minor whose parents are not living and who does not have a legal guardian may establish his or her own residence.

EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to the above guidelines will be made under certain circumstances as prescribed by California law and outlined in Administrative Regulation 4110 Residency Determination. See smc.edu/AR4000StudentServices for details.

VACA EXCEPTION (VACA H.R. 3230)

According to the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACA H.R. 3230), a “covered individual” is defined as:

1. A veteran who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school after discharge from a period of active-duty service of 90 days or more. [Effective August 1, 2021, the requirement to enroll within three years after discharge is removed, per SB 701.]
2. An individual who is entitled to rehabilitation under 38 U.S.C 3102(a).
3. A spouse or child entitled to transferred education benefits who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within 3 years of the transferor’s discharge from a period of active-duty service of 90 days or more.
4. A spouse or child using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (provides Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to the children and surviving spouses of service members who died in the line of duty while on active duty) who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the Service member’s death in the line of duty following a period of active-duty service of 90 days or more.

5. After expiration of the 3-year period following discharge or death as described in 38 U.S.C. 3679(c), a student who initially qualifies under the applicable requirements above will maintain “covered individual” status as long as he or she remains continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters, or terms) at the institution, even if the student enrolls in multiple programs, and shall continue to be exempt from paying nonresident tuition and other fees.

CALIFORNIA NONRESIDENT TUITION EXEMPTION

Any student, other than one with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) **nonimmigrant** visa status (see exception below for students who have been granted T or U visa status), who meets all of the following requirements, shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition (this exemption is often referred to “AB 540” after the Assembly Bill which enacted the exemption):

- A student is exempt from paying nonresident tuition if the student meets all of the following four requirements:
 1. The student must have:
 - Attended a combination of California high school, adult school, and California Community College for the equivalent of three years or more, or
 - Attained credits earned in California from a California high school equivalent to three or more years of full-time high school coursework and attended a combination of elementary, middle and/or high schools in California for a total of three or more years, and
 2. The student must have:
 - Graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent prior to the start of the term (for example, passing the GED or California High School Proficiency exam), or
 - Completed an Associate degree from a California Community College, or
 - Completed the minimum requirements at a California Community College for transfer to the California State University or the University of California, and
 3. The student must register as an entering student at, or current enrollment at, an accredited institution of higher education in California, and
 4. The student must file an affidavit with the college stating that if the student is a non-citizen without current or valid immigration status, the student has filed an application to legalize immigration status, or will file an application as soon as the student is eligible to do so.
- Students who are nonimmigrants who are victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes who have been granted T or U visa status, under Title 8 of the United States Code §§ 1101(a)(15) (T) or (U) are eligible for this exemption.
- Students who are nonimmigrants, other than those with T or U visa status as noted above, [for example,

those who hold F (student) visas, B (visitor) visas, etc.] are not eligible for this exemption.

- A year’s equivalence at a California Community College is a minimum of 24 semester units of credit or 36 quarter units of credit. For noncredit courses, a year’s attendance is a minimum of 420 hours, 210 hours for a semester, and 140 hours a quarter.
- The accumulation of credit and/or noncredit in any academic year shall be calculated in reference to a year’s equivalence. Partial completion in an academic year is allowed. (Example: 12 units of credit courses in an academic year is equal to a semester for purposes of determining eligibility.)
- Attendance in credit courses at a California Community College toward the attendance requirements shall not exceed two years of full-time attendance.
- The student must file an exemption request including a signed affidavit with the college that indicates the student has met all applicable conditions described above. Student information obtained in this process is strictly confidential unless disclosure is required under law.
- Students eligible for this exemption who are transferring to another California public college or university must submit a new request (and documentation if required) to each college under consideration.
- Nonresident students meeting the criteria will be exempted from the payment of nonresident tuition, but they will not be classified as California residents. They continue to be “nonresidents.”
- The California Dream Act extends Cal Grant A and B Entitlement awards, Cal Grant C awards, the California College Promise Grant, and institutional financial aid to students that meet these criteria as well as the applicable criteria for eligibility for specific types of financial aid.
- AB540 does not provide federal student financial aid eligibility for undocumented students. These students remain ineligible for federal financial aid.

SELECTIVE SERVICE NOTICE TO MALE STUDENTS

Federal law requires men age 18-25 to be registered with the Selective Service System (SSS) if they are US citizens or immigrant aliens (international students who hold valid student visas are exempt from this requirement). Men must be registered before they can receive federal or state financial aid (including loans and grants) for their education. Registration forms are available online at sss.gov and at any post office.

Steps to Become an SMC Student

To become an SMC student requires being admitted to SMC, completing some processes, and enrolling in classes. Details are provided below. Students can also access SMC’s

chatbot Pearl, which helps answer questions about admission, enrollment, class scheduling, counseling, financial aid, parking, and more. Students can find Pearl on select SMC webpages, through the SMC GO app, by texting “Hi” to 310-807-2262, and on the official SMC Facebook and Twitter feeds.

APPLY FOR ADMISSION

A student must apply for admission if the student has never attended Santa Monica College (New Student), or the student has been away from SMC for two or more consecutive semesters (Returning Student), or the student applied for a previous term but did not enroll. The application — available online at smc.edu/apply — provides the College with information that satisfies State registration requirements and initiates the education planning process. New students are strongly encouraged to arrange for official transcripts from the high school(s) and college(s) they have previously attended to be sent directly to the SMC Admissions Office (1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405). New first-time college students enrolling in more than six (6) units are also required to complete the placement process for English (or ESL) and for math (go to smc.edu/successcenter for details). Transcripts from previous schools and placement results will be used by counselors to create an education plan for students and to assist them in scheduling classes.

A student who has attended SMC within the past two semesters (Continuing Student) does NOT need to reapply for admission.

Students who have been away from SMC for two or more years will lose access to the Corsair Connect student portal, and will be unable to retrieve unofficial transcripts. Students may regain access by reapplying for admission.

High School Concurrent Program

Students who have completed 8th grade and are at least 13 years of age, or who are currently attending high school may attend Santa Monica College and receive credit for SMC courses. For further information, refer to smc.edu/hsce or visit the Admissions Office.

Former SMC Students

Students in good standing: Former SMC students who were in good standing at the time they left the College and have been away for two or more consecutive semesters must follow the same admission procedures as new students.

