Report on Extended Library Hours During Finals Week Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) Library LeAnn Garrett, Department Chair, Systems Librarian (January 2015)

Overview

At the suggestion of Christopher Nguyen, the Mt. SAC Associated Students president and the Mt. SAC library dean, faculty, and staff agreed that extending library hours during the Fall 2014 finals week would support student success. In addition to librarian and classified staff coverage, the extended hours required additional security, custodial services and supplies, information technology (IT) assistance, and advertisement and promotion. Librarians offered to rearrange their schedules to provide the required faculty supervision at no additional cost and the classified staff were offered overtime pay. Other areas agreed to support the longer hours using existing personnel.

Extended library hours began Wednesday, December 4 and ended on Wednesday, December 10. The library was open an additional 14.5 hours. The highest number of students in the building during the extended hours was 220 on Sunday at 7:15 pm. Study rooms were in high demand on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and computer and quiet study space were in continuous use throughout the extended hours. In general, student usage for all services tapered after 10:30. A total of 55 Information Desk questions were answered by the librarians and 206 textbooks were checked out from the Reserve Desk during the extended hours.

Student Comments

Student comments about the extended hours were gathered using four easels available throughout the library. A list of 272 comments is included at the end of this report. A word cluster based on student comments was created using Wordle, an app that graphically groups and displays frequently used words in a text. The graphic emphasizes the words thank, hours, awesome, and helpful as the predominate words in the comments.



In addition to the appreciative and sometimes silly comments, there were some notable comments that provided glimpses of the challenges students face while studying for finals. Challenges included students unable to study at home, time constraints because of work schedules, and the need for a place for groups to work.

It's nice working on my assignments with a heater and not freezing cold at home!

... giving us a place to study for finals
Thank you! w/having a full-time job, finding time to study is tough...
For those of us that can't come early this is a blessing
...really help[ed] my group
Profoundly helped me study. I can't focus at home
Very useful especially since I can't study at home
Very helpful because my house is super noisy
Helps since I feel better studying at the library! ^(C)
Really needed it. Too loud at home.
Great for groups to meet up over these hours! ^(C)

Many student comments requested that not only the extended hours be expanded during finals, but also continued throughout the year. While this may not be feasible, the need for time in the library was an expressed student need.

Great idea! "Late Night" hours should be the new operating hours Super Awesome! Please keep extended hours throughout the whole semester! If you can, maybe extend hrs until 11:30 p.m. or 12 am? Awesome! Can we do it like every day (:? It is the most wonderful thing to happen at this library. These hours should be kept for the winter session as well.

One more hour please! 😕

It is super helpful, it would be more helpful if you had it on Friday & Saturday though 🟵

And finally, one comment recognized and appreciated Mt. SAC's commitment to student success.

Happy to be in a college with so many resources and people caring for our success!

Recommendations

- Continue expanded hours during the fall and spring semesters because student comments were overwhelmingly positive, appreciative, and linked the additional hours to feelings of success.
- Extend Friday and Saturday evening hours until at least 6:00 as there were 132 and 117 students in the building when it closed at 4:30 and 4:00.
- Open the library at least one hour earlier on Sunday as student demand was consistently high on Sunday.
- Ask Associated Students to provide appropriate snacks to motivate students and alleviate the need to leave the library.
- Apply for Student Life funds to provide a therapy animal or animals to reduce student stress. This practice has been successful in other college libraries.

Extended Hours during Finals at Neighboring Community College Libraries

Chaffey College Library does not have extended hours during finals.

- Hayden Memorial Library at Citrus College, which adds approximately 1.5 hours during the week prior to finals, was not as busy. They also were open on Saturday from 10-4 but found that more people came during the week.
- Pasadena City College extended hours ½ week before finals and 2 hours during finals with the exception of the last day of finals. Extended hours were discontinued because of budget

cuts. According to an email from Dr. Tirapelle, "The extended hours are very popular with our students -- and we use the opportunity to draw more students during finals by collaborating with our associated students to offer additional "De-stress for Success" events at the library (i.e. crafts, therapy dogs, free coffee, etc.). "

Rio Hondo College Library does not offer extended hours, but have discussed the possibility. Judy Marzona shared that "For a variety of reasons most of our students don't seem to want, or be able to, stay much longer than our regular closing time. My impression is that we don't experience a significant spike in the number of students who stay until late during finals week vs. regular weeks. We have been thinking about extending our finals week hours for a number of semesters, but staffing and budget problems on our end have been deterrents."

