

COLLEGE SUCCESS GUIDE



Mt. San Antonio College

COUNSELING SERVICES

[MTSAC.EDU/COUNSELING/](https://www.mtsac.edu/counseling/)

909-274-4380

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SUCCESS ROADMAP

MEET WITH A COUNSELOR

- Check required classes for your major
- Confirm you are taking the right classes
- Explore options if you're undecided
- Review GPA & Academic Standing
- Download the Navigate App

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CAREER & MAJOR EXPLORATION

- Enroll in a career counseling course
- Participate in a major exploration workshop
- Visit the Career Center

BUILD AN EDUCATIONAL PLAN (MAP)

- Meet with a counselor three times a year
- Update the ed plan (MAP) to ensure you stay on track with completion goal

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BECOME A PROFESSIONAL STUDENT

- Create a clear vision & ask for help
- Follow through with all class work
- Build academic confidence
- Mindset-prioritize/balance school with work and home life

DEVELOP YOUR COLLEGE SUCCESS STRATEGIES:

- Using campus resources & support
- Learning to read college-level textbooks
- Effective Note-taking
- Using Tutoring
- Effective Time-Management
- Self-Care Techniques
- Applying for Financial Aid & Scholarships

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SUCCESS ROADMAP

TO DROP (WITHDRAWAL) OR NOT DROP A CLASS?

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USE COLLEGE RESOURCES

- Tutoring services across campus for various subjects (e.g., Writing, math, STEM, Technology, Accessible Technology, etc.)
- ASAC: tutoring, computer lab, and achievement workshops

VISIT THE COMPLETION CENTER

- Confirm you are on track to complete your educational goal
- Grad check audit

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VISIT THE TRANSFER CENTER

- Meet with 4-year college representatives
- Free 4-year university tours
- Application assistance

APPLY TO HONORS PROGRAM

- Small classes (average 20 students)
- Transfer agreements to UCLA, and other universities
- Specialized academic advising and counseling

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Common Course Numbering

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*"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out." —
Robert Collie*



MEET WITH A COUNSELOR



A counselor can assist you with the following :

- Creating an educational plan to map out your courses
- Choosing a major or exploring different career paths
- Selecting classes each semester based on your goals
- Planning for transfer to a 4-year university (like UC, CSU, or private schools)
- Connecting you to campus resources (tutoring, disability services, mental health, etc.)
- Balancing school, work, and life responsibilities
- Providing guidance if you're feeling lost or unsure about your direction
- Helping with academic probation or challenges like low grades or dropped classes

Need a counseling appointment?

Contact **Yolanda Haro** at **909-274-5738** or email: yharo@mtsac.edu
Request an appointment with a counselor and include the following:

- Your Full Name and Mt. SAC Student A#XXXXXXXX
- Cell # (XXX) XXX-XXXX

Counseling Department

1100 N. Grand Avenue
Walnut, CA 91789

909-274-4380

www.mtsac.edu/counseling/

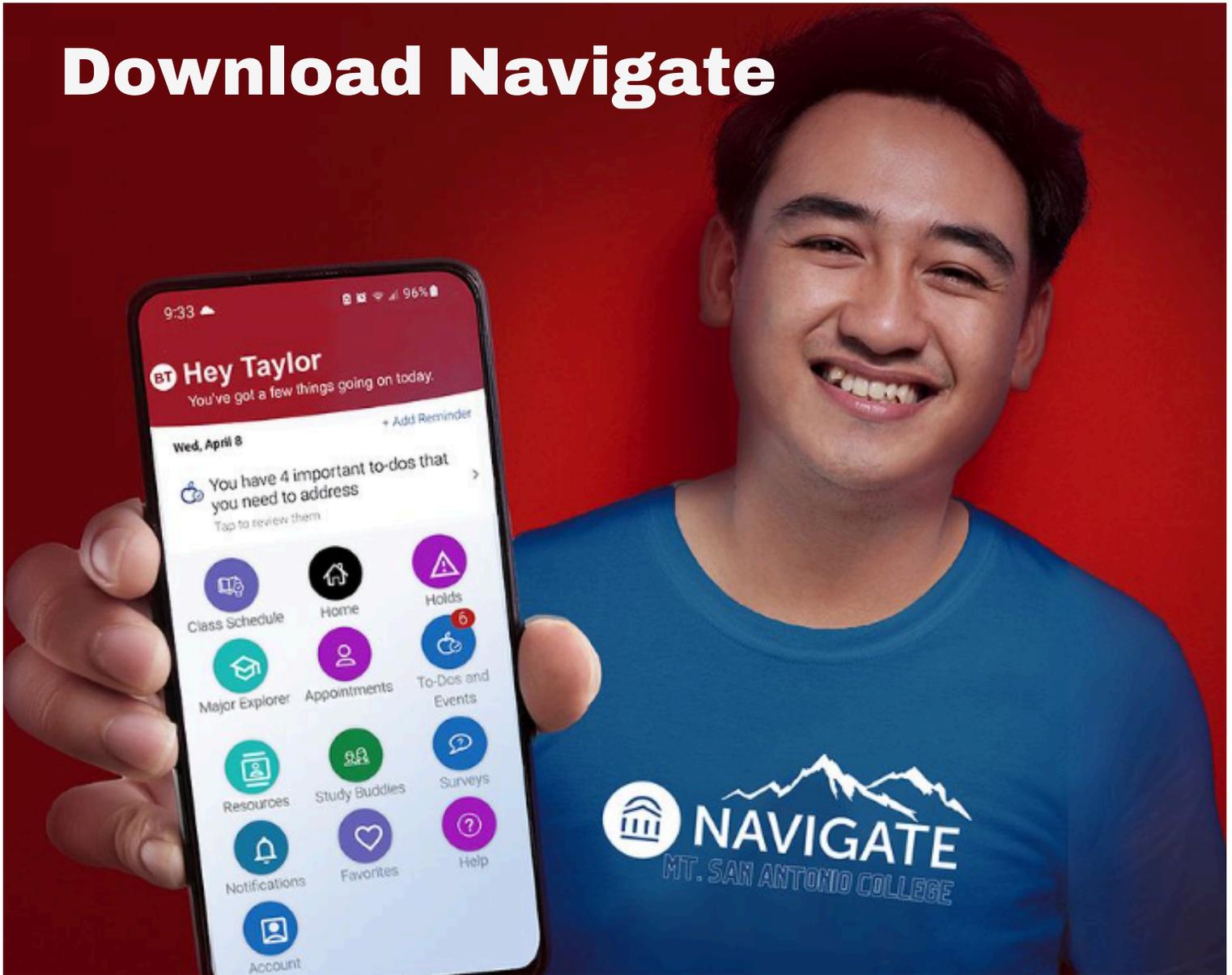
Monday-Thursday: 8 AM to 7PM
Friday: 8 AM to 4:30 PM
Hours may vary during the
holidays and intersession



