

## Summary Points: Noncredit (Continuing Education) at Mt. SAC

As California works through its greatest fiscal crisis in decades, difficult budgetary decisions must be made. Priorities for California Community Colleges have been articulated at state and local levels; scheduling is to focus primarily on courses and programs providing transfer, career, and basic skills education. Noncredit education provides two of these: career and basic skills. Noncredit education also offers courses outside of these priority areas, as does credit education.

The following points are intended to provide some context in terms of history, mission, student needs, and Mt. SAC programs.

- Noncredit education (including “regular” programs and Career Development and College Preparation, or CDCP) is a major mission and responsibility of the California Community Colleges. Noncredit adult education has always been within the mission of the CCCs.
- CCC noncredit/CDCP education programs are designed to serve the State’s most educationally and financially disadvantaged adult students. These programs are the only gateway to success for millions of adults who need academic help, whether to gain employment, reenter the workforce, upgrade their skills, retrain for a new job, increase English and math competencies, or any other of the many reasons that Californians rely on their community colleges to transform their lives and their opportunities.
- Access to educational opportunities for disadvantaged adults has been diminished by recent severe cuts and closures of K-12 adult education statewide. The role of CCC noncredit has never been more important to these adults and to California’s economy as it is now.
- Noncredit programs represent two of the State’s priority categories for CCCs: career education and basic skills education.
- Noncredit basic skills programs at Mt. SAC have numerous strategies and articulated pathways for students to transition into credit programs of the college.
- Mt. SAC noncredit students in vocational education programs transition into credit at a rate of more than 68%.
- Mt. SAC noncredit courses serve more than 17,000 credit students in labs providing writing, math, foreign language, Amla, and study skills support.
- Noncredit older adult students, while generally not basic skills students, do represent a portion of students needing vocational education to supplement fixed or even marginal incomes. Additionally, older adults attending Mt. SAC classes in public senior centers throughout the district tend to be vocal and active supporters of Mt. SAC in their communities.
- Mt. SAC noncredit courses and students generate Basic Skills Initiative funding for the college. Noncredit is pleased to support Mt. SAC by generating a much higher proportion of BSI funding than it requests or receives from that funding.
- Mt. SAC noncredit programs are highly efficient. Overall District support to noncredit programs (Continuing Education administration, instruction, and student services) in 09-10 was about \$8.5 million, and noncredit provided more than \$16.7 million in funded FTES. Continuing Education has been honored to make a net contribution to the Mt. SAC general fund throughout its history, recognizing that many college programs are, of necessity, less efficient but nonetheless vital to student success and California’s economy.