Disqualified students: Students who have been disqualified (dismissed) from Santa Monica College for poor academic performance or unsatisfactory progress **and who have been away from SMC for one semester or less** must complete and submit a “Petition for Returning Students.” Students who petition for reinstatement to SMC may or may not be allowed to return, depending on reinstatement guidelines. To file the reinstatement petition, students must go to smc.edu/apply and click on the “Returning Students” link, then on “Petition for Reinstatement.” A confirmation message will appear once the petition is successfully completed and submitted, and the petition will be saved in the Corsair Connect account. To have a reinstatement petition reviewed and processed, a student **MUST** meet with a counselor. The counselor will determine whether reinstatement is possible and what conditions the

student must meet in order to enroll at SMC. The counselor will also specify how many units the student may enroll in, up to a maximum of 6 units per academic semester.

Disqualified students **who have been away from SMC for two consecutive semesters (one year) or longer** must file BOTH an SMC Admission Application and a ‘Disqualified Student Petition for Reinstatement.’ Students may go to smc.edu/apply to complete and file both of these. Detailed instructions and the steps for completing and filing the forms are listed under “Admission/Readmission of Disqualified Students” in the Academic and Progress Probation and Disqualification Policies section of this catalog, as well as in the Admission section of the Schedule of Classes.

Students who were disqualified from another college should email a legible copy of their unofficial transcripts to readmit_committee@smc.edu and include their full name and SMC ID number. PLEASE NOTE: The reinstatement process will NOT continue OR be complete until all transcripts are received. After a student’s transcripts are received, an SMC counselor on the Readmission Committee will review the petition and email the decision — along with any further instructions — to the student’s SMC email account. Once students are readmitted, their OFFICIAL transcripts must be **sent directly by the previous college(s)** to Santa Monica College, ATTN: Admissions, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405-1628.

Students who have been disqualified from SMC **more than once** will be required to take a break from attending SMC for a period ranging from one semester (after a second disqualification) up to a maximum of one year (after a third disqualification).

Please see smc.edu/DQProbationPolicies for information on other requirements for disqualified students seeking admission/readmission to SMC.

International Students

SMC’s International Education Center welcomes applications from international students who wish to attend Santa Monica College. More than 2,000 international students from more than 90 countries are currently enrolled at the College. SMC offers a number of distinct advantages to international students beginning their university education in the United States. As the leading community college in California, Santa Monica College transfers the most students to the University of California system. SMC also offers a lower tuition cost than many other colleges and universities offering comparable educational programs. Finally, SMC provides a highly accessible and supportive learning environment.

The College defines an “international student” as a student who is admitted to the United States with an F-1 or F-2 Visa status to attend SMC. Students with other types of visas (not F-1) may enroll through the Admissions Office. Students who are currently on a B Visa are not permitted to enroll until they have changed to F-1 or another status with education privileges.

To be accepted at SMC, an international student must:

- Be at least 16 years old by the first day of classes (NOTE: Students who are 16 or 17 years old must be high school graduates);

- Provide proof of English proficiency (for a list of tests and other ways to prove proficiency, go to smc.edu/international);
- Submit a completed International Student Application for Admission to SMC;
- Submit a 500-word autobiographical essay describing the student's reasons for applying to SMC;
- Submit a financial statement proving ability to meet education expenses of being a student (see smc.edu/international for requirements); and
- Submit official transcripts and a nonrefundable application fee. Transferability of coursework from other institutions will be reviewed after a student has been admitted to Santa Monica College.

Students who do not have the required English proficiency are encouraged to apply to SMC's Intensive English Program.

The International Student Application for Admission to SMC is available online (smc.edu/iapp).

In order to maintain their F-1 visa status, all international students accepted at Santa Monica College MUST enroll in AND complete a course load in the fall and spring semesters of twelve (12) or more units, which may include only ONE online class of 3 or fewer units. Summer and winter sessions are optional for continuing students. International students who choose to begin their studies during a summer or winter session must enroll in and complete a minimum of four (4) units during that first session. In addition, international students **must** take Counseling 11 (Orientation to Higher Education for International Students) **during their first semester at SMC**, and may be required to take special English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

All students accepted for admission must participate in an information seminar before the semester begins and complete the Guided Self Placement for English and Math to determine the most appropriate English and math class for placement. Students must also participate in a group counseling session. Students whose English skills are below university level are placed in academic ESL classes while they are taking other courses, such as mathematics and computer science.

Veterans

Santa Monica College is approved as an institution for higher learning for veterans and veterans' dependents entitled to education assistance from the Veterans Administration (VA). The College cooperates with the VA in helping veterans. Veterans are urged to take advantage of the many student support services and educational programs offered by Santa Monica College. SMC offers academic, career, and transfer counseling, as well as priority enrollment, tutoring, and other services to support veterans in achieving their education goals.

To receive VA education benefits, students must be determined to qualify for benefits *by the Veterans Administration*.

Students receiving VA education benefits should see the Veterans Counselor **before enrolling in any classes**.

To secure full VA education assistance benefits under Title 38, United States Code, students must comply with Veteran Regulations §§ 21.4135, 21.4235, and 21.4277 regarding

the attendance and progress requirements they must meet. For example, VA regulations not only require students receiving VA education benefits to meet the same academic standards as all other students at SMC, but also place certain restrictions on those students. Students who fail to achieve a semester grade point average of 2.0 will be placed on academic probation. After two semesters on academic probation, students may lose their VA education benefits. For additional details about benefits under Chapters 33 and 35 of the GI® Bill, please visit the Veterans Success Center or see the VA website (gibill.va.gov).

Information on the services the Veterans Success Center offers can be found in the Programs and Services section of this catalog, in the Campus Services section of the Schedule of Classes, and online at the Veterans Success Center website (smc.edu/vet).

Eligible nonresident veteran students may qualify for resident fees. See VACA Exception heading in the Residency section above for details.

Students with Disabilities

Printed SMC materials are available in alternate media upon request. To request publications in alternate formats for disability accommodation, send e-mail to dps@smc.edu or call 310-434-4265. The information contained in this catalog is also available online (go to smc.edu/catalog).

Students who wish to use the specialized counseling services provided through the Center for Students with Disabilities should call 310-434-4265 before they start admission procedures.

Information on the services the Center for Students with Disabilities offers can be found in the Programs and Services section of this catalog and the Schedule of Classes, and online at the Center for Students with Disabilities website (smc.edu/disabledstudent).

