



Navigating the Community College Process

We are pleased to provide this newsletter with the latest information on preparing high school students to attend San Diego City, Mesa or Miramar College.

Community Colleges: An Alternative Way for Students to Transfer to a CSU or UC

March is typically the time students find out whether they have been accepted to the CSU, UC or private institution of their choice. Not getting into a student's dream school does not mean the end of a student's educational pathway to college. Students are able to complete their lower division requirements at a community college for a fraction of the cost and transfer to a CSU, UC or private college as a junior.

However, be sure to advise students to not procrastinate when choosing this option. San Diego City, Mesa and Miramar College, along with other community colleges in the state have new admission requirements to assist students with preparation and completion of their goals, referred to as the Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) process.

San Diego Community Colleges launches the Student Success and Support Programs (SSSP)

With passage of SB 1456, Community Colleges in California haven been tasked to ensure that all students complete their college courses, persist to the next academic term, and achieve their education objectives through a comprehensive student-direct process: admission, orientation, assessment, education plans and student follow-up. For additional information on these important processes go to <http://studentweb.sdccd.edu>.

Important Deadlines

April 30 - Deadline to complete admission requirements (orientation, assessment, education plan) for a priority registration appointment for the *Summer* 2015 session.

July 1 - Deadline to complete admission requirements (orientation, assessment, education plan) for a priority registration appointment for the *Fall* 2015 semester.

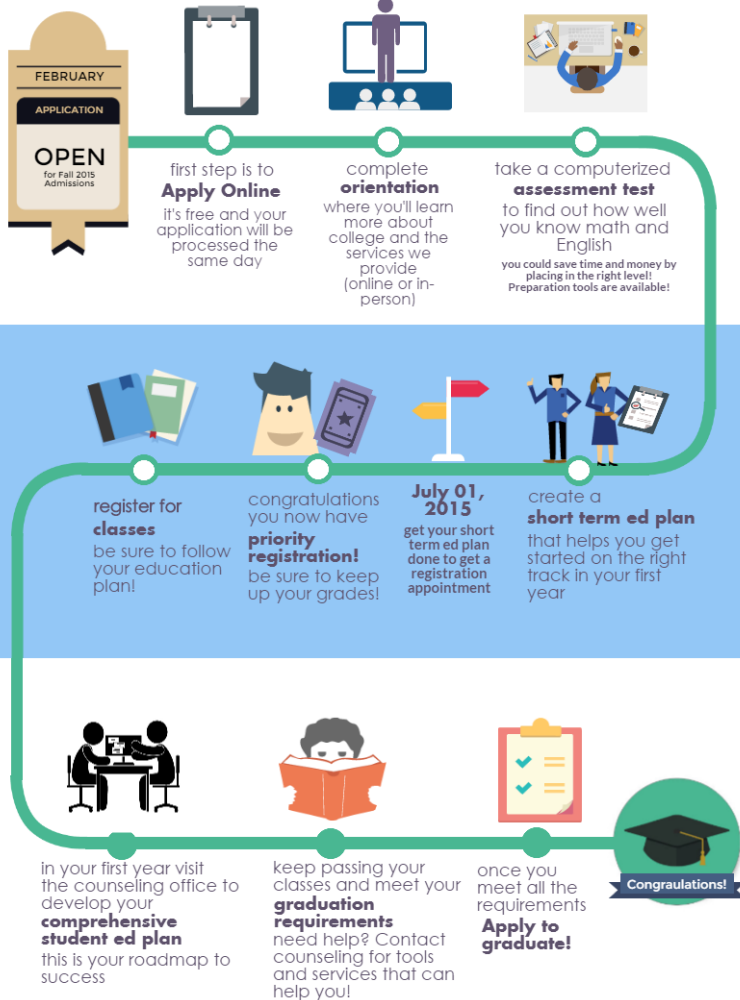
September 2 - Cal Grant Deadline - Deadline to complete an application for the Cal Grant, a state-funded financial aid option for students.

Students should plan early in order to meet required deadlines for Fall 2015 admission, especially if they need to get started on their transfer coursework to transfer to a California State University or University of California campus.

Click the image below to view a larger version in your web browser.

How To Succeed At City, Mesa, & Miramar

Student Success and Support Programs



Upcoming Events

San Diego City College

2nd Annual Community Open House Day

Thursday, April 16, 2015

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

AH/BT Lower Plaza @ 16th & C Street

Campus tours | Exhibits | Demonstrations | Performances

Contact: evargas@sdccd.edu

San Diego Mesa College

San Diego Mesa College Parent Information Nights

Thursdays in Spring 2015

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Student Services Center, Room I4-213

RSVP Required please [click here](#) to register.

