General Information

The College
Santa Barbara City College is a comprehensive community college serving the south coast of Santa Barbara County, with a population of almost 200,000. The college is one of 109 California community colleges organized under the California Education Code. As such, it is subject to the decisions of the California Legislature and, as defined by law, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. It is also responsible to its local constituency through an elected Board of Trustees, which is the principal policymaking body for the college.

Santa Barbara City College offers an extensive program of postsecondary education that is especially responsive to the needs of adults in the local community. A wide range of associate degree and certificate programs is available, as are transfer programs that provide the first two years of study toward the baccalaureate degree. A variety of general educational opportunities, both credit and noncredit, is also available for persons wishing to develop new or expanded occupational skills, or to broaden their cultural perspectives or artistic talents.

Through its Continuing Education Division, the college also offers a program in basic reading, writing and math, enabling adults to develop fundamental skills needed for survival in a complex society. Citizenship and English as a Second Language classes for immigrants are also offered.

Responding to community needs, the college’s programs address economic development, on-site work force training, skills enhancement, job training and lifelong learning opportunities. To serve the diverse needs of students, a broad variety of student services is provided, including academic and personal counseling, financial aid, career guidance and maintenance of academic progress records. Special programs are also available for reentry students, the physically disabled and the economically disadvantaged.

Students of the college are, for the most part, from the local community. However, the college also attracts many students from throughout the state, national, and international locations. Students range in age from under 18 to over 80 years and represent a wide range of ethnic groups.

Santa Barbara City College is especially committed to making its educational programs accessible to cultural, ethnic and age groups that have traditionally been under-served by postsecondary education. Means for achieving this goal include outreach, testing and diagnosis, counseling and placement, developmental education and special retention programs, such as peer counseling, tutoring and financial aid.

The college recognizes that the goals of today’s students are as diverse as the students themselves. Hence, SBCC attempts to provide programs compatible with a wide range of goals and to assist in goals clarification when appropriate. Among principal commitments of the college are the broadening of the individual’s view of educational possibilities that are available, and assisting students in formulating and carrying out a plan to achieve selected goals.

Vision & Mission Statement
Santa Barbara City College is committed to being a model community college for the 21st century. SBCC will provide many ways for students to access the college’s high-quality and affordable higher education programs. Students will achieve academic success in greater numbers as they prepare for transfer, and acquire occupational competencies and the academic skills required for succeeding in higher education.

The college will develop new ways to fully respond to the needs of its community. Such efforts will focus on a comprehensive continuing (adult) education program and targeted programs to provide economic development.

As a model community college, SBCC will serve all segments of its community while expanding its efforts to meet the educational needs of traditionally under-served groups. To achieve unprecedented levels of community responsiveness, SBCC will collaborate with local organizations to identify and respond with programs to meet educational needs. The college will operate knowing that it is a part of the larger community. The college’s development and operations will be consistent with the environmental well-being of our larger community.

The college will continue to value and promote educational change and innovation that increases the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of its programs. The following four core values will continue to guide institutional decision-making:

1. A commitment to excellence in all that the college undertakes;

2. A focus on students in determining policies, practices and programs;

3. A commitment to faculty and staff collaboration and collegiality; and
4. An environment that is both psychologically and physically supportive of faculty, students and staff.

SBCC will achieve its goal of becoming a model community college by capitalizing on the strengths of its culture and values and its mission by becoming a fully technologically enabled institution. The potential of technology will be leveraged to provide students with maximum possible independence and college responsiveness to meet the student’s educational objectives. Technology will be applied to increase the college’s efficiency, effectiveness and communication, and to build a community of students, faculty and staff, all of whom are committed to educational excellence and student success.

Guiding Principles

- There is in each individual an intrinsic dignity and worth.
- A democratic society functions best when its members are educated and participating citizens.
- Individuals have the capacity to learn to direct their destiny and the responsibility to participate effectively in the affairs of society.
- The opportunity to learn should be accessible to all who can profit from it and who wish to avail themselves of it.
- Each person should be encouraged and helped to realize his/her fullest potential regardless of economic, educational, or physical disadvantages, and/or cultural differences.
- The community and the individual are best served when people can find satisfying and productive vocations and can learn to make rewarding use of leisure time.
- It is important that all people learn about cultural heritages and how to work together to create a better society.
- As a community college, Santa Barbara City College must be responsive to the needs of the community it serves.
- A commitment to the ideal and tradition of academic freedom is basic to an intellectual environment which encourages serious scholarship and critical, independent thinking.
- Education is a lifelong process—not solely preparation for adult life.

Fundamental Purposes

The fundamental purposes of Santa Barbara City College are:

- To provide uncompromisingly excellent quality of instruction in all programs of the college, and to create and maintain an environment that emphasizes teaching and learning, and encourages free discussion of ideas, interests and issues.
- To maintain a comprehensive curriculum that supports a viable transfer program, a diverse career/technical program, and general credit and noncredit educational opportunities appropriate to the needs of the South Coast community.
- To provide equal opportunity to postsecondary education at minimum cost to all who wish to avail themselves of it, or who can benefit from it, through programs of outreach, counseling, placement and developmental education, and through a policy of non-discrimination and affirmative action.
- To be particularly responsive to the needs of the local community and the citizens who come to the college as students, and to be sensitive to changes in these needs.
- To be responsive to the needs of the region, state and the nation for persons trained in particular skills.

In pursuit of these purposes, the college will provide programs and services in the most cost-effective manner possible, and, at all times, will practice fiscal responsibility.