English, ESL, and Math Placement

Assembly Bill 705 (AB 705) gives students the right to access transfer-level coursework in English and math, and credit courses in English as a Second Language (ESL) that lead to English 1. This applies to current and returning students, as well as students who may have started in a basic skills sequence, but never completed it.

AB 705 requires California Community Colleges to help students enroll in and complete transfer-level coursework in English or ESL and math in a timely manner, which is within one year for English and math, and within three years if the student starts with ESL.

Standardized assessment tests are no longer required. Students will be placed in English (or ESL) and math based on prior coursework completed in high school or through a guided self-placement, depending on when and where the student completed the coursework.

Students who have completed the 12th grade or graduated high school in the U.S. in the last 10 years:

- Students will be placed using "multiple measures" that include their high school GPA, courses, and grades reported on their CCCApply admission application.

- Students may review their placement by activating and logging into their Corsair Connect account at smc.edu/cc, clicking the “Placement” tab, and following the instructions on the screen. Students who do not see courses listed are missing some necessary information on their SMC admission application and should consult a counselor. Students may also complete the “guided self-placement” process by following the instructions on the screen.

Students who graduated high school in the U.S. more than 10 years ago or graduated high school in another country:

- Students will be placed using “guided self-placement,” a set of online tools that help evaluate how prepared students are with the skills they are expected to have before starting a particular math, English, or credit ESL class. To be guided to the best class for their needs, it is important that students read everything presented to them carefully, and that they answer honestly.
- Students may access the guided self-placement tools by activating and logging into their Corsair Connect account at smc.edu/cc, clicking the “Placement” tab, and following the instructions on the screen.

Students should plan on completing their math and English placements together. Students may take each guided self-placement only one time.

Please note: The math self-placement presents six (6) options based on a student’s academic and career path or the course the student is interested in taking. If a student is not sure which option to choose, the student should check with a counselor. Students may take any of the math guided self-placements only one time.

About English, ESL, and Math Placements

For English, depending on their placement, students will start in one of two ways: (a) directly in English 1, a transfer level course; or (b) directly in English 1 paired with English 28, a supporting course. In some instances, students may also be encouraged to take another reading or grammar supporting course.

Some students may need to be placed in selected ESL courses. Depending on their placement, they will start with one of the following courses: ESL 10G and ESL 10W, ESL 11A, ESL 19A, ESL 19B, or English 1. ESL 19A, ESL 19B, and English 1 are CSU/UC transferable courses.

For math, depending on their placement, students will start in one of two ways: (a) directly in a transfer-level math course; or (b) directly in a transfer level math course paired with one supporting course. Students also have the option to enroll in other support pre-transfer level courses.

Is Placement Required?

Completing the placement process in English or ESL and in math is mandatory if a student is:

- A first-time college student enrolling in more than six units during the first semester at SMC; or
- A continuing student who has not completed the placement process; or
- Enrolling in an English, ESL, or math course for the first time (even if not a first-time college student); or

- Enrolling in courses with required English or math preparation (prerequisites).

Based on multiple measures used as part of the placement process, students will receive an English, ESL, or math placement recommendation.

Placement Exemptions & Placement and Prerequisite Waivers

Santa Monica College provides placement recommendations and prerequisite waivers to students on the basis of their past college coursework. For example:

- Students may be exempt from the English or ESL placement process if they have completed a college-level English or ESL composition course with a grade of C (2.0) or better;
- Students may be exempt from the math placement process if they have completed a college-level math course with a grade of C (2.0) or better;
- Students may be exempt from selected English or math prerequisites if they have completed applicable college-level courses with a grade of C (2.0) or better (or P, if they took the courses on a P/NP basis) and the courses are equivalent to SMC courses that recommend English or math preparation;
- Students may be exempt from assessment or from selected prerequisites if they have completed applicable college-level courses with a grade of C (2.0) or better (or P, if they took the courses on a P/NP basis) and the courses are equivalent to SMC courses that require or recommend the assessment of skill levels;
- Students may be exempt from the placement process or may receive waivers for selected prerequisites if they received a particular score on an applicable College Board AP test (see Waivers Based on Advanced Placement Exam Results, below).

For detailed instructions on how to obtain a waiver or request an exemption, students should visit smc.edu/waivers and then consult with a counselor in the General Counseling & Transfer Services. Prerequisite waiver requests are reviewed on an individual basis.

PLEASE NOTE: Students who may be exempt from the placement process still must successfully complete — or receive waivers for — any prerequisite courses (or their equivalent) that are required for classes in English (or ESL), math, Anatomy 1, Biology 21/22/23, Chemistry 11/12/21/22/24, Film 31/32/33/34, Microbiology 1, Nursing 17, Physics 7/9/22/23/24, and Physiology 3 (among other courses). Students should consult a counselor in the General Counseling & Transfer Services for further information. Courses in other disciplines may first require the completion of a prerequisite course in that discipline. Placement/prerequisite waivers may be requested directly from the department chair in that discipline, as required.

Waivers Based on Completed Coursework

Placement recommendations and permits to enroll in selected English, ESL, math, chemistry, life sciences, and physics courses may be issued to students if they have completed a relevant college-level course with a grade of C (2.0) or better.

Students seeking a placement waiver for selected English, ESL, and math courses, as well as Chemistry 11 or Anatomy 1 should take a copy of their college transcript and course description to General Counseling & Transfer Services. A counselor will evaluate the course in question and, if appropriate, issue a waiver.

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Students seeking a waiver to repeat a course at Santa Monica College due to a substandard grade (i.e., F, D, NC, NP) or a W, MW, or FW from another institution must demonstrate that the relevant prerequisite for that course was completed successfully.

Waivers Based on Advanced Placement Exam Results

College Board Advanced Placement test results may be used to determine the eligibility of students for English, math, and chemistry courses. Students must bring their original AP test results to the Success & Engagement Center or to General Counseling & Transfer Services. Placement/prerequisite waivers will be issued under the following conditions:

- A score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP English Language & Composition or Composition & Literature exam will qualify students for English 2 and give 3 units of credit for English 1;
- A score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Statistics exam will give 4 units of credit for Math 54 [Note: A placement waiver for Math 54 only may be issued if a student wishes to enroll in Math 54 and the student has NOT been granted AP Statistics credit at SMC. Duplication of course credit (Advanced Placement and SMC coursework) will not be permitted.];
- A score of 3 on the AP Calculus AB exam will qualify students for Math 7 and give 5 units credit for Math 2;
- A score of 3 on the AP Calculus BC exam will qualify students for Math 8 and give 5 units credit for Math 7;
- A score of 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus AB exam will qualify students for Math 8 and give 5 units credit for Math 7;
- A score of 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam will qualify students for Math 10/11/13/15 and give 5 units credit for Math 8; and
- A score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Chemistry exam will qualify students for Chemistry 11 and give 5 units credit for Chemistry 10 (no lab requirement met).