STAY CONNECTED



Download Navigate



Navigate is an online mobile app for you to:

- Schedule counseling appointments
- View your class schedule
- Find Study buddies



www.mtsac.edu/navigate/index.html





CAREER & MAJOR EXPLORATION

Explore Your Interests

Learn more about your skills, personality, interests, and values to find a job that is a good fit. Consider taking a counseling course, visit the Mt. SAC Career Center, or participate in major exploration workshop.



Counseling Courses

- Coun 5- Career & Life Planning (3 units)
- Coun 51-Career Exploration (1 unit)
 - On-campus & online courses

www.mtsac.edu/counseling/courses.html



Major Exploration Workshop

- Offered in-person or via Zoom
- 1.5 hour

www.mtsac.edu/counseling/



Explore Career Options by visiting the Mt. SAC Career Center

The **Career Center** online career resources may be found at www.mtsac.edu/careercenter/ or by visiting in person at Student Services, Bldg., 9-B, 2nd floor, or call [\(909\) 274-4510](tel:(909)274-4510) or email: careercenter@mtsac.edu

Learn about possible careers, what they do, how much they make, how many jobs are available, etc.



Chat with your Professors

Ask your Professors about their career & educational journey.



Find a Job, Internship, or work experience.

Take advantage of internships, work experience, and other opportunities in the field.





*“Mt. SAC is extremely affordable. And my family didn't have a lot of money, so to be able to still pursue what I love to do at such a high level at such a low cost.”
Broke Mendoza, Class of 2023*

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

OVER 100 DEGREES & CERTIFICATES



Certificate of Achievement

Certificate of Achievement programs can be a great way to update your skills or break into a new career.

Skills Certificate

Skills Certificates are a valuable tool in advancing in a specific career. Are often part of a ladder-track in a career plan, meaning they gradually help students climb to higher skill levels in their chosen career path.

Associate in Science, AS

An Associate in Science (AS) degree is a two-year degree in a scientific or technical subject.

Associate in Arts, AA

An Associate in Arts (AA) offers a foundation of general education and broad skills in areas like social sciences and liberal arts.

Associate in Science, Transfer, AS-T & Associate in Arts, Transfer, AA-T

These transfer degrees are intended for students who plan to complete a bachelors degree in a similar major at a CSU campus



BUILD AN EDUCATIONAL PLAN (MAP)



English Composition (4 units)

Writing will be a fundamental skill that you will use in all college courses. This course is required for a degree or transfer to a 4-year college.

- ENGL 1A: Freshman Composition (eff. Fall 2025: ENGL 1C1000) or
- AMLA 1A English for non-native speaker



Major Course (3-5 units)