Contact: Outreach (619) 388-2230

San Diego Miramar College

San Diego Miramar College Parent Orientation: Get Your Bearings

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Room K1-207

Contact: miraoutreach@sdccd.edu
(858) 536-7367

2015 Opportunities Expo Career *

Transfer * CTE

April 30, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

More than 50 employers, 15 universities will be present and take a closer look at our Career Technical Programs

Contact: 619-388-7380

SAN DIEGO
CITY COLLEGE

1313 Park Blvd
San Diego, CA 92101
619-388-3400
www.sdcity.edu

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE

7250 Mesa College Dr
San Diego, CA 92111
619-388-2600
www.sdmesa.edu

SAN DIEGO
MIRAMAR
COLLEGE

10440 Black Mountain Rd
San Diego, CA 92126
619-388-7800
www.sdmiramar.edu

THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Step 1: Students Apply Online

San Diego City, Mesa and Miramar College begin to accept online applications for Fall 2015 admission in early February. The application is free and gives students access to all three colleges. Applications are processed the same day.

When advising students about enrolling at a community college, be aware that recent changes have limited a student's ability to just show up the day before classes start. Previously, students could submit an online application, receive an enrollment date, register for classes, pay enrollment fees and begin their college career in minimal time. With new requirements from SSSP and an increased demand for classes, students should complete the entire enrollment process at San Diego City, Mesa and Miramar Colleges as early as possible.

This includes having enough time to take an English and Math assessment for placement, viewing an online orientation, and meeting with an academic counselor to create an education plan. All these steps are required in order for students to receive a priority registration appointment for Fall 2015 and must be done by **June 30th**. For students interested in taking classes over the summer, they must complete these steps by **April 30th**.

Direct students to the application website: <https://applyonline.communitycollege.net/>

Please note, for students with disabilities or those considered educationally disadvantaged (i.e. first generation, low-income, etc.) there are two services that require a separate application for eligibility: Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS) and Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS). For more information about these important programs please visit our [EOPS](#) and [DSPS](#) webpages. Encourage students to check their e-mail regularly. All official communications including registration appointments, class confirmations and payment deadlines are sent via email. Students can create a free e-

mail account from any of the websites listed below:

- [Google Gmail](#)
- [Yahoo Email](#)
- [Microsoft Outlook](#)
- [Other Providers](#)

Step 2: Students apply for financial aid

If students are concerned about being able to afford college, San Diego City, Mesa and Miramar Colleges offer students various financial aid options, most of which do not require to be paid back. Our Financial Aid Offices are dedicated to providing financial resources to help pay for educational costs, such as enrollment fees, books, supplies and even transportation costs.

Financial aid can come from federal sources (Pell Grant) or state sources (BOG Fee Waiver, Cal Grant). Students who qualify under the DREAM Act also qualify for state-based financial aid. All students seeking a Board of Governors Fee Waiver (BOGW) must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application to determine eligibility.

- The FAFSA can be completed at: www.fafsa.gov
- The California Dream Act Application can be completed at: <https://dream.csac.ca.gov>

Types of Financial Aid

Board of Governors Fee Waiver (BOGFW) - The BOGFW is a grant program that waives a portion, or all, of tuition fees for students who meet certain income requirements.

Federal Pell Grant - A Federal Pell Grant is money the U.S. federal government provides for students who need it to pay for college. The Federal Pell Grant is the largest federal grant program and is the foundation of a student's total "aid package." Federal Pell Grants are limited to students with financial need, who have not earned their first bachelor's degree, or who are not enrolled in certain post-baccalaureate programs, through participating institutions.

Cal Grant – Cal Grants are funded by the state of California and *do not have to be paid back*. These grants can be used for tuition, books, supplies and room and board. Graduating high school seniors and recent graduates who meet academic and financial eligibility requirement are eligible to receive this grant.

What is the Cal Grant deadline?

Students who plan to attend a community college in the fall have until September 2 to apply. Students should apply early because the number of Cal Grant awards is limited.

Here's How Students Can Apply

Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) between January 1 and September 2 and submit a verified Cal Grant GPA anytime between November and the September 2 deadline. If students meet the income, eligibility, and GPA requirements, the cash is theirs. The best part is students fill out the FAFSA online.