It is VERY IMPORTANT for students to have their AP scores evaluated by a Santa Monica College counselor. The evaluation will determine whether the scores are transferable and — more importantly — will help determine whether they satisfy a requirement relevant to the student's education goals. While students can sometimes receive an immediate evaluation and decision from a counselor, the evaluation process can take 5-10 days for a decision. **To avoid taking classes they don't need, students should start the AP score evaluation process with a counselor AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

Chemistry 10 Challenge Exam

Before enrolling in Chemistry 11, a student must either satisfactorily complete Chemistry 10 or pass the Chemistry 10 Challenge Exam. Please see the Success & Engagement Center webpage (smc.edu/successcenter) for testing hours and other information.

Math Proficiency Assessment (MPA)

All students who wish to earn an Associate degree must demonstrate proficiency in written communication and mathematics. Mathematics proficiency is demonstrated by:

1. Completing a required eligible math or other course (see SMC Associate degree General Education requirements for specific courses) taught at an accredited college; or by
2. Completing the SMC Mathematics Placement process or passing the math proficiency test administered by the Success and Engagement Center and completing an eligible rationality course (see SMC Associate degree General Education requirements for specific courses).

To take the Math Proficiency Assessment, a student must first complete a minimum of 30 units of classes that meet Associate degree requirements. The Success & Engagement Center will verify this at the time the student goes to take the MPA by reviewing the number of completed cumulative units indicated on the student's SMC transcript. If a student has attended another college and will be using units from that college to meet the 30-unit requirement, it is the student's responsibility to inform the Success & Engagement Center and provide us with a valid transcript. The Math Proficiency Assessment is given during normal testing hours on a first-come, first-served basis only. Students must present a valid photo ID and SMC student ID number to take the MPA. Please visit the Success & Engagement Center webpage (smc.edu/successcenter) for information on the Math Proficiency Assessment contents and a study guide.

The Mathematics Proficiency Assessment may be retaken ONE time only, after a waiting period of two (2) weeks after the student first took the MPA. Additional retesting will **not** be provided under any circumstances. Students should be sure to review and prepare for the MPA.

Retesting Policy

Students may retest in ESL and chemistry after a waiting period of two (2) weeks from the date they first took the test. After that, they are permitted to retest once each calendar year, but only if they have **not** started taking courses in the relevant subject. Students who enroll in any of those courses will forfeit their chance to retest. For the Math Proficiency Assessment, students may retest ONE time only after a waiting period of eight (8) weeks. See the Math Proficiency Assessment (MPA) section above for details.

Expiration of Challenge Exam Scores

All challenge exam results are valid for two calendar years. Students should make sure they enroll in the courses their results qualified them for **before** the results expire. Once the results have expired, students will be blocked from enrolling in those courses and will need to take another challenge exam.

Identification Card Policy

A valid form of photo identification issued by a government agency (e.g., a passport, driver license, military I.D.), financial institution, or high school is **REQUIRED** for testing. The Success & Engagement Center also reserves the right to request a secondary form of I.D. A student I.D. card may be used **ONLY** as a secondary form of identification. **PLEASE NOTE:** All acts of impersonation, attempted impersonation, and/or the use of fraudulent I.D. cards or passports will be reported to Campus Police and Student Judicial Affairs for review and adjudication. Campus Police will refer all such cases to the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office for criminal prosecution.

Orientation

To acquaint students with Santa Monica College's variety of programs, services, and activities, and to assist students in planning their educational endeavors, new students who intend to pursue a degree, Certificate of Achievement, transfer, or basic skills instruction are required to complete an Online Orientation program. Students can view the online program 24 hours a day, using any computer with a browser and Internet access (go to smc.edu/orientation for details).

The orientation program consists of several modules, and provides information on a wide range of topics, including:

- SMC's programs and services;
- How to obtain a Certificate of Achievement and/or an Associate or Bachelor degree;
- How to transfer to a four-year college or university;
- How to select first-semester courses;
- How to complete the enrollment process at SMC; and
- Strategies for becoming a successful student.

All first-time college students — as well as former SMC students who have been away from the College for four or more semesters — are required to complete the online orientation before they will be permitted to enroll in classes. Since the College's programs, policies, and procedures are subject to change without notice, continuing students are strongly encouraged to review the orientation at the start of each semester.

For additional information about the orientation process, students should contact a counselor in General Counseling & Transfer Services.

Counseling and MyEdPlan

Counseling

Santa Monica College provides counselors to assist students in sorting out and defining educational goals, then mapping out a plan to reach those goals. Counselors also recommend SMC student-support programs that can benefit students, help students who find themselves struggling to keep up with class requirements, and help students whose personal and/or school-related problems are interfering with their success and wellbeing.

All students are strongly encouraged to meet with a counselor when first arriving at SMC as a new student, and a meeting is also recommended at the start of each new academic term. *New students* should go to the Welcome Center, where they will find a wide variety of resources available. Assistance is offered on a first-arrival basis. During peak times, students should try to sign up in the Welcome Center before noon. More information about the Welcome Center can be found in the Special Programs and Support Services section of this catalog.

Any student may meet with a counselor at General Counseling & Transfer Services on a first-arrival basis at any time of year. During peak enrollment times, waits can be lengthy. During non-peak times, students may make half-hour counseling appointments by calling 310-434-4210. More information about General Counseling & Transfer Services can be found in the Special Programs and Support Services section of this catalog.

MyEdPlan

All first-time college students are required to complete an abbreviated or comprehensive education plan in order to enroll in courses their first term. Students are also required to complete a comprehensive education plan if they are students who will have either earned 15 degree-applicable units by the end of the term or will have completed a third semester (whichever comes first). Students can choose to complete their education plan with the help of a counselor, or they can go to smc.edu/myedplan and complete their plan on their own.

MyEdPlan — an award-winning education-planning tool that allows students to create and edit an education plan online at any time — helps students plan for courses in the future, stay aware of major/program/degree requirements, sequence courses to meet prerequisites and corequisites, and track the progress made toward meeting education goals. MyEdPlan also allows a student to submit an education plan directly to a counselor for review.

