

COUNSELING CONNECTIONS



MISSION COLLEGE Counseling/Matriculation

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Cal Grant Entitlements Expanding

The entitlement portion of the Cal Grant program has made it easier than ever for qualified California students to manage the costs of higher education. The number of graduating high school seniors awarded Cal Grants increased by 54 percent during the 2001-02 academic year. **Although the number of new awards to transfers declined, an increase is expected in coming years as more community college students become eligible for the entitlement award.**

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What students say about Learning Communities: It makes a difference!

By Ray Charland, Don Cordero and Peggy Messerschmidt

"It's a very friendly environment."

"The learning community helps me to make friends easier and to freely express myself."

"I feel comfortable and more confident about participating in classes. I gained more than just writing or reading skills."

"Classes are linked together in topics and ideas, and that helps me understand all subjects more deeply. The friendly learning community encourages students to present their ideas naturally."

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Tips from Admissions Counselors

(From an article by John Kovacevich for the Spring 2002 edition of the Santa Clara Magazine. Although this article was written for Santa Clara University, the advice is useful when applying to most schools.)

1. Find the Right Fit

"I often tell students to spend less time figuring out what a college wants from them and more time figuring out what they want from a college," says Santa Clara University Dean of Admissions Sandra Hayes. Hayes encourages students to think about what's really important to them: academic program, location, campus life, etc. Once they've made some decisions about their goals, they can do better research. "Many students do it backwards," says Hayes.

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Do You Need Help With Your Classes?

By Leigh Anne Sippel

All students need a little help at some point in their studies; that is why Mission College has the Learning Assistance & Tutorial Center (LATC).

The LATC, located in room S2-201, provides free tutoring in all subjects except for Mathematics (For Math tutoring, visit room S2-401). We have qualified tutors in computer languages and programming, electronics, graphic design, accounting, business, English, sciences, humanities, foreign languages, and more. Registration is simple and tutoring times vary, so come by room S2-201 for more information.

In addition to free tutoring, the LATC also offers 0.5-unit, self-paced classes where you can build your writing, reading, speaking, and study skills. We give each student an individual assessment and curriculum, and there are teachers and tutors there to help you.

Our goal is to help you achieve your goal! Come in today to learn about this very valuable service!



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President of Catalonia Spain Impressed by Mission College

By Mindi Holzchuh

On January 16, Mission College proudly welcomed President Jordi Pujol of Catalonia, Spain, to its campus. President Pujol's mission was to learn about California's community college system and to discuss Mission College's role in Silicon Valley and its technology-driven economy. Among those joining the Catalan delegation were Antoni Subira, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Andreu Mas-Colell, Minister of Universities, Technology, and R&D, and a press corps of journalists representing Spain's radio, television, and newspaper media.



From left to right:

Mina Jihan, Antonio Subira, Andreu Mas-Colell, Lin Marelick, Amelia Akers-Martin, Ingrid Thompson, Karyn Armstrong, Jordi Pujol, Christopher O'Hearn, Ramón Farre, Ramón Pascual, Pat Hudak

Catalonia and its various universities already have working relationships with several California-based institutions including UC-Berkeley and UC-Irvine. On the delegation's trip to the U.S. in January, their hope was to engage in several meetings with leadership at CSU, as well as California Secretary of Education Kerry Mazzone and other senior state and private sector officials. Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States Ruben Barrales, formerly President and CEO of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, recommended Mission College to President Pujol's staff as a benchmark example of California community college infrastructure and the college's role in human capital development in the new economy.

Mission College President Christopher C. O'Hearn welcomed the opportunity to meet with President Pujol. "It was a great honor to be recognized and sought out by such an influential leader," said O'Hearn. "President Pujol was impressed with Mission College and spoke highly of his meeting and tour of the campus." Lin Marelick, Interim Dean of Workforce Development and Dr. Ingrid Thompson, Program Manager for Corporate Training spoke to the delegates about workforce initiatives and corporate partnerships subsequent to Christopher O'Hearn's presentation on the history of community colleges in California and their relationship with the California State Universities and the University of California.