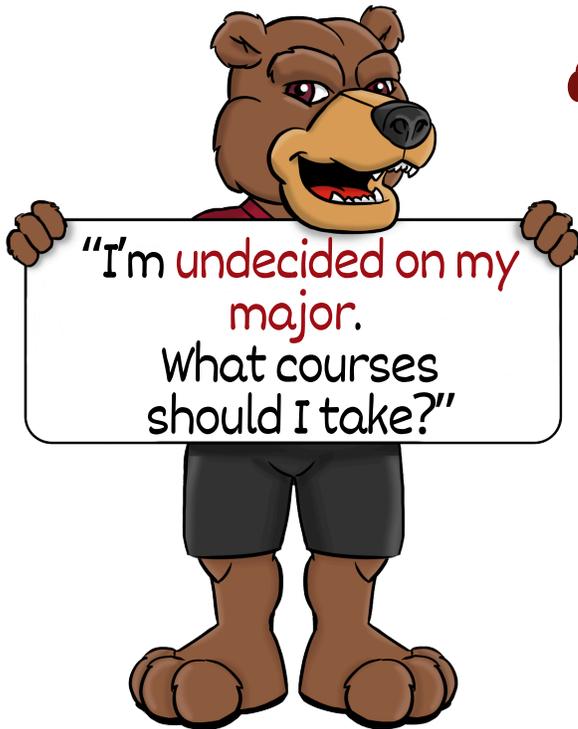
- Your college major is your primary area of study—that's the subject in which you'll receive your degree.
 - AS/AA/AS-T/AA-T/Certificates: visit **Mt. SAC catalog** catalog.mtsac.edu/programs/
 - Transfer UC/CSU: visit **Assist.org**

- STEM majors should start with science and math courses (e.g., Engineering, Biology, Mathematics, Computer Science, etc.) STEM Math: Math 180 or Math 181 based on assessment placement



General Education (GE) Courses (3 to 6 units)

- General education (GE) courses are required to ensure a well-rounded learning experience.
- It may also provide an opportunity to take an introductory course to explore a major.
- Choose a GE pattern based on your educational goal (visit **general education courses** or go to **tinyurl.com/mry8sez3**):
- Transfer (including AST/AAT degrees)
 - IGETC (CSU/UC) (3-6 units)
- Mt. SAC's Associate degree (3-6 units)



English Composition

Writing will be a fundamental skill that you will use in all college courses. This course is required for a degree and transfer to a 4-year college.

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- AMLA 1A English for non-native speaker (4 units)



Career & Major Exploration

COUN 5: Career & Life Planning

- This course will provide comprehensive career assessments that identify your personality, interests, values, and skills. Career/major research and job readiness skills will be provided.

COUN 51-Career Exploration

- This course to learn an introduction to career exploration. Career assessments in personality, interest, values and skills will be provided.



General Education (GE) Courses

- General education (GE) courses are required to ensure a well-rounded learning experience.
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- Choose a GE pattern based on your educational goal (visit [general education courses](#) or go to tinyurl.com/mry8sez3):
 - Transfer (including AST/AAT degrees) IGETC (CSU/UC) (3-6 units)
 - Mt. SAC's Associate degree (3-6 units)



BECOME A PROFESSIONAL STUDENT

Whether you're just starting college or working toward completing your educational goal, being a **professional student** is essential. Here's a list of must-have habits and tools that'll help you thrive academically and personally:

Stay Organized with a Planner or Digital Calendar



Keeping track of assignments, due dates, classes, and even downtime helps prevent last-minute stress.

Try:

- Google Calendar or Notion for digital planning
- A physical planner if you like to write things down
- Color-coding classes or tasks to stay visually on top



Keep Your Files Organized

Create folders for each class on your computer or cloud storage (like Google Drive). Name files clearly so you don't lose track of anything important.

Take Care of Your Mental Health

Being a professional student doesn't mean burning out. Stay balanced by:

- Taking breaks
- Practicing self-care
- Reaching out to campus resources if you need support



Track Your Progress

Know where you stand academically and personally:

- Review your grades regularly
- Reflect on what's working or not
- Set weekly or monthly goals



Set Up a Study System That Works for You

Find a rhythm for how, when, and where you study best.

Try:

- Choose a quiet, clutter-free space
- Try study tools like Quizlet, Notion, or Goodnotes



Communication

Professors, Counselors, and the school send important info (deadlines, announcements, events) to your Mt. SAC email. Make it a habit to

- Check your Mt. SAC email once a day
- Respond to messages professionally (quickly, clearly, respectfully)

Stay Engaged

Going to class is half the battle—being engaged takes it to the next level. Be that student who:

- Asks questions
- Takes notes
- Joins study groups



Get to Know Your Professors

They're more approachable than you think!

Office hours are there for a reason—use them to:

- Clarify course material
- Get feedback
- Ask about their career/educational journey

BECOME A PROFESSIONAL STUDENT



S.M.A.R.T. GOALS WORKSHEET

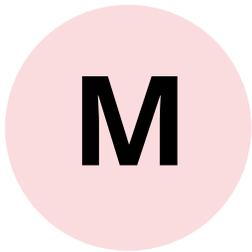
Crafting S.M.A.R.T. Goals are designed to help you identify if what you want to achieve is realistic and determine a deadline. When writing S.M.A.R.T. Goals use concise language, but include relevant information. These are designed to help you succeed, so be positive when answering the questions.



Specific

Write the goal you have in mind

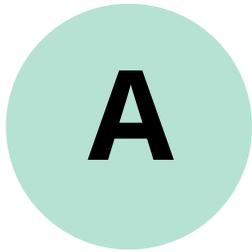
Dashed-line text box for writing the specific goal.



Measurable

How can you measure progress and know if you've successfully met your goal?

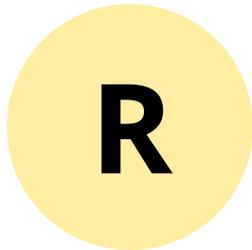
Dashed-line text box for describing how to measure progress.



