

ADVANTAGES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(a.k.a. 2-Year College, "Junior" College, "City" College)

1. **Cost:** Current fee is \$46 for identified California resident students. Additional fees are charged for health office, books, parking, etc.
2. **Location:** Close to home so students can live at home and attend school. Also, there are many community colleges available throughout San Diego. Some colleges offer classes online, or off-site at neighboring high schools or community centers.
3. **Admission:** Accepts all high school graduates or students who are at least 18 years of age. There is a higher acceptance rate to four-year university for community college transfers than for high school students and many colleges have guaranteed transfer programs. Students who aren't selected for their first choice 4 year college may attend community college and transfer to that college later.
4. **GPA/Grades:** High school grades will not be transferred to the community college. Students can have a "fresh start" on GPA. Universities use the total GPA of transferable classes taken at the community college. **Students do not need to take college admissions tests like SAT or ACT tests.**
5. **Transfer:** After taking required community college courses, students can transfer to a university to finish the last two years of college. The first two years of courses at any university are called general education or lower division requirements. Students complete the first two years of general education requirements at the community college and transfer to a four-year university/college. The college diploma is from the four-year college.
6. **Honors Program:** Programs vary at each community college, students enrolled in honors programs can receive priority registration and transfer to a four-year university (must maintain a certain GPA at the community college).
7. **Certificated Programs:** One to two-year certificated programs are available in specialized professional areas such as Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, Drafting, Architecture, Audio Technology, LVN, Medical Assisting, Bookkeeping, etc.
8. **Classes:** Smaller class size for introductory coursework (average 40 students) compared to larger universities where an introductory class can have up to 300 students.
9. **Class selection:** A wide variety of interesting courses. Also, class times may be more convenient for non-traditional students (evening, Saturday, short-term classes [9 –15 weeks] available).
10. **Faculty:** Professors may be more accessible and are interested in helping students transfer to a university.
11. **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is available to help pay for tuition and books, including Cal Grants if a student qualifies. Scholarships are available for two-year college as well.