The Catalan delegation and accompanying press corps were also given a tour of the campus which highlighted Mission College's Cisco Networking Lab and Campus Center Computer Lab.

Cal Grant Entitlements

From page 1

Apply by March 2

The message to students and parents has not changed: **File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a GPA Verification Form before March 2.** This is true even for students who do not have definite enrollment plans or who plan to attend a community college and don't believe that they will need financial aid until they transfer to a four-year institution.

Phase-In of Entitlement Awards

Last spring, entitlement awards were limited to graduating high school seniors. All other applicants had to apply for a limited number of "competitive" awards. **Beginning this spring, high school entitlement awards will be available to not only graduating high school seniors but also to students who graduated from high school the prior year.** From this year forward, high school seniors who miss the application deadline will have one additional opportunity to receive a Cal Grant high school entitlement award.

The basic eligibility requirements for a Cal Grant A and a Cal Grant B high school entitlement award are financial need, family income and assets below the program maximums, and a GPA of 3.0 and 2.0 respectively.

The Community College Transfer Entitlement, the final entitlement provision to be phased in, is limited to students who graduated from high school in 2000-01 or later and are under the age of 24. The basic eligibility requirements for transfer entitlement awards are similar to those of the high school entitlement program, except that they require a community college GPA of 2.4.

Students ineligible for an entitlement award, such as students who graduated from high school before 2001 or students who applied more than one year after graduating, still have options. These students can apply for a limited number of competitive awards.

Where does the form go?

Students who have been out of high school for a year or more may be confused about whether to submit the GPA Verification Form to their college or to their high school. Students with fewer than 24 completed college credits at the time of filing the form should submit the form to their high school; those with more than 24 credits, to their college or university.

For more information:

<http://ucop.edu/pathways/ucnotes/feb02/finaid.html>

(Information from Feb 02 UC Notes)

Mission College Receives Proclamation from Milpitas City Council

By Peter Anning

Henry Manayan, Mayor of Milpitas, presented a proclamation at the city council's February 5th meeting, honoring Mission College on its 25th year celebration.



Mr. Manayan read the proclamation to the more than 100 members of the audience, praising Mission College for educating so many students from Milpitas, as well as strengthening the workforce and staying on the cutting edge of technology.

A framed copy of the proclamation was given to Christopher C. O'Hearn, Mission College's President, who thanked the mayor and city council members for acknowledging and honoring the college in this way. "We have developed a good, strong relationship with the citizens of Milpitas, and this recognition can only serve to strengthen our bonds. I'm very pleased with the council's actions and the mayor's support," said O'Hearn.

Mission College has several events planned throughout the spring to celebrate its 25th year of service.

Student Health Services

A Very Valuable Service for Mission Students

By Rosalyn Chan, Coordinator, Student Health Services

How do we take care of the diverse needs of an entire student body? By taking it one student at a time. Our job is to help you be your vital and active best. Come see us not only when you're sick or hurt and want to feel better, but also when you want to learn how to stay well. We provide nursing and



Rachel Lamanet, seated, is the Health Center Office Coordinator. April Caporaletti, standing, is the health Center Nurse

physician consultation, advice, treatment of short-term conditions, referral, and educational services tailored to the individual and often unique needs of college students.

Our holistic approach to your well-being gives you the opportunity to develop the social, emotional and physical dimensions of your life. Whether it's a flu that won't go away, questions about staying fit, or anxieties about personal issues, we can help you get the care you need.

Our caring staff includes physicians, registered nurses, personal counselors and other specialized health care providers. We have access to a broad spectrum of community health resources. We are dedicated to you and to maintaining the highest quality of service in a confidential, convenient, and caring professional setting.

Our services are convenient and affordable; in fact, most services are offered free. Only augmented services, like laboratory tests and special immunizations, are offered at very low cost. **Students entering the Health Occupations, Fire Science/EMT Program, Pharmacy Technician Program, and the International Students Program may receive their medical screening requirements through the Student Health Services. Students seeking on-campus employment may obtain their tuberculosis skin tests here too.**

Appointments for health services are encouraged, but walk-ins will be gladly seen if time is available. Students should call (408) 855-5140 or come to room W1-303. Our hours are: Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (during Fall/Spring semesters). Please call us about our summer hours.