Attainable

Do you have the skills required to achieve the goal? If not, can you obtain them? What is the motivation for this goal? Is the amount of effort required on par with what the goal will achieve?

Dashed-line text box for discussing skills, motivation, and effort.



Relevant

Why am I setting this goal now? Is it aligned with overall objectives?

Dashed-line text box for explaining why the goal is relevant.



Time-bound

What's the deadline and is it realistic?

Dashed-line text box for stating the deadline and its realism.



BECOME A PROFESSIONAL STUDENT

168 Hour Week Worksheet

Do you find yourself needing more hours in a day? It's easy to forget that sleeping, eating, bathing, doing laundry, working, and most importantly going to school and studying, all take up a lot of time! Getting an accurate sense of how much time you spend on those activities makes goal-setting, making a to-do list, and creating a useful (and successful) academic plan easier.

Enter the estimated time you spend on each of the following activities:

Sleeping	<input type="text"/>	hrs/day	x 7 days =	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week
Personal (showers, hair, etc.)	<input type="text"/>	hrs/day	x 7 days =	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week
Eating (including prep & clean-up)	<input type="text"/>	hrs/day	x 7 days =	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week
Travel to/from U of M	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week			
Travel to/from work	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week			
Work	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week			
Activities (volunteering, clubs, etc.)	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week			
Exercise/Sports	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week			
Leisure Time (TV, internet, etc.)	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week			
Errands/Housework/Laundry/etc.	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week			
Friends/Partner/Kids	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week			
Classes and Labs	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week			
<small>Each course you take requires 3 hours of class time per week, plus any lab time scheduled; i.e. 4 courses: 4 x 3 hrs = 12 hrs per week of class attendance.</small>					
Study Time	<input type="text"/>	hrs/week			

You are advised to follow the 2:1 study rule; this means that for every hour you are in class you need to spend 2 hours of studying, i.e. 12 hrs per week in class x 2 hours = 24 hours of study time.

Total # of Hours spent on activities

Number of Hours in a Week (24 hrs x 7 days) **168 hours/week**

Less Total # of Hours spent on activities -

TOTAL **hours/week**

If you ended up with a negative number, you have run out of time in the week! Which activities can you cut back on? Are you sacrificing study time for other activities? If you have extra time, use it wisely. Time can be easily wasted when you think you have a lot of it.



BECOME A PROFESSIONAL STUDENT

How to Use a Weekly Schedule

A weekly schedule is a powerful tool that helps you manage your time, stay organized, and reduce stress. Whether you're a student balancing classes and assignments or someone juggling work and personal responsibilities, having a clear plan for the week can make a big difference.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

PRIORITY KEY:



TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday
7:00 AM					
7:30 AM					
8:00 AM					
8:30 AM					
9:00 AM					
9:30 AM					
10:00 AM					
10:30 AM					
11:00 AM					
11:30 AM					
12:00 PM					
12:30 PM					
1:00 PM					
1:30 PM					
2:00 PM					
2:30 PM					
3:00 PM					
3:30 PM					
4:00 PM					
4:30 PM					
5:00 PM					
5:30 PM					
6:00 PM					
6:30 PM					
7:00 PM					



Learn to Read

- Focus on understanding main ideas and key details in each paragraph.
- Preview the text before reading: look at headings, subheadings, and summaries.
- Highlight or underline important points, but don't overdo it.
- Summarize sections in your own words to check understanding.
- Practice active reading: ask questions while you read to stay engaged.

- Use methods like the Cornell method, mind maps, or outline format.
- Don't try to write everything—focus on key concepts and examples.
- Review and revise your notes soon after class to reinforce memory.
- Use symbols and abbreviations to speed up writing.
- Consider color-coding or digital tools (like OneNote or Notion) to organize info.



Notetaking

- Use a planner or app to keep track of deadlines, exams, and assignments.
- Break big tasks into smaller steps and set mini-deadlines.
- Try using the Pomodoro Technique: 25 minutes of focused work, 5-minute break.
- Prioritize your tasks: do the most important or hardest ones first.
- Avoid multitasking—it's more efficient to focus on one thing at a time.



Time Management



COLLEGE SUCCESS STRATEGIES



Tutoring

- Tutors can help with understanding concepts, reviewing assignments, and prepping for tests.
- Be prepared: bring specific questions or topics you want to review.
- Don't wait until you're failing—go early and often if you need help.
- Online tutoring options may be available if you can't attend in person.

- Don't be afraid to speak up—professors and classmates are there to support you.
- Use office hours to clarify lecture material or get feedback on your work.
- Join study groups or class chats to stay connected and share ideas.
- If you're struggling emotionally or mentally, campus counseling services are there for you.
- Asking for help shows strength—not weakness.



Ask for Help



Practice Self-Care

- Get enough sleep—aim for 7–8 hours
- Eat well and stay hydrated
- Take breaks—step outside or stretch
- Do something you enjoy every day
- Protect your mental health: it matters as much as your grades



Formula for Success

To succeed in your college journey, it's important to plan the right set of courses and consider additional priorities in your weekly schedule. The ideal number of classes depends on your personal situation. Balancing your time, setting realistic goals, and reaching out for support when needed are all essential to staying on track and getting the most out of your college experience. Below are some helpful recommendations to guide your planning.