Student Comments

Transcribed as written

- 1. Very helpful! :)
- 2. Much needed!
- 3. Grately Appreciated
- 4. Nogice!
- 5. Meh. Not here late enough to use them.
- 6. Very nouice...
- 7. Well planned? Little too late
- 8. Live it! Very helpful
- 9. 11/10 would come again
- 10. Student w/12 units <u>needs</u> 48 hrs of studying & class time a week not including transport to campus & off campus. That's more hours then what the full time librarian works in a week. Extension of hours r good.
 - a. 1 class that meets twice a week equals 3 hrs + 3 hours of standard study hrs per unit
 - b. 1 class that meets once a week = 3 hours + 3 hrs of standard study hrs. per unit. 160.5 hrs during the 2 week of Ext. library hrs
 - c. 80.25 Hrs of a week w/Ext. hrs.
 - d. 7 full time employs = 35 Hrs week
 - e. 7 part timers, that R librarians & work other jobs
 - f. Other jobs as librarians
 - g. Student w/1 three unit course needs 12 hours regardless of what days they meet BUT ONLY GIVEN 2 HRS TO COMPLETE A SEMESTER FINAL
- 11. Very Nice!
- 12. It was great to have the extended time so we could study thanks :)
- 13. It's nice working on my assignments with a heater and not freezing cold at home! Thank you so much! 🎔
- 14. Love the extra hours!! Thank U!!
- 15. I really like studying @ the lib. After my 10 pm class. If you can, maybe extend hrs until 11:30 p.m. or 12 am?
- 16. Thank you so much for the opportunity to keep studying and working on final essays during this cold and stressful time. ©
- 17. <3u
- 18. Thanks so much for opening on Sunday and giving us a place to study for finals. We are very appreciated !! ©©©
- 19. 4-11 are perfect hours!
- 20. Thanks for the late hours to study for finals O
- 21. Stay open late thank you.
- Thank you! w/having a full-time job, finding time to study is tough... I suggest staying open late on Saturday too! Thank you!
 Nice!
- 24. For those of us that can't come early this is a blessing.
- 25. Thanks! loved the extended hours. 12-8 would also work. ©
- 26. Thanks for this thoughtful idea. That we can jam together & spend wonderful time to prepare our final.
- 27. Helps a lot!!
- 28. Effen loved the extended hours. Whoever came up w/this idea deserves a raise! Anywho; thanks a bunch, w/this extra time, I feel adequately prepared for my finals. Thanks a bunch! Efren
- 29. The extended time really help my group and I to prep for chemistry final! Thank you!! PS. Wish the hours were longer! Howard
- 30. Awesome! Can we do it like everyday(:?
- 31. Very helpful & I LOVE IT!! ☺
- 32. It's awesome!
- 33. -The hours work great. It helps to give extra study time & finish up on homework!-
- 34. 🙂
- 35. -Great!!!
- 36. Very helpful
- 37. <3u ←That's not a legitimate comment
- 38. Sick AF 🕲
- [Chinese characters]
- 40. I 2nd this [Awesome! Can we do it like everyday(:?]

