

Mt. San Antonio College

2025~~4~~ Federal Legislative Priorities

Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC), located in Los Angeles County, offers our students more than 260 degree and certificate programs, 25 support programs, and more than 50 student clubs and athletic programs. Our professors and instructors are some of the best in their fields. Our students come from all walks of life and go on to do great things. Our facilities rival university buildings, giving our students the opportunity to work with the best technology in the best space.

Mt. SAC is active on policy issues at federal levels in Washington D.C. Working with our federal advocates, Mt. SAC has identified several important legislative priorities to focus our advocacy efforts on for 2025~~3~~. The priorities identified support Mt. SAC's mission, student population, staff, faculty, and financial sustainability. These priorities allow staff and Mt. SAC's advocates in Washington D.C. to act expeditiously on key budget and policy issues that impact Mt. SAC and the students we serve; however, this is not an all-inclusive list of the issues Mt. SAC will engage in and advocate on.

- 1. Basic Needs:** Mt. SAC believes that student success is directly impacted by students' access to basic needs in two distinct, but interwoven areas: a) economic basic needs, including food, housing, technology, and transportation, and (b) life skills basic needs, including mental health and social support services. ~~—Mt. SAC strongly believes ongoing resources for the CCC system should be provided to institutionalize basic needs supports for credit and noncredit students, including mental health and social services. Providing basic needs services, specifically focused on the mental health and social services needs of our students, has proven to lead to greater student success. President Biden's FY2024 budget included \$500 million to lay the groundwork for a larger free community college program. Funding would be used to create a competitive grant program that community colleges or states can apply for to make certain community college programs tuition free.~~ Mt. SAC supports all~~this~~ efforts, and any policy and/or budget-related ~~efforts-changes~~ aimed at increasing CCC students' ability to access basic needs, mental health, and social services.
- 2. Noncredit:** Mt. SAC has one of the largest noncredit programs in California, serving over 5348,000 unduplicated students annually. Statewide CCC initiatives are not always inclusive of noncredit students in terms of funding or outcomes and regulations proposed and implemented often have not adequately considered the unique challenges inherent to noncredit education. Mt. SAC will continue to advocate for inclusion and equitable federal budget and legislative and regulatory considerations for noncredit programs, particularly those that promote the economic mobility for adult learners. This includes how federal WIOA funding is disbursed and held accountable. We support the reauthorization of WIOA with level or increased funding for noncredit programs.
- 3. Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act:** The Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) is important to Mt. SAC for many reasons, including that it governs federal financial aid programs for our students. Federal financial aid consists of student loans and need-based financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), and Federal Work Study. The HEA has been expired since 2008 and extended by Congress while debates over the reauthorization take place. It is anticipated that a reauthorization will not take place for many years, but we anticipate changes to be proposed in the reauthorization process, including increased student aid support through efforts to cover the full cost of attendance for students, as well as policy changes related to accreditation, regulation reform, student loans, and additional transparency. We also understand

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policies may be tackled on an issue-by-issue basis. An example of this is short term Pell Grants. Mt. SAC support any proposal that would allow for short term Pell grants to assist our students in reaching their shorter-term educational goals.→ It is important during reauthorization of the HEA that any changes to the law reflect the diverse student population and interests of our students. Mt. SAC supports additional resources to cover the full cost of attendance for students of California Community Colleges.

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