Continuing Education Division

This is the 87th year of Continuing Education in Santa Barbara, and the 47th year in which the program has been administered by the Continuing Education Division of Santa Barbara City College.

The division is guided by a 40-member Santa Barbara Citizens’ Continuing Education Advisory Council. Continuing Education offerings provide opportunities for the self-realization of individual adults as wage-earners and as social and creative beings. These various offerings contribute educational experiences for the lifelong growth of every citizen in order to make the community and the world a better and more peaceful place in which to live.

The classes are noncredit and are designed to fulfill a variety of needs. State-supported courses are offered in the fields of parenting; elementary and secondary basic skills; English as a second language; citizenship;
vocational education; home economics; health and safety education; and education for older adults. Additional courses each term in such areas as environmental education and current events are provided as a community service and are not state-supported.

The division operates an Adult and Evening High School Program which offers counseling and classes leading to completion of a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate; a Citizenship Center which provides citizenship support services to assist in the naturalization process and to promote U.S. citizenship; a Computers in Our Future Center offering free and low-cost access to training in computer technology for local low-income residents, particularly young people; a Steps To Employment/Educational Process (STEP) program offering free services to support students in reaching their employment and educational goals; and a CalWORKs program providing support services to all welfare participants enrolled in the college’s credit or noncredit programs for their employment training.

The majority of Continuing Education classes are state-supported and do not require an enrollment fee, though some have optional materials fees. Non-state-funded courses are supported by student fees and private donations.

Approximately 49,000 area residents enroll in an average of at least two Continuing Education classes each year.

Accreditation
Santa Barbara City College is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, which is part of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. All courses equivalent to university and college work are accepted by all WASC member colleges and most other colleges and universities in the United States. The college is also approved by the California Department of Education for the training of veterans under the provisions of the G.I. Bill of Rights, and by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service for non-quota immigration students in accordance with provisions of Section 101 (a) (15) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act, as amended. Accreditation materials are available for review in the Luria Library.

History
Santa Barbara City College was established by the Santa Barbara High School District in 1909, making it the second oldest community college in California. The college was discontinued shortly after World War I, and its work largely taken over by the Santa Barbara State Normal School, which became the Santa Barbara State College and, later, the University of California, Santa Barbara.

SBCC was reorganized by the high school district in the fall of 1946. Called Santa Barbara Junior College from its inception, the Santa Barbara Board of Education formally changed the name to Santa Barbara City College in July 1959.

Also in the summer of 1959, the institution moved to its present and permanent location on the Santa Barbara Mesa, former site of the University of California at Santa Barbara. Situated on a 74-acre bluff, the campus overlooks the harbor and Pacific Ocean. Passage of a 1969 construction bond issue and a 1973 land acquisition bond issue ensured that the college would have a single, consolidated Mesa campus.

In 1965, the Carpinteria Unified School District was annexed to the Santa Barbara Junior College District. That same year, the Santa Barbara Junior College District became a separate governing authority under the control of its own popularly elected Board of Trustees. On July 1, 1971, the name of the district was changed to Santa Barbara Community College District.

Since its reorganization following World War II, college growth has been rapid—both in enrollment and course offerings. More than 18,000 students are currently enrolled in day and evening credit classes, and some 49,000 individuals enroll annually in noncredit and ungraded Continuing Education Division classes.

Location
Students at Santa Barbara City College are privileged to study in one of the most beautiful locations in the world. Santa Barbara is a city of 90,000 people, located on California’s picturesque south-central coast—“where the mountains meet the sea.” Devoid of heavy industry, it is renowned as a cultural and educational center.

Santa Barbara is far enough away from California’s big cities to avoid the characteristic hectic pace and congestion—yet close enough to partake of their many cultural advantages.

Nearly half of Santa Barbara’s streets terminate along one of the nation’s loveliest white sand beaches. Many other roads lead to the gently sloping foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountain Range, where travelers are treated to superb views of the city and the offshore Channel Islands. Santa Barbara’s early California architecture, abundant flora, and mild year-round climate—in addition to mountains, sea and sand—make for a unique atmosphere in which to live and study.
The Foundation for
Santa Barbara City College

Founded in 1976, the Foundation for Santa Barbara City College is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to enhancing and improving opportunities for students who attend the College. The Foundation comprises a board of community leaders and philanthropists seeking support from the community to enhance the success of the College and its students.

Over the years, the Foundation has provided millions of dollars in scholarships, program support and capital improvements. Donor support plays an important role in SBCC’s ability to provide an excellent educational experience for learners of all ages.

To learn more about how to help, please contact Barbara Ben-Horin, Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for SBCC, 721 Cliff Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93109. Phone: (805) 730-4401 or (805) 965-0581, ext. 2601.

Completion & Transfer Rates

Federal Student Right-to-Know regulations require publication of college completion and transfer rate data. The statewide percentages for all California community colleges based on the most recent cohort of Fall 2003:

Completion Rate.......................................................... 35.6%
*Transfer Rate ............................................................. 17.0%

Santa Barbara City College’s rates, based on the Fall 2003 cohort of students, are:

Completion Rate.......................................................... 39.5%
*Transfer Rate ............................................................. 19.2%

*Transfer rates are incomplete since transfer students who also complete degree and certificate degrees are not included in the transfer numbers.

Student Retention Rate

In compliance with Chapter I of Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 178.4(f), data regarding student retention and enrollment patterns may be obtained by contacting Dr. Darla Cooper, Senior Director, Institutional Advancement, Research and Planning.