- 41. I LOVE IT
- 42. Make it 24/7
- 43. Gains Made +
- 44. 5 stars, baby 🙂
- 45. It's awesome
- 46. I'm going to pass my class because of it!! Thank you!
- 47. It's awesome ☺
- 48. The best idea yet:)
- 49. It's whatever:)
- 50. Awesome!! = D
- 51. It is the most wonderful thing to happen at this library. These hours should be kept for the winter session as well.
- 52. Greatly appreciated.
- 53. It's not just whatever. Thank you!
- 54. Very helpful Thank you
- 55. Awesome! Me ♥ it!:)
- 56. Amazing
- 57. You should extend hours on Fridays ☺
- 58. Good luck Everyone! :D
- 59. Wish [blacked out] can have a boy friend after final ©!!
- 60. Love it!
- 61. Awesome @Best finals week ever vvvvv
- 62. Thank you♥
- 63. "Finals" work hard play hard! ©
- 64. Awesome!!!
- 65. Thx 😊
- 66. Awesome
- 67. Love it!!
- 68. Keep them![©]
- 69. Thanks
- 70. Yas
- 71. [Thumbs up drawn]
- 72. I 🎔 U
- 73. I love you with all my heart! Awesome !!! @
- 74. Love it Thank you
- 75. Thank U Thank U Thank U Thank U I thank U :)
- 76. #YAS!
- 77. Love it, too!:)
- 78. Love it, thank you! ⁽²⁾
- 79. Sat too
- 80. It was a fantastic idea! Much appreciated!
- 81. Thank you so much!
- 82. Thank you!
- 83. Profoundly helped me study. I can't focus at home = O_2
- 84. CSULA is in the house!
- 85. More focused studying ⁽²⁾ Good luck!
- 86. I♥ U
- 87. Mt. SAC Rocks!
- 88. Thank you for thinking of me!
- 89. Very useful especially since I can't study at home
- 90. Im glad the library is open late to work on homework
- 91. Close @ 12 next semester!
- 92. Thank you!
- 93. Very helpful because my house is super noisy. [signature]
- 94. Great for studying quieter!
- 95. One more hour please! ⊗
- 96. Very convenient! 3
- 97. Thank you for your service! :)
- 98. Thanks for having the library hours extended even longer b/c it helps a lot then staying home & [sleep?]. Thanks!! Keep hours longer!! ©
- 99. Without your late hours we would all probably fail... no lie... Thank you! <3
- 100. Thank you for doing this.
- 101. I just love Mrs. Small 4 all her hard work. 4 years. She rocks! ©
- 102. Its very helpful!
- 103. Super awesome Did accomplish more w/extra hrs thxs 😊
- 104. Thanks 4 the snacks! 🎔
- 105. Good stuff Great help More time Better grades
- 106. More time to study for exams
- 107. 😳
- 108. Big surprise thanks for the extra hours
- 109. It's very convenient! Thank you!!!
- 110. I love it! Helps since I feel better studying at the library! ©
- 111. Extra time is very helpful Thank you!!!
- 112. Thank you for the extended time, its really helpful!
- 113. Woot!! Late mingths @ Mt. SAC [drawing] hungrryyy... zombieesss... BRAINS...
- 114. Very helpful, thanks!

- 115. Keep 'em comin also, free food nice touch
- 116. [Chinese characters]
- 117. It's a real help thanks!
- 118. Awesome idea better than going home. ©
- 119. Thanks
- 120. So much easier to study here than @ home! Thank you :)
- 121. Been a real help!
- 122. I love it !!! Thanks!
- 123. I think it's wonderful because I [sot] out of work late, and Im getting extra studying in before class tomorrow thanks
- 124. I think that library should be open till 11 pm because it is convenient for the working student
- 125. These should be the regular hours or a least 2x a week very convient able to finish more work :)
- 126. I think it is nice since is finals week.
- 127. Thank you! Awesome idea this help us a lot!
- 128. Open to 11 everyday M-F
- 129. I'm EXTREMELY greatful to the library staff for their sacrifice, and the administration for their accomodations of students' needs during finals week. Extended hours really help, THANK YOU!!!
- 130. Very helpful!!!
- 131. For the love of God, THANK YOU!

I concur [For the love of God, THANK YOU!]

↑ I agree [For the love of God, THANK YOU!]

- 132. Extended hours are a life saver!! THANK YOU ©
- 133. Very convenient thank you very much all staff are very helpful. Can we have more weeks like this before finals?
- 134. Very convenient, maybe consider a 24 hr study/computer lab.

