

NO. 1 IN TRANSFERS TO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA — FOR 28 STRAIGHT YEARS!

FOCUS ON EFFICIENCY

Santa Monica College continues its strong, multi-decade emphasis on the successful transfer of its students to four-year institutions and is the leading feeder college the University of California and other universities.

Santa Monica College sent more students, 1,289 transfers, to the University of California system than any other California community college for the 28th straight year for the 2017-2018 academic year (the college maintained their No. 1 position in 2018-2019 with 1,272 students transferring to UC campuses). SMC came in a close second for total transfers to both the UC and California State University campuses with 2,461 transfers. Many of these students are the first in their families to pursue a college degree.

SMC’s Student Services Transfer Center cultivates a campus-wide culture and commitment to their students successfully moving to four-year institutions to earn their degrees. The college’s Transfer Counseling and Services unit also offers a range of transfer-related activities, including workshops, weekly visits to campus by university representatives and possibly one of the largest annual college fairs in the state.

The Transfer Center’s pronounced focus on closing the equity gap for students of color includes a variety of outreach programs, and SMC held the top spot for the number of African-American and Hispanic students headed to UC campuses in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

In addition, SMC’s Scholars Program prepares students for the rigor of upper-division coursework, providing smaller classes, intensive counseling and academic support. Scholars receive priority consideration for admissions through special transfer agreements with the UCLA College of Letters and Science’s Transfer Alliance Program, UC Irvine, Loyola Marymount University and other institutions.

The Transfer Admission Guarantee program at SMC partners with other institutions and offers guaranteed admission for students who meet specific requirements to several universities including Loyola Marymount University, Arizona State University and many historically black colleges and universities, among other institutions.

MILESTONES

Fall Semester

- Application workshops are conducted before applications are due in November.
- Students apply to four-year institutions.
- SMC’s large College Fair is held in October.

Spring Semester

- Students hear back from schools about acceptance, and counselors help accepted students prepare for transfer.
- Counselors assist students who are not readily accepted to four-year institutions with the appeals process and other options.

QUANTIFICATION AND RESULTS

For 2017-2018, SMC transferred 1,289 students to the UC system; for comparison, the No. 2 and No. 3 feeder schools each sent 938 students to UC campuses.

The 1,289 SMC students who transferred to the UC in 2017-2018 included 199 Hispanic students and 54 African American students.

For the 2017-2018 school year, 504 SMC students transferred to UCLA; 182 went to UC San Diego, and 161 attended UC Santa Barbara. In fall 2018, SMC had more students transfer to Loyola Marymount University (98 students) and the University of Southern California (146) than any other community college.

The fall 2018 College Fair featured 173 U.S. and international colleges and universities, and the 2019 fair reflected similar success with 175 participants.

IMPACT AND BENEFITS

Reflecting SMC's intensive program to close the higher-education equity gap, the college sent the most Hispanic students (199) and African American students (54) to UC campuses in 2017-2018. This achievement reflects the college's ongoing effort to address the equity gap with a recognizable impact on students.

LESSONS LEARNED

1

It's important to remember that program goals, data and transfer rates are more than just words and numbers on the page. The program is more productive and effective when the statistics are viewed as individual students who are impacting their families and communities in their pursuit of higher education.

2

Targeted outreach is integral to a successful program – and not just to boost numbers but to also ensure that students are headed to a four-year institution that fits their personal goals.

3

Outreach to students of color also requires intention and action, including programs that effectively touch varying populations on campus versus workshops where everyone is invited, and students have to make the decision to attend. An "I'll come to you in your space" approach is the most effective.

4

General workshops are important but not a complete approach. Find out what students' concerns are, and create workshops specifically on those topics.

FURTHER REFERENCES

Santa Monica College Newsroom articles about the college's transfer program: 2017-2018:

<http://www.smc.edu/NewsRoom/Pages/SMC-Leads-in-Transfers-to-UCs-for-28th-Year.aspx>

2017-2018:

<http://www.smc.edu/NewsRoom/Pages/No-1-in-Transfers-for-29th-Straight-Year.aspx>