What additional priorities do I need to include in my weekly schedule?

- Study time before and after each class period
- Tutoring with fellow students or tutorial services
- Study group
- Meeting with professors during their office hours
- Assignments and projects

How many units (courses) should I take?

- 14-18 units (4-5 classes) 100 % College Student
No other priorities
- 12-13 units (4 classes) 20 hours on non-student activities/priorities (e.g., work, family, extra-curricular activities, etc.)
- 9 units (3 classes) 30 hours on non-student activities/priorities (e.g., work, family, extra-curricular activities, etc.)
- 3-6 units (1-2 classes) 40 hours on non-student activities/priorities (e.g., work, family, extra-curricular activities, etc.)



COLLEGE SUCCESS STRATEGIES

FINANCIAL AID www.mtsac.edu/financialaid/

The Financial Aid Office at Mt. SAC offers free assistance in completing a FAFSA or CADAA to students and the community. Completing and submitting a FAFSA or CADAA is free—you should not pay anyone or any website to prepare it for you!



Apply for the aid that is right for you:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

To be eligible, you generally need to:

- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen: This includes permanent residents and those with certain refugee or asylum status.
- Have a valid Social Security Number: There are exceptions for students from certain island nations.
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent: This can include a GED or state-approved home schooling.
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible degree or certificate program: This includes programs at eligible colleges, career schools, and trade schools.
- Show financial need: This is determined based on your Student Aid Index (SAI) and the cost of attendance.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress: This means staying on track to graduate within the expected timeframe.

California Dream Act Application (CADAA)

dream.csac.ca.gov/landing

To be eligible, the following must be met:

- Undocumented students
- DACA recipients (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
- U Visa holders
- TPS (Temporary Protected Status) holders
- Other undocumented students who meet the criteria

AB 540 Criteria (Must meet all three):

- Attended a California high school, adult school, or community college for at least 3 years
- Graduated from a California high school, obtained a GED, or California High School Proficiency Exam
- School Enrollment: Must be enrolled (or intend to enroll) at an accredited California college or university

California College "Promise Grant" CCPG (Fee Waiver)

Apply for CCPG by submitting either a FAFSA or CADAA to be considered for all available financial aid.



Scholarships www.mtsac.edu/scholarships/

The Mt. SAC Scholarship Program Office manages various scholarship funds for students, including those for re-entry, international, and transfer students. The scholarships are funded by various sources such as faculty, staff, departments, campus organizations, private citizens, civic groups, and state and national organizations.

All currently enrolled students can apply for scholarships based on financial need, academic merit, major, or educational goals.





COLLEGE SUCCESS STRATEGIES



Delayed Gratification

Delayed gratification is the ability to resist gratification for a bigger reward later. It involves putting off smaller, immediate enjoyment in order to gain a larger or more lasting benefit in the future.

The opposite of *delayed* gratification is *instant* gratification, which is the immediate desire to feel satisfaction.

Examples of *delayed* gratification:

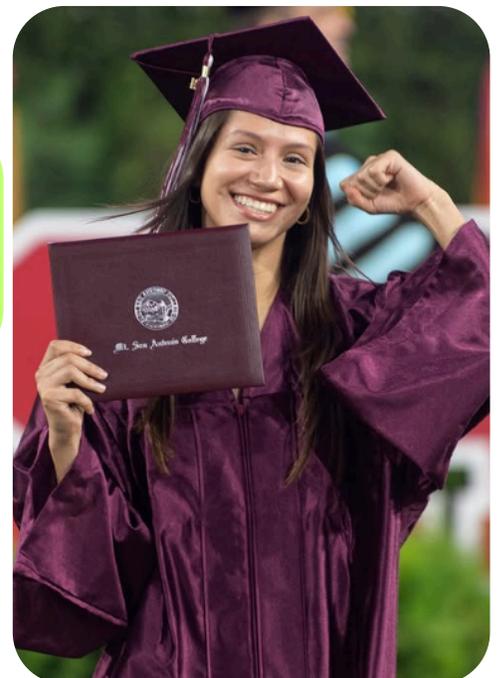
- Saving for college expenses instead of going out with friends and spending more money
- Waiting to go on an expensive vacation
- Studying for an exam instead of watching TV or scrolling on your phone

Benefits of *delayed* gratification:

- Improved self-control
- Achieving long-term goals faster
- Coping better with impulses

Tips for developing *delayed* gratification:

- Start with small habits of discipline (like studying for one hour daily)
- Use positive distractions (take a break, go for a short walk)
- Focus on consistency rather than results (do items on your To Do list)
- Remind yourself of what you don't want in your life (make a list)
- Develop skills like self-control, mindfulness, and patience



TO WITHDRAW OR NOT WITHDRAW



What Does “Withdraw” Mean?

- Withdraw means to officially drop a class after the allowed drop period ends
- You won't receive a grade for the class, but a “W” will show on your transcript, indicating that you attempted the class
- The “W” will not affect your GPA



When is withdrawing a good idea?