To find out more about MyEdPlan, students can go to smc.edu/ep to view a tutorial that prepares them to use the planning tool. Students may also sign up for an Online MyEdPlan Workshop by going to Corsair Connect (smc.edu/cc) and clicking on "Online MyEdPlan Workshops" in the "SMC Quick Links" menu on the left side of the screen. MyEdPlan "Planning Your Future" In-Person Drop-In Workshops are also offered (see smc.edu/ep for schedule).

Enroll

To enroll at SMC, students should start by going to smc.edu/EnrollInfo to get ready. Students can find a listing of Frequently Asked Questions and video tutorials on how to enroll and use various tools available to students at smc.edu/faq.

While students may enroll at any time after their enrollment date and time, they are encouraged to enroll as close to their assigned date and time as possible, since students who come after them in priority will quickly fill classes. Students may enroll in any class with space available until the evening of the second meeting if the class is less than 90% full.

All enrollment transactions at SMC take place online via Corsair Connect at smc.edu/cc. Students may enroll from any location with Internet access, as well as from any computer in the Admissions Office lobby, the SMC Library, or the Cayton Computer Lab (which requires a valid A.S. sticker and password).

To enroll in classes — as well as add or drop classes — students should go to Corsair Connect at smc.edu/cc and enter their username and password, then follow the instructions provided.

To confirm enrollment in the selected classes, students should click on “Transaction Receipt” in the menu on the left side of the screen, verify the information is correct, and print out a copy of the receipt. The printout is necessary to contest any discrepancies.

Additional enrollment details can be found in the “Enrollment” section of the Schedule of Classes.

ENROLLMENT PRIORITY

State and local regulations, combined with other factors, determine the order in which a student’s enrollment date and time are assigned. Details about this policy and the specific order of enrollment appointment assignment can be found at smc.edu/admissions. **Students may lose their priority enrollment status if they do not complete SMC’s placement process (smc.edu/placement), online orientation (smc.edu/orientation), or an abbreviated education plan (if a new or first-time-in-college student) or a comprehensive education plan (if a student who will have earned 15 degree-applicable units by the end of the term). Students may complete their education plans on their own (go to smc.edu/ep) or with the assistance of a counselor.** Students who are on academic or progress probation for two consecutive semesters/terms or who have accumulated excessive units or who owe fees from previous terms will also lose enrollment priority. Students who hold seats for others or who buy or sell seats in a class will lose all priority enrollment and be subjected to other disciplinary actions. For more information, students can refer to smc.edu/admissions (click on ‘Policies and Procedures Index’ under the Policies section).

Fees and Tuition

IMPORTANT: All fees are subject to change without notice. Fees published in this catalog were current at the time the catalog went to press. See smc.edu/fees for the latest details.

The California residency status of students determines whether they are required to pay tuition *in addition to* enrollment and other fees. See the Residency information above for details on residency.

ENROLLMENT FEE

ALL students — both resident and nonresident — enrolling in credit or graded classes must pay a State-mandated enrollment fee of \$46 per unit (*subject to change without notice*).

New students who are California residents and recent California high school graduates enrolling at SMC as full-time students are exempt from enrollment, Health Services,

Student Benefits, Associated Students Resource, and Student Representation fees, if they apply for and are awarded an SMC Promise Grant. NOTE: The SMC Promise Grant does NOT cover nonresident tuition or upper-division coursework fees. Program requirements must be met.

Second-year students who qualified for the SMC Promise grant in their first year, are California residents, and completed 12 or more units in both fall and spring semesters of their first year (or meet alternate unit completion criteria) may be exempt from paying enrollment fees as long as they enroll in and complete courses on a full-time basis in the fall and spring of their second year. Program requirements must be met.

Other continuing SMC students who are California residents may be exempt from paying enrollment fees (but not the fees below) if they file an application and qualify for a California College Promise Grant (CCPG). For more information about these grants and their eligibility requirements, visit smc.edu/financialaid or contact the Financial Aid Office before starting enrollment procedures. NOTE: The CCPG does NOT cover the Health Services fee, Student Benefits fee, Associated Students Resource fee, nonresident tuition, or upper-division coursework fees.

NONRESIDENT TUITION FEE

Students classified as NONresidents (including students who are citizens of a foreign country and hold only temporary resident status in the United States) are REQUIRED to pay tuition *in addition to enrollment and other fees*. Tuition for nonresidents is \$340 per semester unit (with \$46 enrollment fee, total is \$386 per semester unit). Tuition for students who qualify for an Assembly Bill 947 exemption is \$316 per semester unit (with \$46 enrollment fee, total is \$362 per semester unit). The mandatory tuition is subject to change without notice. See the residency requirements at smc.edu/residency or contact the residence specialist in the Admissions Office for AB 947 exemption details.

For more information about fees for nonresident students, contact the Cashier’s Office, Admissions Office, or International Education Center. To find current deadline dates for paying all fees or receiving refunds, students should check their class schedule at Corsair Connect (smc.edu/cc), consult the College Policies section of the Schedule of Classes, or see the Fees webpage (smc.edu/fees).

UPPER-DIVISION COURSEWORK FEE (B.S. IN INTERACTION DESIGN)

The mandatory upper-division coursework fee *for students pursuing the Bachelor of Science degree in Interaction Design* is \$84 per graded unit. This fee is IN ADDITION TO the \$46 per unit enrollment fee, for a total of \$130 per graded unit for students classified as residents. Students classified as nonresidents must pay the mandatory upper-division coursework fee of \$84 per graded unit *in addition to* the \$46 enrollment fee AND the \$340 tuition fee, for a total of \$470 per graded unit. Students who qualify for an Assembly Bill 947 exemption must pay the mandatory upper-division coursework fee of \$84 per graded unit IN ADDITION TO the \$46 enrollment fee AND the \$316 tuition fee, for a total of \$446 per graded unit. Please note that SMC Promise and California College Promise Grants do NOT cover upper-division coursework fees.

