



Introduction to California Community Colleges

Northwood High School
2016-2017



Why do students choose community college?

- **Affordability** – Students who wish to pursue a bachelor’s degree can significantly lower the cost of earning the degree by taking the first two years of a university program at a community college. Community college students are eligible for financial aid.
- **Personalized Attention** – Community colleges offer a student-centered approach with smaller class sizes and more one-on-one time with instructors.
- **Career and Educational Path Exploration** before committing to a four-year university
- **School-Life Balance** and the ability to work while attending school. Classes are offered in the evenings, on weekends, and online.
- **Professional Certificates** – Community Colleges provide professional and short-term certificates in many fields, including information technology and electronics. Students can be job-ready within two years or less.
- **Transfer Agreements** with select UC, CSU, and private college campuses for qualified students to transfer into their first-choice college or university
- **A Second Chance at Their First Choice Four-Year University** – Students who were not accepted into their first-choice school after high school can apply to transfer after having completed the necessary coursework at a community college.

Community colleges most attended by Northwood High School students:

- Irvine Valley College (IVC)
- Orange Coast College (OCC)
- Santiago Canyon College
- Saddleback College

Visit NHS’s College and Career Center for more information. Kathi Smith, our College and Career Specialist, will be hosting a Community College Fair in March, in addition to several community college information workshops:

- Community College Workshop on January 26, 2017
- IVC Application Workshop and IVC Placement Testing in spring 2017, dates TBD

California Community Colleges (CCC) offer three programs:

- **Two-year degrees: A.A. or A.S.** Designed for students who want to earn a college degree with a focus, whether to achieve a personal or career goal or in preparation for transfer to the University (UC), California State University (CSU), or a private / out-of-state university.
- **Certificate programs** in a variety of career interests
- **Transfer program** to four-year colleges. In addition, California Community College students are offered guaranteed admission to select UC and CSU campuses if requirements are met. Visit the following websites for more information:

UC Transfer Admissions Webpage: <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/transfer/>

UC Transfer Admissions Guarantee (TAG) Webpage: <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/transfer/guarantee/>

The California State University Transfer Webpage: <http://calstate.edu/transfer/>

The California State University Transfer Admissions Agreement (TAA) and Transfer Admissions Guarantee (TAG) Website: <http://calstate.edu/transfer/apply/priority-agreements.shtml>

*For information about transferring to private and out-of-state colleges, please refer to the college or university website.

Matriculation (Enrollment) Process Generally Begins December 1:

Step 1: Application All students who are at least 18 years old or a high school graduate are eligible to enroll in community college. Students who apply early are offered priority registration for classes.

Step 2: Orientation

Step 3: Math and English Assessment

Step 4: Counseling/Advising, First Semester Plan, Educational Services

To begin the application process, visit the CCC Apply website: <http://home.cccapply.org/>. The site provides links to each college’s admissions webpage.

Streamlined Registration

IVC and OCC offer incoming freshman the opportunity to complete their assessment, parent orientation, financial aid workshop, campus tour, and advisement with the development of an abbreviated academic plan all in one day. Visit the schools’ websites for more details:

IVC Fast Fridays <http://admissions.ivc.edu/matriculation/pages/friday.aspx>

OCC Freshman Priority Registration http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/student_services/sssp/FPR/Pages/Freshman-Priority-Registration.aspx

Honors Programs:

All CCC campuses offer honors programs. See the school’s website for details.

IVC: <http://academics.ivc.edu/honors/Pages/default.aspx>

OCC: http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/honors_prog/Pages/default.aspx

Santiago Canyon College: <http://www.sccollege.edu/Departments/Honors/Pages/default.aspx>

Saddleback College: <https://www.saddleback.edu/honors>

*Two of the most popular transfer agreements available to IVC Honors Program members are UCLA’s “TAP” and UCI’s “Honors to Honors” programs. Visit the website for more information: <http://academics.ivc.edu/honors/Pages/ucla-uci.aspx>

Additional Career Exploration Websites:

California Career Café (Virtual career center for CA community college students): <http://www.cacareercafe.com/>

Career Zone California (California Career Resource Network): <https://www.cacareerzone.org/>