- If you are not passing the class, and based on your conversation with the your professor, it is unlikely you will pass
- If something in your life changes and you can no longer attend class
- If your educational goals change and you no longer need the class



Is it “bad to get a “W”?”

- No. Being proactive and choosing to get a “W” can be a great way to keep your grade point average (GPA) safe from a class that you are not passing.



What to consider when withdrawing?

- Withdrawing from a class can affect how much grant money you will be awarded
- If you withdraw from too many classes, you could
 - be placed on Progress Probation
 - lose your financial aid
 - negatively affect transfer to elite universities
- Earning a “W” in a course will count as an attempt, and Mt. SAC limits students to 3 attempts per class.



I need help. Who should I talk to?

- Your professor: Discuss your ability to succeed in class
- A counselor: to learn how withdrawing could affect probation status, course repeats, and transfer
- The Financial Aid Office: to learn how withdraws could affect your financial aid.



EXCUSED WITHDRAWAL (EW) PROCESS

Excused Withdrawal (EW)

The “EW,” excused withdrawal, mark is assigned only when a student is permitted to withdraw from a course(s) due to specific events beyond the control of the student which affects their ability to complete a course(s)

What type of events are considered "beyond the control of the student"?

- Unexpected changes in employment
- An illness in the family where the student is the primary caregiver
- Incarceration
- The student is the subject of an immigration action
- Other extenuating circumstances

What is the submission process & documentation to request an EW?

1. Complete an **Petition for Exceptional Action** (or go to bit.ly/4ePwS8z)
2. Submit the petition and documentation online through the **Office of Admissions & Records forms page** (or go to bit.ly/3Bvxxou).
 - Note that the submission process is in **two parts**.
 - Read the submission instructions on the website.
 - If this second part is not completed, the petition will not be processed.

Who can help me fill out the petition?

- A counselor can assist you with completing the exceptional action petition as well as the submission process.
 - Visit the **Counseling Department** to schedule a counseling appointment (or to go bit.ly/3YcaJvC)

When and how will I know if the EW was approved?

- Upon approval of the Petition Exceptional Action, an excused withdrawal notation of (EW) will be added to your Mt. SAC transcript.
- Admissions & Records will provide a reason for denial if the EW is not approved.

When Is the Last Day to Request an EW?

- An EW may be requested until the last day of instruction.

Will the EW affect my academic standing or financial aid?

- Academic Standing: No. The EW does not count toward the calculation of progress probation, dismissal, or course attempts.
- Financial Aid: Maybe. Contact **Financial Aid** (or go to bit.ly/3zV3rmv) before withdrawing from a course(s) and ask how it may affect your aid.



Mt. SAC has numerous **academic resources** that support current students in various subjects. **FREE TUTORING** is available in-person online, evening and weekend services.

Tutoring Centers & Academic Support Programs



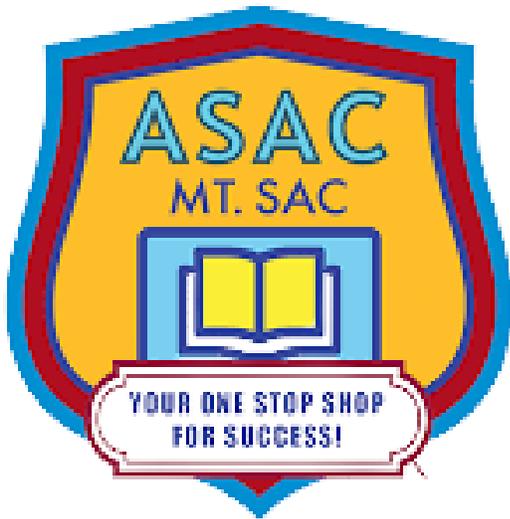
- Math Activities Resource Centers & Support (MARCS)
- Accessible Technology Center (ATC)
- The Center for Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Students (DHH)
- Design Lab
- EOPS/CARE, NextUP/REACH & CalWORKS
- Health Careers Resource Center (HCRC)
- Language Learning Center (LLC)
- Library
- Math Activities Resource Centers & Support (MARCS)
- Speech and Sign Success Center (SSSC)
- STEM Center
- Tech Ed Resource Center (TERC)
- WIN Program - Student Athlete Tutorial Program
- Writing Center (WC)
- NetTutor - Free online tutoring services 7 days a week

www.mtsac.edu/tutoringcenters/



COLLEGE RESOURCES

A successful college student uses various campus services on day one and throughout their educational career.



www.mtsac.edu/asac/

Contact Information:

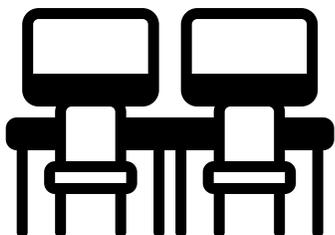
Bldg. 6-101, South Entrance
(909) 274-4300
asac@mtsac.edu

Services Offered:

- Tutoring
- Computer Lab
- Achievement Workshops offered:
 - Critical Thinking in Academics
 - Notetaking Essentials
 - Goal Setting in Academics
 - Time Management
 - Success in Everyday Life
 - Time Management
 - Memory Techniques
 - Asking for Help in Academics
 - Emotional Intelligence in Academics
 - Learning Styles & Strategies
 - Locus of Control
 - Overcoming Procrastination

