

COUNSELING CONNECTIONS



MISSION COLLEGE Counseling/Matriculation

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ACCESS Program Changes Students' Lives

*Interview with Rosalie Ledesma,
Director of the ACCESS Program*

"First Generation to College Students" (students whose parents did not get a bachelor's degree) don't always achieve to their highest potential and often sell themselves short. This is because, as a first generation college student, they don't have the information, the resources or the support necessary to seek out their best choices.



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Sweeping Budget Cuts will Gut School Programs

Because of the tremendous budget deficit this year, the governor has proposed a sweeping series of budget cuts that will seriously affect your education. The Governor proposes a cut of \$1 billion over 18 months for community colleges. These cuts disproportionately hit community colleges. The Governor's Budget Summary states that K-12 is provided a 1.6% increase, UC and CSU are provided a 2.5% increase, but community colleges are proposed to be cut 6.2%. These budget cuts will affect all of the California community colleges. Many, like Mission College, will have to radically alter programs. The state is also considering raising the cost per unit from \$11 to \$24. This option will be debated in the legislature all summer and won't go into effect until the budget is signed.

According to Chancellor Stan Arterberry of the West Valley Mission Community College District, "The magnitude of the projected general fund budget shortfall is so far-reaching that we (The West Valley Mission Community College District) will not be able to manage it without sacrifices by all employees in all areas of the District. Even if we cut all operating expenses throughout the District (\$11,816,439-mid-year '02-'03 budget amount), utilizing no power, using no paper or chalk or telephone lines, we would fall short of the \$15.2+ million goal for balancing the budget."

The district has sent possible termination notices to 56 full-time faculty and may not rehire hundreds of part-time faculty, resulting in a loss of hundreds of sections. The following are a few examples of how the budget will affect Mission College programs.

LATC- Learning Lab and Tutoring Center

There will be a shortage of staff, which means that students who need one-on-one tutoring will have to plan far ahead, make sure they show up to their appointments, and will have to wait for drop-in help. It also means that the LATC will have to penalize students who make appointments and do not show up to them because they block other students from signing up (which creates a window where no one gets help). They are now tracking students who do not show up and those students may lose tutoring privileges.

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ACCESS Program

From Page 1

The ACCESS program accepts only those students who show an academic need and are either first generation to college, low income and/or disabled. These students often have academic, financial or personal challenges that can hinder their success. Some students reveal that their families do not support their coming to college. Others have difficulties because of low scores on the English, Math or Reading assessment tests.

So ACCESS provides the knowledge and aid that they would otherwise not have. Because of this help, ACCESS students succeed in graduating and/or transferring at around 4 to 5 times the transfer rate of the general student population.

One of this year's ACCESS students was just accepted to Johnson and Wales in Rhode Island to study Business Management. Current students are looking at MIT, Cal Tech, UCLA and Stanford as well as San Jose State, the other CSU's and Santa Clara University. These students are now much more committed to their education. People think that intelligence is innate. But the real success story comes from applying effort. As Woody Allen said, "90% of success is just showing up."

A major focus at ACCESS has been on transfer to non-traditional schools, seeing SJSU and Santa Clara University as guaranteed backups because of Mission's Transfer Admissions Agreements (TAA). The approach they have been taking is very comprehensive. When they first meet with students who are admitted to the program, the students are tested on their study skills and their career interests. From the results of those two assessments, ACCESS is better able to guide the student. Based on the student's scores, they map out a 7-year plan often including graduate school. About 50% need to stay in the Bay Area because of family obligations but the other half are single and many are willing to move anywhere. Then they explore their other choices including many of the top schools in the country.

Money tends to be the biggest barrier for students applying to private universities. Therefore, students neither prepare for nor apply to these institutions. The fact is that private universities have quite a bit of money to fund students. As an example, former ACCESS student Marisol Monarrez transferred in the fall to Santa Clara University from Mission College. Her total out of pocket costs for her first year of tuition was \$2000. All the rest (\$21,000+) was covered by grants provided directly by Santa Clara.

