

California has more than 100 community colleges offering course work that prepares students to transfer to a four-year college or to prepare to work in a vocational field. All community colleges offer an extensive program of academic courses, but the career training programs vary from campus to campus. The Contra Costa Community College District consists of Diablo Valley College (DVC), Contra Costa College, and Los Medanos College (LMC). Although these colleges are considered our local community colleges, students can attend *any* community college in the State of California. Vocational certificate programs within each community college will vary from campus to campus, and some campuses have residence facilities available. Contact out-of-area community colleges to inquire about housing options early in the spring prior to fall enrollment. To find out more about California's community colleges, visit www.cccco.edu.

A GOOD CHOICE IF . . .

- ★ You wish an excellent value in education. The community college offers quality education at a low cost!
- ★ You plan to complete a four-year program (Bachelor's Degree) by spending your first two years at a community college and then transferring to a four-year college/university as a junior.
- ★ You wish to attend college for one or two years to learn job skills and receive training necessary to enter the job market.
- ★ You are not sure of the field of study you wish to pursue and you want to explore various subject areas.
- ★ You wish to begin your college career while remaining in your home community

ADMISSIONS

Requirements

- ★ The minimum requirements is any one of the following:
 - ★ High school diploma
 - ★ 18 years of age
 - ★ Successful completion of the California High School Proficiency Exam
 - ★ GED with an overall average of 55 and no score below 50

Applications

- ★ Paper applications are available from college admissions offices at the community colleges, and from high school College & Career Centers. On-line application is available at colleges' web sites (www.dvc.edu, www.contracosta.edu, www.losmedanos.edu).

Placement Tests

- ★ English, writing, and math placement tests are required and administered free of charge by the community college of your choice, so students can begin their courses at the appropriate level. These tests are not entrance requirements.

VOCATIONAL - TECHNICAL TRAINING

- ★ Career programs, also known as vocational, occupational or technical programs, prepare students with entry level and upgraded job skills and training necessary for employment. The programs range in length from one semester to three years. The units earned may be applied toward the Associate degree. Students who successfully complete these programs will be awarded a Certificate of Achievement.
- ★ A listing of the various vocational training programs is in your College & Career Center. Some of the Certificate programs include, but are not limited to: aeronautics technology, automotive technology, Cisco network technician, cosmetology, court reporting, dental hygiene, electronics, emergency medical technician, fire technology, multimedia, radiology technician, registered nurse, and many more.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

- ★ All community colleges offer a full range of academic courses that enable a student to transfer to a four-year college or university. If you complete the “transfer program” for the University of California or California State University and plan carefully, you may enter the four-year college as a junior after two years of community college work. Transfer Guarantee Programs are available for all UC campuses except Berkeley and UCLA. Meet with your community college counselor each semester, and take advantage of your college’s Transfer Center. To verify that the courses you are taking will transfer to the University of California, visit www.assist.org.
- ★ If you do not complete the required transfer program, California public universities (UCs and CSUs) will revert back to your high school courses, GPA, and SAT or ACT scores to determine your eligibility for admission. Lower division transfers - students who have not yet attained junior standing - have lower transfer priority at California public universities. Impacted UC and CSU campuses generally do not admit lower division transfer students.
- ★ If you want to transfer to a *private or an out-of-state college*, contact your community college counselor or a counselor at the school you wish to attend to discuss what courses you should take. These colleges may allow you to transfer with less than two years of community college course work completed.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available for students who qualify for both transfer and vocational training programs. Interested students will need to complete and submit a Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form between January 1 and March 2. Contact the community college financial aid office if you are unable to meet the March 2nd deadline. The FAFSA and GPA Verification forms are available on-line and at your high school’s College & Career Center.

Diablo Valley College offers some scholarships for new freshmen. Contact the DVC Scholarship Office after the first of the year. Contact other community colleges directly, or visit their web sites, to find out about scholarship opportunities.

DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE

DVC offers Mount Diablo Unified School District students the opportunity to take the required placement tests on their local high school campuses. Registration for Counseling 105, DVC’s required orientation class, takes place after placement tests are completed. Placement Testing is scheduled in March or April; students will need to contact their College & Career Centers for the specific time and date. Advanced reservation is usually required. Students must bring a completed paper application, or proof of application on-line at www.dvc.edu, and a signed DVC Special Admission Form, with them to placement tests.