 $\mathbf{\Lambda}$

- 135. Good idea [for 24 hr study/computer lab]
- 136. Extended hours are so convenient. Thank you so much!
- 137. More relaxing at this time really enjoy it
- 138. It's the best!
- 139. Thanx! You all! Really needed the extra time ©
- 140. Really needed it. Too loud at home. Need library setting to focus and prepare for final on Monday
- 141. The exactly the same Thank you! [Really needed it. Too loud at home. Need library setting to focus and prepare for final on
- Monday] 142. Should have opened at 10 am and on Sat.
- 143. Thanks a bunch!! (O.M.)
- 144. Very helpful! Thank you!
- 145. Yes, Thank you! :D
- 146. Appreciate the extended hours and the long hours the staff put into helping students
- 147. Helpful!
- 148. Helps procrastinators get the job done on time. Do it again.
- 149. Keep the hours! 😊
- 150. Love the hours thank you! Wish you could be open this late on a regular basis.
- 151. The extra hours helped me a lot !!!
- 152. Please keep the extended hours ©
- 153. Please. Keep the hours open in Sat & Sun Thanks ©
- 154. Love the hours. I would do a campus survey so student can have more input on the subject
- 155. Great for groups to meet up over these hours! ©
- 156. Need computer hours late on regular basis. [signature of student]
- 157. Stay open till 12 a.m. on Sunday before finals. Still have a lot to do!
- 158. Very good idea!! It is very easy to study here. Extremely helpful©
- 159. Open until 1 a.m.
- 160. Extended hours inspires people to work harder, some are more focused and study harder. Thank you.
- 161. -Good idea! Motivation to study late w/other students.
- 162. Fantastic idea to have late hrs. It would be even better to have later hrs for those who have 7:30 am Monday morning finals. Thank you 🕲
- 163. Thanks for opening up the library on Sunday! Super helpful for last minute cramming... ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ THANKS!!
- 164. They're Grrrreat! = T. Tiger
- 165. Tiiiiiiight!
- 166. Awesome! Love it 3
- 167. Thank you! The hours are appreciated
- 168. This is really great (:
- 169. Much needed Thanks!
- 170. Great plan, wish it was there all year.
- 171. <3 u [heart u]
- 172. Love it & all the snacks
- 173. Take fat bong Rips [drawing of a bong]
- 174. Excellent!
- 175. ♥u
- 176. It was really helpful to be able to come and get some extra study time in! Everybody else thought so too: The library is pretty packed!
- 177. It's great!
- 178. It is super helpful, it would be more helpful if you had it on Friday & Saturday though 3
- 179. Thanks!
- 180. It was really great. But could you start a little earlier than 4pm♥
- 181. Agreed [It was really great. But could you start a little earlier than 4pm♥]
- 182. Agreed [It was really great. But could you start a little earlier than 4pm •]
- 183. ditto [It was really great. But could you start a little earlier than 4pm♥]
- 184. Thank you awesome idea. This really help us ©

- 185. Awesome sauce©
- 186. Amazing! Thanks!
- 187. Could have been better...24 hr + snack bar
- 188. Agree [Could have been better...24 hr + snack bar]
- 189. Double agree [Could have been better...24 hr + snack bar]
- 190. We have the money don't we? Let's do that! [Could have been better...24 hr + snack bar]
- 191. Ha Ha Ha [We have the money don't we? Let's do that!]
- 192. Thank you!! It was a great help....
- 193. Really appreciated it!
- 194. Superb!!!
- 195. 🕲
- 196. Thank you!
- 197. It is a great idea [picture of a lightbulb]
- 198. ♥u
- 199. Love it Thank you
- 200. Awesome sauce! [picture of a bowl with something in it]
- 201. [Picture of a face]
- 202. I love it
- 203. Bless your s♥ul!!
- 204. Awesome, extend it longer
- 205. Forever grateful! ©
- 206. Extend longer.
- 207. Thank you for extending hours
- 208. It's great. Keep doing it!!!
- 209. It would be even better until 1 A.M.
- 210. Happy to be in a college with so many resources and people caring for our success! Thank you.
- 211. Love it. Should be the normal hours. ©
- 212. -need more working outlets and rooms!!
- 213. –Don't give up you're almost finished☺
- 214. -Excellent thank you!!
- 215. -More television sets in the with VCR's in the rooms for documentary review sessions
- 216. -Thumbs up.
- 217. –It's [aite or ane]
- 218. Beautiful
- 219. Very good, want more time :)
- 220. -Better WIFI & deodorize the rooms
- 221. [F in a circle]
- 222. Great!
- 223. Fantastic!
- 224. THANKS! Mt. SAC
- 225. Awesome...
- 226. This is a great idea.
- 220. This is a great to 227. Thank you ☺
- 227. Thank you ⊚
- 228. Pretty crispy idea! Thanks!!!
- 229. Awesome idea!!!!
- 230. It's awesome![©] Being open late on Thursday would be helpful though.
- 231. Life saver but we need some food, & [Addy] [ddorall]
- 232. Thank you great idea
- 233. Great idea it helps those that have to work
- 234. Same [Great idea it helps those that have to work] I work all day school at night no place to study besides traffic
- 235. Great ideas!! Awesome!!
- 236. Love
- 237. It was alright...I guess 😐
- 238. BEATIFUL !!! WORTH IT !! Benefits us and you guys !
- 239. I LOVE IT !!! [Big letters]
- 240. Love it! Thanks©
- 241. Thanks. It's so nice!
- 242. Love it Thank you for extending your hours! 4 u rock!
- 243. It's awesome but it would help if you extended hours on Friday and Saturday please! Some of us have class on Saturday[®] Thank you[®]
- 244. Love it [underlined eight times with a picture of a face
- 245. EW Nice [referred to a picture of a face]
- 246. Great
- 247. Great! Thanks♥
- 248. [drawing of Santa hat] It was good. Thank you Santa for the chocolate and Morale. [Librarian Paul Kittle wore Santa outfit and gave chocolate to the students]
- 249. It's nice! But it makes me hungry! :D mmm popcorn!
- 250. Agree!!! [t's nice! But it makes me hungry! :D mmm popcorn!]
- 251. I know right!!! [t's nice! But it makes me hungry! :D mmm popcorn!]
- 252. Thank you. Library Staff is the best[©]
- 253. [Drawing of a cartoon character]
- 254. Super Awesome! Please keep extended hours throughout the whole semester!
- 255. Helped A lot Thanks!
- 256. Yes!!♥♥
- 257. You're saving my life during finals week!