Mission College Hosts Ground Hog Shadows

By Peter Anning

On February 1, 2002, Mission College hosted two tours of young students wanting to learn more about careers. Ann Cowels, Department chair of Allied Health, led 25 students from Buscher Middle School on a tour of the campus and activities in the nursing lab. While in the lab, small groups were teamed up with pairs of Mission students at various stations. The stations included hand washing, wearing protective equipment (goggles, gowns, masks, gloves), naming major bones on a skeleton, taking pulse, respiration rate and blood pressure, and listening to heart and lung sounds under the guidance of Kathy Creed, an instructor in the Health Occupation program. Later, students learned about fighting fires on hillsides and crawled into fire proof tents while wearing heavy helmets.

Kristen Hurlbut, 11, said she had fun “listening to the mannequin’s heartbeat and learning about what other people do and like to do. It made me think more about maybe becoming a doctor or a nurse.”

At the same time, Hospitality Management instructor Scott Brunson hosted 15 students from Milpitas High School’s Travel & Tourism Academy. After a presentation on restaurant and hospitality jobs, the students prepared a great lunch including linguini in alfredo sauce, grilled vegetable kebabs, green salad and a chocolate cake in the department’s kitchen.

Ground Hog Shadow Day is sponsored and coordinated by Workforce Silicon Valley and Junior Achievement to give students real-world exposure to various career options and working conditions.

Reminders for Fall 2002 UC Applicants

Although applications have been submitted long ago and admissions evaluations are well under way at all UC campuses, there are still a few important updates and reminders for fall 2002 applicants.

Academic Program Changes

If there are any changes to the information provided on the self-reported academic record following submission of the application - including changes to coursework listed as in progress or planned - students must notify in writing the Admissions Office at each campus to which they applied .

Adding a Campus

Students who wish to apply to additional University of California campuses after submitting their applications must mail a written request to the UC Application Processing Service. Contact the Processing Service by regular mail at P.O. Box 23460, Oakland, CA 94623-0460 or by e-mail at ucapp@ucop.edu. Students must include their application ID number and social security number, along with the new campus name(s) and major(s) to which they wish to apply and a check or money order for \$40 for each additional campus selected (payable to The Regents of the University of California). Requests will be honored only if the campuses chosen still have space available. Information about campuses accepting applications after the close of the filing period is available online.

Moving/Changing Schools

Students who enroll in another school or college after submitting the application must notify in writing the Admissions Office at each campus to which they applied . Students must include the institution's name and a description of the courses they are taking and plan to take.

Address Change

If a student's address or telephone number changes after filing an application, he or she must notify the UC Undergraduate Application Processing Service of the changes in writing (see address above).

Notification of Admission

Fall term freshman applicants who filed on time during November 2001 will be notified as to whether or not they have been admitted between March 1 and March 31, 2002. Transfer applicants will be notified between March 1 and May 1, 2002.

For more information, go to: <http://ucop.edu/pathways/ucnotes/feb02/updates.html>

(from Feb 02 UC Notes)

Learning Communities

From page 1

"The learning community is very useful because there is more than one teacher to help you. You feel more confident in class with your classmates because you are spending eight hours a week with them."

"Friendly, connected, related."

"This is a wonderful class, and it's like a home for me. With three teachers, we can improve our skills a lot."

Dianne McKay,
Reading
instructor, helps
student retrieve
apple at
Halloween apple
bobbing contest



Learning communities are several classes that are linked together. The students all take the same two or three classes with one another. The teachers work together so that they use related material in each of the classes. During the past year, we have linked English or Math or ESL with Counseling 901 called "Student Success Strategies". The counseling class helped students with study skills, organization and motivation while using the specific curriculum of the linked class in ESL, English or Math.