There are also other ways to cover college costs. For example, Santa Clara University has an on-going grant that pays full tuition and credential costs for students who graduated from an Eastside Unified high school. Each school has a variety of grants and scholarships of this type.

ACCESS takes students on tours to a variety of colleges including Mills College, Saint Mary's and Stanford as well as the CSU's and UC's. They also offer hands-on workshops on scholarships, study skills, and later this semester they will be doing workshops on graduate schools.

Programs like ACCESS do a wonderful job to provide needed support and encouragement to our students.



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Mission College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or handicap in educational programs, activities or employment.

Transfer College Fair

Thursday, May 8th

200 four-year colleges at Mission

10:00am-12:30pm and 5:30-8:00pm.

Don't miss it!

Big Changes in Mission's ESL Courses

By Julaine Rosner and Marsha Chan

The ESL Department has recently made changes to our curriculum that will come into effect in the fall of 2003. These changes were designed to provide the best possible preparation for students who will move into English courses and classes in other disciplines. Most of the changes are in the upper three levels of ESL. However, in order to put these and other changes into effect, the entire numbering system for ESL courses had to be adapted.

All ESL course numbers now are comprised of a three digit number with a suffix of one or two letters. The first digit is a nine. The 9 indicates that the course is non-degree applicable and repeatable. The second digit indicates level, which now ranges from Level 1 (the foundation level) to Level 7 (advanced). The third digit in the course number is a zero. Finally, all course numbers for ESL now have a suffix indicating the language focus. Thus, the course number 970RW shows that this is an advanced course in reading and writing, and the course number 940GW indicates an intermediate course in grammar and writing. For a list of suffixes and course numbers, please see chart.

In the first four levels of ESL, the course numbers have changed, but the course content remains the same. However, in the three upper levels of ESL, the course content has changed significantly. Specifically, reading and writing have been combined in the RW courses, and grammar is the focus of a separate course ending in G. Listening and speaking remain the focus of the LS courses. Also, there is one entirely new course, ESL 966. This grammar/editing class supports the needs of non-native speakers in courses outside of ESL that require a great deal of writing (e.g. English 108A). See the chart for new courses, which are indicated by an asterisk.

In addition, the following rules will apply. Students who have taken ESL 123, 133, 124, 134, 125, or 135 will have until Fall 2004 (two semesters) to complete the old GW and/or RV courses; both the new and the old courses will be offered until that time. Most students should begin taking the new ESL 950-970 RW and G courses in Fall 2003, but some students should take the courses from the old curriculum. For example, any student who has taken ESL 123 or 133, one and not the other, may take the corresponding old course to complete the level 3 RWG skills area. The same holds true for level 4 and 5. All other students (who have not initiated the old RWG skills area at a certain level) should simply take the new courses at that level (ESL 930, 940 or 950 in RW or G skill areas). Also, starting Fall 2004, all students beyond the 940 level will be required to complete all the courses at one level before proceeding to the next level (e.g., complete 950 GW, 950 LS and 950 RV before taking any courses at the 960 level).

It is the hope of the ESL Department that these changes will provide enhanced preparation for our students as they move into other disciplines. If you have questions about these changes, please contact ESL Division Chair Rachel Lowenberg at (408) 855-5318 or ESL Department Chair Myo Myint at (408) 855-5316

Changes in ESL Course Numbers

Old	New	
910A 950A	→ 910 → 910LC	Foundations
910B 950B 960	→ 920 → 920LC → 920CC	Beginning
111 121 131	→ 930LS → 930GW → 930RV	Advanced Beginning
112 122 132 062	→ 940LS → 940GW → 940RV → 940HC	Low Intermediate
113 123 123/133 143	→ 950LS → 950G* → 950RW* → 950PL	Intermediate
114 124 124/134	→ 960LS → 960G* → 960RW*	High Intermediate
115 065 125/135 145	→ 970LS → 970G → 970RW* → 970AR 966*	Advanced

AR = accent reduction
 CC = child care
 G = grammar (oral/written)
 GW = grammar & writing
 HC = health care
 LC = listening & culture
 LS = listening & speaking
 PL = pronunciation & listening
 RV = reading & vocabulary
 RW = reading & writing
 * = new course beginning Fall 2003

1 HINT: If you're trying to compare these levels to those from the previous system, just subtract two from the new course number's second digit. For example, all 940 courses are at what we now call level two.