To submit a verified Cal Grant GPA, check if your school will do it for your students. If not, students can go online and download a GPA Verification form, fill out the student section and take it to school for completion.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ANY CAL GRANT AWARD IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL OF THE STATE BUDGET ACT.

FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES

Federal - Online applications must be submitted by midnight Central Time, **June 30, 2016**. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by midnight Central Time, **September 17, 2016**.

California – For community college state financial aid programs, the deadline is **September 2, 2015**.

Each college awards financial aid according to need. For more information please refer students to the appropriate college below:

San Diego City College

Institution Code: 001273

www.sdcity.edu/FinancialAid

619-388-3501

San Diego Mesa College

Institution Code: 001275

www.sdmesa.edu/financial-aid/

619-388-2815

San Diego Miramar College

Institution Code: 014172

sdmiramar.edu/students/financial

619-388-7864

Step 3: Students participate in orientation

The orientation to college provides important information to students about the programs and services available at the college as well as strategies for student success. Orientation includes assessment and program planning. Students are expected to attend an assessment/orientation session before registering for classes so that they are fully informed about the college.

To make it easy and convenient for students, New Student Orientations are offered online:

City Orientation

Mesa Orientation

Miramar Orientation

STEP 4: Students complete the assessment process

Reading, writing and English as a Second Language (ESL), and mathematics assessment tests help students enroll in the right courses and meet prerequisites. It is required that students planning to enroll in English, math or ESL courses, or classes with English or math prerequisites, take the assessment test to ensure proper placement.

Advise students to take the assessment tests seriously. Students can take advantage of preparatory workshops, refresher courses, practice exams and tutoring services available prior to taking the assessment tests. Preparing for the assessment test can save students up to one year of required courses.

Stress the importance of taking the assessment test seriously with your students. English and Math assessment tests may be retaken after one year.

For more information on the math assessment placement test, please view our informational flyer: [Choosing the Right: Math](#)

Preparing students for the assessment exam

San Diego City, Mesa and Miramar College use an online assessment test known as Accuplacer. Testing is generally done on a walk-in basis in the Assessment/Testing Center on campus. Some colleges may require appointments for testing. Students should contact the Assessment/Testing Office on campus for details.

- City: (619) 388-3540, room A-110
- Mesa: (619) 388-2718, room I4-201
- Miramar: (619) 388-7379, room K2-108

For sample assessment exam questions, please direct students to: [Accuplacer Sample Questions](#)

Assessment-Placement alternative measures

The San Diego Community College district accepts select standardized test as an alternative measure to clear the prerequisites for transfer level English and math. Students should bring or send official copies of their SAT, ACT, and/or EAP report directly to District Student Services to determine readiness for English 101 or 105 and for courses with a Math 96 prerequisite. All tests must have been completed within the past 2 years

STEP 5: Students complete educational planning with a counselor

The Education Plan is an agreement which contains the official requirements for the student's educational goal (certificate, degree, transfer).

Education plans outline a suggested pathway for a student to take based on their major, transfer plans or other pertinent objectives. These plans allow students to determine how long it will take to complete a program of study and to be sure that all program requirements can be met within a particular period of time. We strongly

recommend students review their education plan periodically with a counselor as goals or objectives change. New students entering San Diego City, Mesa or Miramar College are required to complete an assessment, orientation, and educational planning session to receive **registration priority**.

What is registration priority?

Registration priority gives students an early registration time ahead of other students so they can get into courses before they fill up. To be eligible, students must attend orientation, complete the assessment process for math and English/ESL course placement, and develop an Education Plan with a counselor by the deadline (**July 1st for Fall 2015**). This process will help students clearly define their goals, stay on track, and take the most direct route from start to finish.

How does a student keep their registration priority?

Students are required to maintain academic progress. This means maintaining at least a 2.0 GPA and completing 60% of their coursework. Each college provides comprehensive student services to help students stay on track as they make progress towards their educational objective.

Encourage students to attend a welcome event or schedule a campus tour

Students should check out San Diego City, Mesa and Miramar College to see if it is the right fit for them. Welcome events are offered during the beginning of each semester and campus tours are offered throughout the year. Students can call the Outreach Office to inquire about upcoming welcome events and schedule a campus tour.

City: (619) 388-3496

Mesa: (619) 388-2230

Miramar: (619) 388-7357

Resources

[Explore the Majors at San Diego City, Mesa and Miramar Colleges](#)

[Student Web Services](#)

[San Diego City College Website](#)

[San Diego Mesa College Website](#)

[San Diego Miramar College Website](#)