

STEM-MÁS

NEWSLETTER

WINTER '26
EDITION

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STEM Team, Fernando!

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Reminders

UC & CSU Transfer Admission
Update (TAU) priority deadline is
January 31, 2026

The priority deadline to submit your
FAFSA or CADAA is **March 2, 2026**.



We hope you all had a wonderful
holiday & start to the new year!

Contact Info

Email: STEM@SMC.EDU

Phone: (310) 434-3988

Location: DH 302

PROGRAM SERVICES

STEM Counseling



SHERIDAN



JOSE



DEBBIE



MARIAN

If you are in the STEM/MAS Program, appointments can be made via [Corsair Connect](#). For non-program participants, there are 3 different ways to make an appointment. See our [website](#) for these 3 options.

STEM Tutoring

- We tutor math, chemistry, physics, and computer science!
- First come, first serve – no appointment necessary!
- Located in Drescher Hall Room 302

Check out the [STEM Tutoring and Peer Mentor Winter Schedule](#)!



STEM Program Requirements

Didn't meet your STEM program requirements over the fall semester? Make it up by connecting with a STEM Counselor and/or Peer Mentor/Tutor over this winter session!

WELCOME, FERNANDO!



Fernando Lainez Lemus
STEM Program Specialist

Hello everyone! My name is Fernando Lainez, and I'm excited to return to Santa Monica College as the new Program Specialist for the STEM Program. This moment truly feels full circle—I began my own academic journey here at SMC as a proud STEMie, surrounded by mentors, classmates, and staff who believed in my potential and helped me transfer to UCLA, where I graduated in 2018. Being back in this space that once empowered me is deeply meaningful, and I'm honored to now serve the very community that helped shape my path.

Since my time at SMC, I've built a career rooted in education, equity, and operations. I've worked in the legal field, supported events and operations for Facebook and most recently, managed administrative operations at the Lloyd Greif Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at USC. Across every role, one theme has guided me—a commitment to creating pathways for others. Whether helping students navigate complex systems, organizing programs that foster growth, or building bridges across departments, my passion lies in ensuring that every student feels seen, supported, and capable of achieving their goals.

Coming back to SMC feels like coming home. I'm here not only as a staff member, but as someone who's walked in your shoes—balancing transfer applications, coursework, jobs, and life all at once. Please feel free to stop by my office anytime to introduce yourself, share your journey, or ask for guidance about transferring, navigating higher education, or exploring your next steps. I'm always happy to mentor, connect, or simply listen. Together, we'll continue building a community where every Stemmie can thrive and reach their fullest potential.

STEM-TUNITIES

Computer Science

UCLA Breakthrough Tech AI Program

The AI Program is a virtual, one-year extracurricular experience that equips you with the skills needed to secure a job in the fastest-growing areas of tech: data science, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML).

Deadline: Feb 16, 2026

[**Apply here**](#)

Biology

Community College Field Biology Alliance

8-month paid research internship exploring ecological sciences hands-on and assisting researchers with ecological data collection.

- Travel for a week of camping in the Sierra National Forest to work alongside field ecologists
- Develop an original research project
- 10-hour a month time commitment & \$1,000 stipend

Deadline: Feb 20, 2026

[**Apply here**](#)

Program led by a
STEM Program
Alum!

Research

UCI Materials Research for Undergraduates (REU)

8-week, full-time experience where participants work on cutting-edge projects in areas such as Complex Concentrated Materials and Bioinspired Active Materials while collaborating closely with, and being extensively mentored by faculty and graduate researchers from the Departments of Materials Science and Engineering, NanoEngineering, Physics & Astronomy, Chemistry, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, and other affiliated programs across UC Irvine.

- \$5,000 stipend, travel allowance, on-campus housing, and meals

Deadline: January 31, 2026

[**Apply here**](#)

Research

UCI Materials Summer Program to Inspire, Recruit, and Enrich (M-SPIRE)

- 10-day full-time summer program led by UCI faculty and graduate researchers, students participate in project-based activities and gain hands-on experience in materials research.
- Projects in healthcare, aerospace, and environmental sustainability

Deadline: Feb 21, 2026

[**Apply here**](#)

CAREER RESOURCES

Tips and Resources



**FINDING RESEARCH
OPPORTUNITIES**



**CHOOSING AND
CONTACTING
REFERENCES**



**WAYS TO HAVE A
PRODUCTIVE SUMMER
BEYOND AN
INTERNSHIP/RESEARCH
OPPORTUNITY**

Meet with our Career
Center for major,
internship, and research
opportunity support!



Resume/ Personal Statement Help



**RESUME WRITING
FOR STEM MAJORS**



**PERSONAL
STATEMENT &
SUPPLEMENTAL
QUESTIONS**



**WRITING &
HUMANITIES
TUTORING CENTER**

**SCHEDULE AN
APPOINTMENT ON
CORSAIR CONNECT**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS PT 1

UC + CSU

UC & CSU Transfer Admission Update (TAU)

PRIORITY DEADLINE: JAN 31

- After applying, transfer students are required to update their grades and course records.
- You must log in to your CSU and UC application and complete the Transfer Admission Update (TAU).
- TAUs NEED to include grades through fall 2025 and planned coursework through summer 2026. The deadline is January 31, 2026.
- Note: some UCs and CSUs have a supplemental TAU for you to submit as well.

Please monitor your email

The **STEM Counseling** team is available and ready to support you with your transfer goals!

CSU

CSU Transfer Admission Extension

Deadlines: vary see website for more info)

- Many California State University (CSU) campuses have extended their application deadlines. To find out which are still open use the CSU Application Dates & Deadlines Website.

Financial Aid

The priority deadline to submit your FAFSA or CADAA is **March 2, 2026**.

If you have questions about FAFSA or CADAA, **STEM Counselors** are available during the winter session to help you!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS PT 2



Private + Out-of-state deadlines

Most private schools and out-of-state schools use the Common Application. Here are some application deadlines for popular schools:

- Loyola Marymount University: Priority deadline Feb 1
- University of Michigan: Feb 1
- University of Southern California (USC): Feb 15
- Columbia University: March 1 (uses Coalition Application by Scoir)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT): March 1

Check out the Private (California and Out of State) Schools Workshops happening through our Transfer Center!

STEM Program applications

STEM/MÁS Program Application Coming soon

The STEM Program application will become available at the beginning of the Spring semester! Sign up for our prospective student mailing list to receive updates.

Sign up for the STEM mailing list!

Current/active STEM Program participants do not need to reapply



RESOURCES



Bodega

Currently enrolled students are eligible
Winter Hours:

- Tue & Thur 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM
- Wednesday 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM

15 SMC Bodega Bites locations that
provide students with healthy snacks

- [Locations](#)

Cal Fresh

CalFresh is a program that helps
individuals and families buy nutritious
groceries and support their well-being.
To learn more or get help completing an
application click [here](#)

Math Modules

- Need more support in Algebra,
Trigonometry, Statistics, or Calculus?
- Add self-paced math modules for
more resources!
- [Add now!](#)

Lending Resources

Did you know you could borrow the
following items from the STEM Program?

- White Lab Coats (CHEM 9, 10, 11, 12, 31)
- Flame Retardant Lab Coats (CHEM 21,
24)
- Goggles for Lab
- Scientific & Graphing Calculators



The Change Reaction

- Need help covering an emergency
expense? We may be able to help!
- [The Change Reaction](#) is a non-profit
that provides SMC students with
immediate financial assistance for
urgent needs.



WINTER

WORD SEARCH



www.cutecoloringpagesforkids.com