Mission College Financial Aid Update

By Janet Stevenson

Now is the time to apply for Financial Aid for the 2003-2004 academic year. Those who had their applications postmarked by March 3rd will receive priority processing. You may apply after March 3rd, but your application will be considered late and will be processed after the priority applications.

In order to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress, remember to comply with all regulations learned in your SAP Session. Remain in all of the units for which you were registered by February 8, 2003. Dropping more than 1/3 of your units will cause you to be placed on Financial Aid Probation or Disqualification, and may require you to repay a portion of your financial aid. If you feel you need a review of the financial aid rules and regulations feel free to attend another SAP session. A new SAP schedule for the Spring 2003 semester is posted in the Financial Aid Office window.

Financial Aid Web Site

The Financial Aid Web Site has been updated. To view this site, go online to the Mission College website (www.missioncollege.org). Choose "Student Services" then "Financial Aid". Look for new information and links to different Financial Aid forms and applications. This site will be updated as new information becomes available. New features include:

- a link to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- a link to the Board of Governor's Fee Waiver (BOGW) Applications
- a link to the Mission College Scholarship Application for 2003-2004
- a link to the Data Sheet forms for federal aid student files

BOGW

The Board Of Governor's Fee Waiver application is now online in the Mission College website (www.missioncollege.org). Look for the link to the application form.

To make sure you choose the correct form:

- 2002-2003 application is good only until the end of Spring Semester 2003
- 2003-2004 application will be active for Summer 2003 through Spring 2004

If you received a Board of Governor's Fee Waiver for the Spring of 2003, you will need to reapply for the fee waiver to be active in the Summer 2003.



Federal Stafford Loans

Mission College will again begin distributing Federal Stafford Loan applications from February 13th through April 4, 2003 for the continuing 2002-2003 academic school year. Students will not be able to apply for a student loan until they have received an award letter. If you haven't received a letter, check with the Financial Aid Office for requirements.

Students who have received their first loan check for the Fall 2002 semester will receive their second loan check sometime after mid-March 2003. Student ID numbers will be listed in the Financial Aid Office window when their checks have been received by our office. As soon as you see your number posted, come to our office to pick up your check(s).

Cal Grant B & C

Regarding the 2003-2004 Cal Grant applications, students who have completed 24 transferable college units at Mission College do not have to complete a "2003-2004 Cal Grant GPA Verification" form (but must still complete a 2003-2004 FAFSA) because their GPAs will be sent electronically to the California Student Aid Commission. Students who have not completed at least 24 college units must obtain a Cal Grant GPA Verification form from the Financial Aid Office and go to their high school to have the GPA verification form completed. For the 2003-2004 school year, the deadlines for those students who apply for the Cal Grant are March 3rd, 2003, and September 2, 2003.

An exception to the general Cal Grant application procedure above concerning GPAs is the "Re-Established GPA", which states that students who have completed at least 16 community college units may use those units' GPA instead of their high school GPA. (Students should choose this option if the re-established GPA is higher than their high school's.) Re-Established GPAs only apply toward the Cal Grant B competitive award.

Students who choose to use their Mission College re-established GPAs also do not have to complete a Cal Grant GPA Verification form because their GPAs will be sent electronically to the California Student Aid Commission. But they must still complete a 2003-2004 FAFSA.

What Do Our Students Think

By Special Reporter, Pamela Sanft



How will a raise in fees to \$24 per unit affect you?

