

Weekend College Pilot Program Proposal

Introduction

Mt. San Antonio College is launching an alternative academic program designed to help students whose work, family or other personal commitments interfere with traditional educational schedules. The Weekend College Program is designed to help students complete their college degree or certificate. Beginning in Fall Semester, 2022, this program will offer students the opportunity to realize their educational goals while continuing to work, and care for their family. Students can earn a certificate or degree, even train in a new field and earn a related certificate just attending classes on the weekend. Mt. SAC is determined to meet the needs of our busy students; Mt. SAC's weekend classes offer the same high-quality instruction as traditional programs. By providing classes online and on-ground during the weekend, Weekend College will help students realize their educational dreams.

Weekend College emphasizes thinking critically, reading analytically, doing research in a variety of fields, and writing with clarity and precision—all transferable skills that benefit our alumni in whatever careers or advanced studies they pursue. Weekend College can be both an online and an on-campus experience. While we recognize the utility of online classes, we also value bringing students together for careful mentoring and direct contact with our experienced and expert faculty as well as beneficial classroom interaction with other serious adult students.

Weekend College Benefits to Students and Mt. SAC:

- Students can earn a degree or certificate through the weekend program
- Classes will be offered each semester and intersession allowing students to quickly complete their program
- Work and life responsibilities balanced with college studies—classes that fit the student's schedule
- No large crowds; lots of available parking
- Fewer days in class – online classes during the week
- Fewer days in class – come to campus on weekends only, with classes on Friday evenings and Saturdays
- Benefit from academic counseling support and a mapped course schedule that is easy to follow
- Students will be part of a learning community cohort that emphasizes a focus on peer support and creating a community
- A more affordable model: the schedule will be condensed to two days resulting in lower transportation costs
- Guaranteed enrollment: admitted students will be guaranteed a seat in class
- For the college—increased enrollments mean additional FTEs and positive metrics relative to the Student Centered Funding Formula

Who is a Weekend College Student?

An individual taking classes only on weekends who wishes to earn a certificate or degree. The

certificate is intended to help the student enter the workforce, change careers, or pick up a specialty. In addition, students currently enrolled at Mt. SAC may also enroll in Weekend College classes to help them better navigate their pathways.

Who are the potential student population groups? They include non-traditional students, especially:

- Older students who have been out of college
- Working or retired adults (i.e., lifelong learners who take noncredit courses)
- Those seeking career advancement
- Stay-at-home parents with childcare issues during the work week
- Students with limited transportation and financial support
- Students statewide making use of the CCC Course Exchange program

Program Administration and Support Services

Initially, the Weekend College Program will be managed during the week by the deans and associate deans who represent the divisions offering courses and awards. In addition, relevant department chairs will assist in program administration. Division administrative assistants will work with Weekend College students during the work week as necessary to offer appropriate support. Some lab techs' weekly schedules will be adjusted to provide necessary lab coverage during the weekend.

Counselors will also be available during the regular week, with some dedicated Friday appointments to offer guidance and assistance. The library and ASAC will continue to offer support to all students; hours of operation will be set for optimal access and student success.

Program Orientation will be offered the Friday evening prior to the start of the fall and spring semesters and winter and summer intersessions. Summer classes will be held only online. During the first two weekends of each semester and intersession, library, counseling, and Information Technology and Bookstore staff will be available for important support services.

Divisions Involved and Programs of Study

The initial rollout of Weekend College, will focus on the following disciplines:

- General Education courses will be offered to supplement all degree pathways offered through Weekend College
- Humanities and Social Sciences: Psychology, Sociology, Communications, English
- Business: Big Data, Cloud Computing
- Technology and Health: Administration of Justice
- Natural Sciences: Math
- Arts: Fine Arts (Ceramics, Drawing)
- School of Continuing Education: Short-Term VOC

The focus, initially, will be on offering courses that are not dependent on lab classes, thus lowering costs to ensure program viability. Moreover, the Weekend College Program will focus on introducing the IGETC educational plan to support those students interested in transferring to a four-year university.

After the program is established, the disciplines offered will expand to include:

- Tech and Health: Welding, Air Conditioning
- School of Continuing Education: ESL-VESL, Mirrored VOC courses
- Arts: Fine Arts (Painting), Commercial and Entertainment Arts (Drone Photography, Radio Broadcast, Graphic Design, Animation)
- Library and Learning Resources: (Tutor Training VOC Ed certificate)
- Kinesiology: Kinesiology and Wellness

Programs and Courses – Pedagogical Models

Weekend College will take advantage of all available pedagogical delivery models to provide those approaches necessary for enrolled students at a low-or no-cost price point. These models will include hybrid courses (especially applicable to labs where the lecture can be offered asynchronously online while the lab can be offered on-ground during the weekend), online courses (especially those general education and program-specific lectures courses that are effective through this delivery model) and completely on-ground courses as determined to be most beneficial for students.

On-ground classes will be offered on Friday evenings and all-day on Saturdays. Asynchronous online courses will be offered throughout the week to provide greater scheduling flexibility.

Weekend College Program Marketing

Initial plans for the Weekend College marketing mix include both electronic and print advertising, promotional materials such as brochures, events on campus, a Mt. SAC website campaign, and a series of Weekend College podcasts.

Detailed marketing plans for Weekend College will be designed during the remainder of fall semester and winter intersession. Marketing strategies will begin during spring semester and will run through summer intersession.