OTHER FEES

All students — both resident and nonresident — in credit or graded classes pay a \$57.50 fee during the fall and spring semesters (\$54.50 during winter and summer sessions). The fee includes \$23 (\$20 in winter and summer) for Health Services, \$22.50 for Student Benefits fee, \$10 for Associated Students Resource fee, and \$2 for the Student Representation fee. The Health Services fee is mandatory. The fees for the SMC Student Benefits, Associated Students Resource, and Student Representation are optional, but provide special benefits. Students wishing to opt-out of paying the Student Benefits and Associated Students Resource fees should email a request to cashier@smc.edu. **Students who qualify for the SMC Promise Grant are exempt from paying Health Services, Student Benefits, Associated Students Resource, and Student Representation fees.**

Health Services Fee

The mandatory fee of \$23 during the fall and spring semesters (\$20 during winter and summer sessions) provides a variety of health services to students. See the “Health Services Center” listing in the Special Programs and Support Services section of this catalog for details. Students who are exempt from paying the Health Services fee are:

- Students enrolled exclusively in noncredit or not-for-credit courses;
- Students who qualify for the SMC Promise Grant; and
- Students who declare through a personally signed statement that they depend exclusively on prayer for healing in accordance with the teachings of a bona fide religious sect (documentation of such an affiliation is required).

Students who are eligible for financial aid through the Financial Aid Office and who need assistance to pay this fee should contact the Financial Aid Office.

Student Benefits, Associated Students Resource, and Student Representation Fees

The Student Benefits \$22.50 fee supports campus technology and transportation options (including the free rides on the Big Blue Bus and free rides on Metro lines and trains, as well as a selection of rideshare and bike programs), the Associated Students Resource \$10 fee funds activities and services for SMC’s entire student body, and the Student Representation fee supports the efforts of student government representatives. All three fees are optional. Students who do not wish to pay the Student Benefits or Associated Students Resource fees should contact the Cashier’s Office at time of enrollment by sending email (with full name and SMC student I.D. number) to cashier@smc.edu. Students who wish to opt out of the Student Representation fee may do so through Corsair Connect (smc.edu/cc).

The optional \$22.50 Student Benefits fee supports access to technology (campus WiFi, computer lab, printing, Chromebook loan program), transportation options (Big Blue Bus free intercampus shuttle service, free Big Blue Bus rides, free rides on Metro lines, and selection of rideshare and bike programs), and the LiveSafe app.

The optional \$10 Associated Students (A.S.) Resource fee supports SMC’s many student clubs and other activities that foster academic achievement, campus life and social

events, campus sustainability programs, basic needs programs, and Cayton Center renovations.

The optional \$2 Student Representation fee, mandated by Assembly Bill (AB) 1504, provides support for student government representatives who may be presenting positions and viewpoints to representatives, offices, and agencies of local, district, and state governments. The fee is divided, with \$1 going to the Associated Students, and \$1 for use by the Student Senate of the California Community Colleges (SSCCC).

Students who qualify for the SMC Promise Grant are exempt from paying the Student Benefits, A.S. Resource, and Student Representation fees.

SMC Student I.D. Card

The SMC student I.D. card is a photo I.D. that offers a convenient way to check out materials from the SMC Library and access the campus tutoring labs and learning resource centers, as well as purchase discount tickets for selected student events or activities.

Students may obtain one SMC student I.D. card FREE of charge through the Cashier’s Office. Instructions on how to obtain a student I.D. card are available by sending email to cashier@smc.edu with “Student I.D.” in the Subject line.

If the SMC student I.D. card is lost, a replacement card may be purchased at the Cashier’s Office for \$20.

Materials and Supplies Fees

Some classes require additional fees for materials and supplies. Students should consult the class listings in the Schedule of Classes to determine whether any such fees are required. Fees for materials and supplies are not refundable.

ON-CAMPUS AND SATELLITE CAMPUS PARKING

NOTE: Parking at ALL lots remains FREE — with a virtual permit — until December 31, 2022. Students should visit smc.edu/parking for the latest details.

SMC uses a parking system that requires signing up for a virtual parking permit. Virtual parking permits (free and paid) can be obtained online at smc.edu/parking.

All SMC parking areas — even the free parking areas at the Bundy and Airport Arts campuses — require a virtual parking permit based on the vehicle’s license plate. Vehicles with license plates that have not been registered for a virtual parking permit will be subject to a parking citation.

Students who wish to use the on-campus parking facilities at the main SMC campus, the SMC Performing Arts Center, and the Center for Media and Design must purchase a virtual parking permit for \$93.50 for the fall or spring semester, or \$49.50 for the winter and summer sessions. The price includes the City of Santa Monica 10% parking facilities tax. Funds from parking fees are used to maintain and improve the parking facilities.

Fees for virtual parking permits vary according to the time of year, and discounts are available for students who receive a California College Promise Grant (CCPG) because they or their family receive benefits under CalWORKs/Temporary

Aid to Needy Families (TANF) or SSI/SSP (Supplemental Security Income) or General Assistance/General Relief.

Parking at the SMC Airport Arts and Bundy campuses is FREE for students attending classes there, but requires a virtual parking permit.

Parking at the SMC Bundy shuttle lot is FREE for SMC students, but requires a virtual parking permit. Student virtual parking permits are NOT valid for faculty/staff parking areas.

The display of a DMV accessible placard AND a license plate registered to a valid SMC virtual parking permit allows students to park in any accessible, student, or staff parking space.

Inter-campus shuttle service is FREE with a TAP card a student has registered with a new interagency transit pass. In addition, SMC students who have paid the Student Benefits fee can use the registered TAP card to ride ANY Big Blue Bus ANY time for FREE! SMC students can also use the TAP card to ride Metro buses and trains for free. Students who do not already have a TAP card can also request one. Students should see smc.edu/transportation for up-to-date details.

Cars with activated alarms in the SMC parking areas will be TOWED IMMEDIATELY at the car owner's expense.

The Schedule of Classes and smc.edu/transportation offer up-to-date information on parking requirements and fees, instructions on how to obtain a virtual parking permit in person or online, inter-campus shuttle information, and links to commuter bus schedules, route maps, and a variety of transportation options.

RETURNED PAYMENTS AND OUTSTANDING BALANCES

Returned checks and rejected credit card payments are subject to a fee of up to \$25 and are taken care of at the Auxiliary Services Office, located at 1738 Pearl St. An administrative hold will be placed on a student's records until the matter is resolved. A student who leaves SMC owing a balance and does not pay the amount owed will be responsible for paying all collection costs and/or attorney's fees. This debt may also be reported to all three major credit bureaus.