Name : Jewel Johnson

When did you first start at Mission College?
What made you decide to go to Mission?

What is your major?
Your age?

Question of Day : *It's going to be a hardship and I'm not going to be able to take as many units.*

Born: Oakland, Ca

August 1999
I wanted to come to Mission because it was close to me.
Women's Studies
56



Name : Bhupinder Gill

When did you first start at Mission College?
What made you decide to go to Mission ?

What is your major?
Your age?

Question of Day: *If they raise it, it will go straight to the state funds, and it will take two years to affect Mission College. It is a disservice to the students.*

Born: San Jose, CA

Spring 2000
Because of the Fire Science program and I wanted to play intercollegiate Tennis.
Fire Science
20



Name : Keyoanna Hernandez

When did you first start at Mission College?
What made you decide to go to Mission ?

What is your major?
Your age?

Question of Day: *I'm not going to be able to afford it. I will not be able to attend school.*

Born: San Jose, CA

Fall 2002
I wanted to go to Mission College because it was close to home.
Liberal Arts
19



Name : Boris Kotelnikov

When did you first start at Mission College?
What made you decide to go to Mission ?

What is your major?
Your age?

Question of Day: *It's going to be harder to pay for classes, I will be getting less units done in the same amount of time. People that are non-residents will most likely drop out.*

Born: Russia

Spring 2003
I wanted to go to Mission College because of its Nursing Program.
Nursing
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Budget Cuts

From Page 1

Library

The effect of budget cuts on library services will be severe. Most significantly, there will be:

- (1) Reduced hours of operations
- (2) fewer books and textbooks
- (3) cut-backs of online databases
- (4) slower service desk help
- (5) Increased delays for repair of equipment, such as computers and video players, thus fewer functioning equipment pieces.

Health Occupations- Nursing, Psychiatric Technician, CNA

Health Occupation students are affected by the budget crisis in two major areas:

- 1) the elimination of clinical assistants decreases the experiences the student may have in the hospital—they are not able to do as many procedures as they would if a clinical assistant were there.
- 2) The nursing lab assistant will have decreased hours so students will not be able to spend time in the nursing lab practicing procedures and doing computer simulations

CET -Computer/Electronics Technology

CET is a laboratory-based program. To remain viable and relevant, equipment must be reasonably close to that used within industry. These budget cuts threaten to make Mission's equipment obsolete and nearly impossible to maintain.

Natural Science and Engineering

The Science and Engineering division consists of very small departments with 8 full time faculty members. They offer courses that support student transfer to four-year schools and student certificate programs at Mission College. The elimination of the part time faculty will force them to offer only one section of each of our core courses and, in some cases, to offer only one section per year. Because of prerequisites for some of these courses (4A is required before a student can enter 4B), the student will find that their time at Mission College will be extended and they will have difficulty in completing the general education part of their requirements.

DISC – Disability Instructional Support Center

The Governor is proposing a 45% cut to the Disabled Students Programs statewide. If these budget cuts take place, it will severely disrupt accommodations to students with disabilities. Classes will not be offered, time allotment per student will be minimal and the major strides the college has taken to comply with the federal and state mandates will be compromised.

These are only a few of the ways that the budget shortfall will impact your life at Mission College if the budget cuts remain as currently proposed.



Contact Information

If you want to contact your legislator to protest these cuts, you can find their addresses and e-mails through the following website

<http://www.missioncollege.org/news/budget.html>

Here are the addresses/emails for the senator and assemblywoman serving the 95054 zip code area (Mission College). If you live in a different area, you can find your representatives by using the website above.

State Senator John Vasconcellos

Capitol Office

State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-9740
Fax (916) 324-0283

District Office

100 Paseo de San Antonio, Suite 209
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 286-8318
Fax (408) 286-2338
Senator.vasconcellos@sen.ca.gov

State Assembly Woman Sally Lieber

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