Sign-up for an **Achievement Workshop** by going to:

bit.ly/3Ge11m1



COMPLETION CENTER

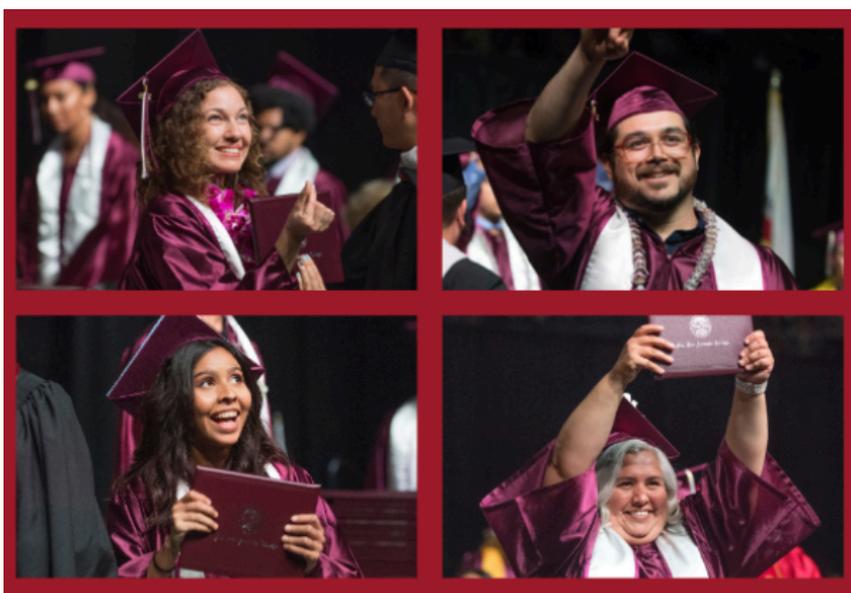


The **Completion Center** provides a space for students who are preparing to graduate or transfer from Mt. SAC to receive personalized support and guidance for achieving their educational goal(s).

www.mtsac.edu/completioncenter/

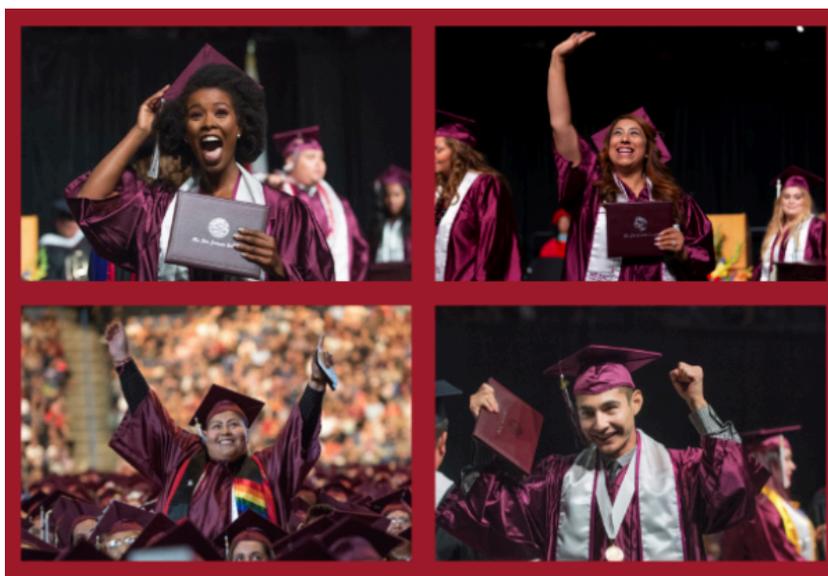
The Completion Center can help you:

- Review your Mountie Academic Plan (MAP) and figure out your graduation timeline.
- Complete and submit a graduation application



Contact Information:

M-F 8:00am - 4:30pm
Student Services,
Bldg. 9B, Second Floor
(909) 274-5187
completion@mtsac.edu





TRANSFER CENTER

The **Transfer Center** will help you prepare to transfer through workshops, activities, events, and advising. www.mtsac.edu/transfer/

Contact Information:

M-T 9 am - 7 pm ; W-Th: 9 am - 5 pm;

F-9 am 4:30 pm

Student Services Center

(Building 9B), 2nd floor

(909) 274-6333

transfercenter@mtsac.edu



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



The California State University



Transfer Services: Get from Here to There with Confidence:

Explore four-year colleges and universities

- Make an appointment with university representatives to learn more about your desired transfer institutions.
- Online resources to support your research on potential colleges, majors, and more!
- Utilize our computer lab with the support of Transfer Specialist.
- Participate in **FREE** university tours to visit campuses that interest you.

Participate in Transfer-Related Workshops & Events

- Attend workshops: How to apply to 4-year universities; How to answer personal insight questions; UC Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG); What to expect and prepare for the 4-year college experience, and many more.
- Attend transfer fairs held in the fall and spring semesters.
- Celebrate your transfer completion at the annual "Transfer Celebration" (June only)

TRANSFER PREPARATION



California University Systems



Things to Consider:

- **Cost & Financial Aid** – Compare tuition costs, living expenses, and available financial aid.
- **Academic Fit** – Research faculty, course offerings, and specializations in your field.
- **Campus Environment** – Visit the campus if possible to see if it's a good fit socially and academically.
- **Location & Lifestyle** – Consider the cost of living, climate, and proximity to home or job opportunities.