REFUNDS

Students may be eligible for a refund if they dropped a class by the "Refund Deadline" noted in their class schedule at Corsair Connect (smc.edu/cc). Additional information is available in the College Policies section of the Schedule of Classes. To process refunds, Santa Monica College has partnered with BankMobile. Details are available at smc.edu/bankmobile. Students should ensure their mailing address is up to date to prevent delays in receiving their refund.

Refund Schedules

If a student owes fees, the College will keep the amount owed and refund the difference to the student. This also applies to financial aid disbursements. Refunds take about two more weeks to arrive. Students should make sure their mailing address is up to date to prevent delays in receiving the refund. For students who have enrolled in a future term, any refund owed will be applied toward any fee owed for that term.

Students withdrawing before the refund deadline will receive a 100% refund of enrollment fees (minus a processing charge of \$10).

For questions concerning refunds, students should contact the Cashier's Office at cashier@smc.edu.

Refunds are processed approximately 45 days after the start of the term. Students should allow 1-2 weeks after the scheduled refund to receive their refund.

Summer session: Week 4

Fall semester: Week 5 and Week 11

Winter session: Week 2

Spring semester: Week 5 and Week 11

Withdrawal Refund Schedule

Enrollment Fee

No refunds of enrollment fees are available to students who paid enrollment fees and who withdraw after the posted refund deadlines. Each class has its own refund and drop deadlines, which are posted on each student's class schedule at Corsair Connect. Students who withdraw prior to this deadline will receive a 100% refund of enrollment fees, minus a processing charge of \$10. See the Fees webpage at smc.edu/fees for more information on withdrawal refunds.

Nonresident Tuition

Nonresident students who withdraw from Santa Monica College before the published refund deadline will receive a 100% refund of their nonresident tuition, minus any relevant processing fees. Students should apply for tuition refunds at the Cashier's Office.

Health Services, Student Benefits, A.S. Resource, and Student Representation Fees

Students who paid Health Services, Student Benefits, A.S. Resource, and Student Representation fees and who withdraw from Santa Monica College before the published refund deadline will receive a 100% refund of the \$23 Health Services fee (for fall or spring semesters; \$20 for winter or summer sessions), a 100% refund of the \$22.50 Student Benefits fee, a 100% refund of the \$10 A.S. Resource fee, and a \$100% refund of the \$2 Student Representation fee.

On-Campus Parking Permit Fee

Parking permit fees are not refundable after the first 10% of the term. To obtain the refund, a student must present the parking permit receipt at the Cashier's Office.

Student Equity and Achievement Program and Matriculation

Student success is the responsibility of the student and the institution, supported by well-coordinated and evidence-based student and instructional services to foster student academic success. The goal of the SMC Student Equity and Achievement Program is to increase California Community College student access and success through the provision of core matriculation services, including placement, orienta-

tion, counseling, advising, and other educational planning services to provide students with the support services necessary to assist them in achieving their education goal and identified course of study.

Following the submission of the admission application, all students will participate in the matriculation process unless specifically exempted from selected components of the process. Failure to fulfill the required components may result in a hold on a student's enrollment or loss of enrollment priority until the services have been completed. The matriculation components consist of Placement, Orientation, and Counseling/Advising/Other Educational Planning Services/Education Plan Development (collectively known at SMC as Counseling).

MATRICULANT STATUS

Matriculation status will be determined for all new students at the time they submit their application for admission to the College. Their status will be either "matriculant" or "exempt matriculant." Students are considered matriculants if they are enrolling at Santa Monica College for the first time and their goal is to earn a degree at SMC, transfer to a four-year college or university, complete a certificate, pursue basic skills instruction, or are undecided about their goal.

Any student who is exempt from placement, orientation, and counseling will still be given the opportunity to participate in these services. Exempt students may be subjected to the loss of priority enrollment.

Matriculant

After filing an application for admission to SMC, all students are required to participate in all parts of the matriculation process unless specifically exempted from particular components. Students who fail to complete required components will have their enrollment placed on hold or will lose their enrollment priority until the components have been completed. The matriculation components consist of placement, orientation, and counseling (which includes counseling, advising, and other education planning services and education plan development).

Students filing as matriculants must:

1. Complete the placement process for math and English or ESL, and if they wish to enroll directly in other courses with enforced prerequisites, complete the relevant challenge exam or prerequisite course(s);
2. Complete the orientation program provided online at smc.edu/orient to become familiar with the College and its programs;
3. Arrange for transcripts of previous college work (or high school transcript if they have no previous college work) to be sent to the Admissions Office; and
4. Create an education plan prior to enrollment and receive academic counseling about class selections.

New college students must complete these procedures before they will be permitted to enroll in classes, and are encouraged to make arrangements to have the appropriate transcripts from other institutions sent directly to the Admissions Office. Transcripts should be received by SMC at least four weeks before the start of the semester. New

applicants will receive a notice from the College specifying which matriculation steps are mandatory for them.

MATRICULATION PROCESS AND COMPONENTS

Orientation: Orientation informs students about the wide range of services and support that SMC provides, including academic counseling to help sort out education and career goals, health and psychological services, financial aid, scholarships, job referral services, tutoring services, and support programs for students with special needs. As a convenience for students, Santa Monica College provides its orientation program online, which may be accessed 24 hours a day at smc.edu/orient using any computer with Internet access.

Placement Process for of English, ESL, and math: To help students get the most out of their education goals, the College requires first-time college students to complete the placement process. All new students at SMC are required to undergo the placement process in these areas. Assessment in chemistry (by challenge exam) is required for students who wish to enroll directly into Chemistry 11, without taking the Chemistry 10 prerequisite course, and is also required for waivers of prerequisites for selected life sciences courses (see a counselor for details).

Santa Monica College provides an online process to assist students in selecting an education goal and developing a course of study to reach that goal. Students have an opportunity to develop education plans that are either abbreviated or comprehensive.

Abbreviated student education plans are one-to-two academic terms in length and designed to meet the immediate needs of students.

Comprehensive student education plans take into account a student's interests, skills, career and education goals, major, potential transfer institution(s), and the steps needed to complete the identified course of study. The comprehensive plan includes, but is not limited to, addressing the education goal and course of study requirements — such as the requirements for the major, transfer, certificate, program, and applicable course prerequisites or corequisites — as well as need for basic skills, assessment for placement results, and the need for referral to other support and instructional services when appropriate.

Santa Monica College requires that all matriculants develop an abbreviated education plan prior to enrollment in their first semester. After completing 15 degree-applicable semester units or prior to the end of their third semester, all matriculants are required to complete a comprehensive education plan.