In addition, another form of learning community linked 3 classes together, all taught one right after the other, all using similar material so that a report on one topic might be used for all classes. All the classes are coordinated so that students would use information learned in one class to solve problems and homework assignments in another. One group, called "Fulfilling Your American Dreams" connected ESL 135 (reading), English 905 (English) and Counseling 901 to serve as a bridge for students moving from the ESL to the English curriculum, a transition many students struggle with.

"Survival on Success Island" combined Reading 961, English 905 and Counseling 1. It explored the issue of success from a variety of angles to help the students define what they mean by success and to acquire the skills to be successful. Special projects and events included a talk by the college president, a field

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Advice from Admissions

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“They apply first and determine the fit second.” If a student starts early enough, he or she can explore some options they may not have considered.

2. Skip the question “How good is your program in...?”

It’s the question we dread the most, probably because we hear it so frequently,” says SCU Associate Dean of Admissions Kevin Lum Lung. Why? Because students may not learn much from the answer—if a school has a program in a particular subject, chances are most counselors will say that it is good. “Ask a more specific question,” suggests Lum Lung, “one that demonstrates a little knowledge about the school and/or subject.” For example, he cites, “Tell me about how communication majors work with firms in Silicon Valley.”

3. Double-check the essay

Schools know that students use the same essay for multiple applications, but it is important for students to be sure the right school name gets on the right application. “I always joke with students about this one, says admissions counselor Latanya Johnson. “When I read an essay and it says, “I really think Gonzaga is the school for me, I know that somebody forgot to search and replace.”

4. Be passionate about something, not everything

We’re looking for a well-rounded class,” says Lum Lung. “That means we’re looking for individuals who are passionate about certain things, not experts in everything. Students should skip the four-page resume and use the application as an opportunity to share what really makes them tick. “We want to know what students enjoy, what motivates them, not all the things they did to get into college,” says Lum Lung.

5. The student should drive the process

Parents can play an important role in helping their son or daughter navigate the college admissions process and schools encourage their participation. But ultimately, it’s the applicant who needs to be out in front.

6. Explore options

If a student really wants to attend a particular school and is not admitted, he or she should ask the admissions counselor what to do to become eligible in the future. For example, Santa Clara has several agreements with local community colleges that give students an opportunity to transfer to SCU once they’ve fulfilled some of their requirements. Many universities have similar arrangements with schools in their area.

Mission College has TAA (Transfer Admissions Agreements) with Santa Clara University, San Jose State, UC Davis, UC Riverside and a Cooperative Admissions Program (CAP) with UC Berkeley. The CAP program allows high school students who applied to Berkeley but didn’t get in to request a guaranteed admission after 60 transferable units at the community college. This is true for both the school of Letters and Science and for the school of Engineering. The student must have marked this option on the original application. For more information about the TAA and CAP agreements, please see your Mission Counselor as soon as possible.

Learning Communities

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trip to Globix for a seminar on emerging trends in technology, bobbing for apples on Halloween and many joint projects including a library and book project.

Students became a community, often eating lunch together, forming real friendships, finding classmates with similar interests, and “hanging out” with each other after class. ESL students participated in class discussions more and felt comfortable sharing ideas because they knew their contributions would be appreciated.

The learning communities had exceptional success this past year. Many students stayed in school and finished their courses when they might have quit if they had been in regular courses. Student surveys indicated that 93% of learning community students felt they got to know other students better; 89% thought they learned the material better in the new format; 90% said they were more confident learners and 91% said they would definitely recommend the program to other students.

Keep your eyes open in the Fall 2002 schedule of classes. Similar learning communities will be offered this fall. **Take advantage and work smarter, not harder.**

New on the Web

Here are some new things to check out on Mission College’s Web site-

<http://www.missioncollege.org>

The English, Math, Reading and ESL assessment schedule is available on the Web. It can be accessed through the Admissions and Records link and then to Assessment testing or by going to

http://www.missioncollege.org/student_services/assess/assess.html

In addition to the testing schedule, you can pick up copies of assessment test questions for any of the tests from the same site.