- 258. I just spent 10 hours here!...Don't ask me what I've learned ©
- 259. Love it!
- 260. Great idea! "Late Night" hours should be the new operating hours
- 261. Thank you!
- 262. It's really a great time!
- 263. My neck hurts so much from carrying the BIG BRAIN
- 264. Only place I can study!! Thank U! BIO 2 student
- 265. ★★★★★ Dope!
- 266. Extended hours are great! Thank you so much!!
- 267. It's amazing! Really helps
- 268. Thank you! It has really helped
- 269. I definitely like it for finals! It's a great help!
- 270. Great!! ^(c) More days please.
- 271. Thank you! I wish it was longer but it really helps!
- 272. Email about a student's comment:

A student just stopped by desk to tell me how much it meant to her last night when you (Paul) went around in your Santa suit and passed out candy. (She asked me to make sure I told you - told her I was just emailing you & that I would pass this along.) She said it gave her a second wind to keep going and she was very touched by your smile and your act of kindness. She said she felt like "Mt SAC really cared about "her" as a person and not just saying they cared, but really showing it" by offering the extended hours. Kinda like " you walked the walk and not just talked the talk" (or ever how the saying goes!) She was very appreciative of the extended hours & you. Kudos to you Paul!!

Statistics

Statistics Extended Hours for Finals Week 2014

Entire	Library 3-Dec	4-Dec	8-Dec	9-Dec	10-Dec
	Wed	Thur	Mon	Tue	Wed
9:30	100	80	127	104	89
10:00	95	77	98	93	63
10:30	59	59	79	72	42
10:55	35	35	53	42	32

Wed Thur Mon Tue Wed 9:30 16 13 6 6 21 10:00 15 5 18 11 1 14 9 5 5 1 1 10:30 9 7 6 4 10:55

3-Dec 4-Dec 8-Dec 9-Dec 10-Dec

Periodicals

	3-Dec Wed	4-Dec Thur	8-Dec Mon	9-Dec Tue	10-Dec Wed
9:30	20	31	24	19	25
10:00	23	28	19	21	16
10:30	19	24	15	16	15
10:55	5	9	7	8	7

3-Dec 4-Dec 8-Dec 9-Dec 10-Dec Wed Thur Mon Tue Wed

Computers

oomparon					
9:30	19	16	24	17	20
10:00	16	15	21	18	15
10:30	9	11	16	13	5
10:55	6	6	5	10	5

Friday 5-Dec

	Entire Library	Periodicals	Study	Computers
4:15	132	10	46	26

Saturday 6-I	Dec			
3:45	117	15	32	29

Sunday 7-Dec

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	Entire Library	Periodicals	Study	C
			Rooms	Computers
4:15	83	7	30	17
5:15	186	24	44	30
6:15	211	24	46	37
7:15	220	28	42	34
8:15	203	24	43	39
9:15	171	21	46	32
9:30	132	21	23	28
10:00	115	11	39	23
10:30	118	9	41	20
10:55	25	0	0	0