Definition and development of education goals: While some students arrive at Santa Monica College with a very clear and firm idea of what their education goals are, most have several different areas they wish to explore or pursue, and others have no particular direction at all, often because they have too many different interests.

- **Students who are focused on a specific education goal and wish to pursue it in the most direct way possible:** These students design a study program that leads directly to their transfer to a four-year institution to pursue a specific major, or to their Associate degree, or to their certification in a vocational or occupational field.

- **Students with a variety of interests to explore before settling into one particular field:** Many students fall into this category. As they learn more about particular fields of study and their own capabilities in those fields, they become able to sort through their interests and eventually focus on a particular program of study.
- **Students truly undecided about what education goals to pursue:** These students need help to sort out their values, interests, and how their education will contribute to their life and future career.

Academic counseling: The College provides a professional staff of academic counselors to help students identify their education plan and how to pursue it. Counseling services vary according to a student's particular education goal. General Counseling & Transfer Services helps students develop an education plan that outlines the courses they need to meet a specific transfer, occupational certificate, or Associate degree goal. The Career Services Center at SMC assists students in sorting out potential majors and education goals.

Other support services: SMC provides a caring and committed faculty, General Counseling & Transfer Services, Career Services Center, Black Collegians Program, Latino Center, International Education Center, athletic counseling, tutoring services, financial aid, and a number of other means to support students in their pursuit of higher education. These services are described in detail in the Programs and Services section of this catalog, online at the SMC website (see the Student Support webpage at smc.edu/student-support), and in the Schedule of Classes.

STUDENT MATRICULATION RESPONSIBILITIES

General student matriculation responsibilities include an obligation to:

1. Identify an education and career goal after completing the 15th unit of degree-applicable coursework, or before the end of the third semester, whichever comes first.
2. Engage diligently in course activities and complete assigned coursework; and
3. Complete courses and maintain progress toward an education goal.

SPECIAL MATRICULATION RESPONSIBILITIES

Santa Monica College requires certain types of students to accept special responsibilities if they wish to achieve their education and personal goals.

Probationary Students: Students on academic and/or progress probation must develop contracts with counselors for returning to good standing.

Undeclared Students: Students who have not declared education goals must meet with a counselor to develop a career or academic plan no later than the semester before enrolling for a 16th unit of credit at SMC.

Students Enrolled in Pre-College Courses: Students taking remedial courses must plan with their instructors the next course(s) in the instructional sequence, and develop a program with their counselors for the following semester.

STUDENT MATRICULATION COMPLAINTS

Students may file formal written complaints about the matriculation process with the Matriculation Office. See the Student Complaints, Hearings, and Appeals section of this catalog for more information.

Completion/Graduation Requirements

Santa Monica College grants the Associate degree to students who have successfully completed sixty (60) degree-applicable units, and a Bachelor of Science in Interaction Design to students who have successfully completed 120 degree-applicable units — consisting of courses that meet State and local general education (GE) requirements, courses that fulfill requirements for a major, and elective courses — with a cumulative degree-applicable grade point average of C (2.0) or higher.

All college-level work (except basic skills and some religion and theology courses) taken at regionally accredited two-year colleges (including Santa Monica College) and in the lower-division of regionally accredited four-year colleges is counted when calculating the cumulative degree-applicable GPA and the sixty (60) degree-applicable units. Upper-division, graduate, and professional courses from regionally accredited colleges will be applied toward the Associate degree as needed. Please see smc.edu/articulation for details.

Students planning to graduate should first make an appointment to meet with a counselor to verify that they are eligible for graduation. The petition may be submitted at smc.edu/forms.

Students **must** file a Petition for Graduation with the Admissions Office during the academic term in which they plan to complete requirements for graduation.

Santa Monica College policies authorize the College to confer a degree or certificate upon an eligible student without requiring a petition for the degree or certificate when the student has stopped attending. The Admissions Office will notify potential awardees of its intent to confer the degree or certificate.

Honors at graduation will be awarded to students who have a cumulative degree-applicable grade point average of 3.0 or higher (including degree-applicable coursework completed at other regionally accredited colleges), who have completed a minimum of 12 units of coursework at SMC, *and* who are in good standing at the time they graduate.

IN-RESIDENCE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to other academic requirements, in order to graduate with a degree from Santa Monica College, students must enroll in and successfully complete a minimum of twelve (12) degree-applicable units at SMC, and have official transcripts on file at SMC from ALL OTHER institutions where coursework is used. Official transcripts must be mailed directly to the SMC Admissions Office by the other institutions.

At least 50% of the academic or career path (major) units must be completed at Santa Monica College, except for the Associate Degree for Transfer and the IGETC and CSU

GE Certificates. Department chairs have the discretion to waive the 50% minimum units required at SMC to meet the major or area of emphasis.

PETITION FOR GRADUATION

Students planning to apply for graduation with a degree, Certificate of Achievement, Certificate of Completion, or Certificate of Competency should first make an appointment with a counselor to verify that they are eligible for graduation. A student may complete EITHER the major requirements in effect at the time of the student's initial enrollment if the student has maintained continuous enrollment since then, OR the major requirements in effect at the time the student begins to maintain continuous enrollment, OR the major requirements in effect at the time of the student's graduation. (See page 34 for definition of continuous enrollment).

Students who leave SMC to attend another *accredited* institution may petition for special consideration to maintain catalog rights for the purpose of earning a degree or certificate, if the absence does not exceed two years.

A student is entitled to receive a degree or certificate if the student has met all degree or certificate requirements consistent with catalog rights. Santa Monica College will post the degree or certificate to the student's transcript based on the applicable catalog year rights, and report the term it is granted to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

A Petition for Graduation must be submitted to the Admissions Office for approval during the semester in which the student expects to complete the requirements for graduation. **DEADLINES FOR FILING PETITIONS FOR GRADUATION (and for Certificates of Achievement) are:**

- For spring semester graduation — Start of spring session through April 15
- For summer session graduation — Start of summer session through July 31
- For fall semester graduation — Start of fall semester through December 1

Students who will complete their requirements for graduation during a winter session will graduate the following spring.

Students may petition for any number of degrees or certificates for which they are eligible.

The Petition for Graduation form is available online at smc.edu/forms (click on the "Graduation Petition" link). Please note that petitions will be processed ONLY during the designated periods.