HONOR'S PROGRAM



The **Honors program** is designed for motivated students who want a more engaging academic experience and a stronger pathway to transfer to top universities.

Honors courses offer enriched learning, deeper discussion, and opportunities to develop research and critical thinking skills.

Why Join the Honors Program?

- Strengthen your transfer application to competitive universities
- Smaller classes with more interaction and support from professors
- Engaging courses focused on discussion, research, and critical thinking
- Connect with motivated students who share your academic goals

Program Highlights:

- Transferable Honors courses that enhance your college transcript
- Seminar-style learning with deeper exploration of course topics
- Opportunity to participate in research, leadership, and Honors activities
- Access to Honors counseling and academic support resources

When Can You Join?

Students can apply at any stage of their Mt. SAC journey, but joining early allows more time to complete Honors coursework before transfer.

Honors Scholar Certification

- Students who complete the program can earn Honors Scholar recognition, which includes:
- Completion of 30 transferable units, including 15 units of Honors coursework
- Maintain a 3.2 cumulative transferable GPA and 3.2 GPA in Honors courses
- Recognition in the commencement program and an Honors Scholar certificate

Admission Requirements: Current College Students

- Completion of 9 CSU/UC transferable units
- 3.2 transferable GPA
- Eligibility for English C1000 (Engl 1A)
- Letter of recommendation from a faculty member (waived if GPA 3.5+)

Honors Contact Information:

- website: www.mtsac.edu/honors
- Email: honors@mtsac.edu
- (909) 274-4665
- Location: Bldg. 26A, Room 1680



Beginning
Fall 2025



Common Course Numbering Information

What is AB 1111 - Common Course Numbering

AB 1111 is California legislation standardizing course numbers across all 116 community colleges. The goal is to simplify the transfer process between colleges and to four-year universities by using consistent course numbers and names for equivalent courses across institutions.

Why is Common Course Numbering important?

Standardizing course numbers makes it easier for students to identify equivalent courses, avoid taking unnecessary or duplicate classes, and streamline the transfer process. This reduces time, lowers costs, and improves transfer efficiency.

When will Common Course Numbering be implemented?

The California Community College system will begin implementing Common Course Numbering in phases. Phase 1 will include six courses – ENGL 1A and 1AH, ENGL 1C and 1CH, MATH 110 and 110H, POLI 1 and 1H, PSYC 1A and 1AH, and SPCH 1A and 1AH and will begin Fall 2025.

Fall 2025 Common Course Numbering Changes

Current Mt. SAC Course Prefix, Number, and Title	New Course Prefix, Number, and Title (effective Fall 2025)
ENGL 1A or ENGL 1AH Freshman Composition or Freshman Composition Honors	ENGL C1000 or ENGL C1000H Academic Reading & Writing or Academic Reading & Writing Honors
ENGL 1C or ENGL 1CH Critical Thinking & Writing or Critical Thinking and Writing Honors	ENGL C1001 or ENGL C1001H Critical Thinking & Writing or Critical Thinking & Writing Honors
MATH 110 or MATH 110H Elementary Statistics or Elementary Statistics Honors	STAT C1000 or STAT C1000H Introduction to Statistics or Introduction to Statistics Honors
PSYC 1A or PSYC 1AH Introduction to Psychology or Introduction to Psychology Honors	PSYC C1000 or PSYC C1000H Introduction to Psychology or Introduction to Psychology Honors
POLI 1 or POLI 1H Introduction to American Government & Politics or Introduction to American Government & Politics Honors	POLS C1000 or POLS C1000H American Government & Politics or American Government & Politics Honors
SPCH 1A or SPCH 1AH Public Speaking or Public Speaking Honors	COMM C1000 or COMM C1000H Introduction to Public Speaking or Introduction to Public Speaking Honors

Note: All POLI and SPCH Prefixes will be updated to POLS and COMM, respectively, to align with the new course numbering. For example, POLI 2 will be changes to POLS 2, and SPCH 7 will be changed to COMM 7.



www.mtsac.edu/changesandupdates/



● What courses will be changed in the Common Course Numbering?

As shown on the previous page, the six courses are key general education and transfer requirements and will be standardized across all California community colleges.

Additionally, all courses with POLI and SPCH prefixes will be updated to POLS and COMM, respectively, to align with the new course numbering. For example, POLI 2 will be changed to POLS 2, and SPCH 7 will be changed to COMM 7.

● How will this affect my current courses?

If you are currently enrolled, completed courses will still fulfill your requirements, even if their course numbers change. However, you will see updated course numbers when planning for future semesters. For instance, your ENGL 1A will be listed as ENGL C1000 on your updated MAP and Mt. SAC transcripts

● How does this impact my transfer plans?

The common numbering system is designed to align with California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) requirements, making it easier to track which courses will transfer smoothly and apply toward your degree.