SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Honors Program

San José City College students benefit from participating in the Honors Program by working individually with distinguished faculty to complete additional coursework to earn Honors notation on SJCC transcripts.

To qualify for the Honors Program, you must meet the following requirements:

- Continuing Students
- Cumulative college GPA of 3.25 or higher AND
- Completed 12 college units
- New Students
  - High School GPA of 3.25 or higher OR
  - Cumulative GED score of 3400 or higher

Students who apply to the Honors program maintain their eligibility for future semesters as long as their GPA remains at 3.25 or higher. Any transferrable course at SJCC is eligible for Honors designation with cooperation from the instructor. There is no limit to the amount of Honors courses students may complete. For students seeking to apply to the UC, taking an honors course can make them more competitive upon application.

Students and faculty members complete an Honors Planning Contract, establishing the parameters of the project and linking to Student Learning Outcomes. After successful completion of the project, students receive Honors notation on their transcript next to the Honors course(s). Students who have completed 9 credits with Honors will receive an Honors medallion upon graduation.

For more information, contact the Humanities & Social Sciences Division at (408) 288-3785.

Students are encouraged to review their eligibility for the Phi Theta Kappa Honors society as well.

Honors Society-Phi Theta Kappa

San José City College is a chartered member of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Students who participate in the Honors Program may be eligible to join the chapter. Membership in Phi Theta Kappa expands the student’s knowledge in the four hallmarks of excellence: scholarship, leadership, fellowship, and service. In addition to the bond of membership, scholarships are available at many four-year institutions for Phi Theta Kappa transfer students.

For more information, contact Blake.Balajadia@sjcc.edu.

Learning Communities

Learning Communities are designed to promote student success through integrated learning. In a learning community, students enroll together in two or more classes that are linked or clustered. Typically, these courses share an interdisciplinary theme. Instructors in learning communities collaborate on teaching these courses by structuring assignments, activities, and assessments in ways that improve student understanding of various subject areas.

There are many advantages to enrolling in a learning community; students can fulfill requirements for two or more courses in one organized package, gain a deeper understanding of materials, enhance critical thinking skills by synthesizing ideas from two or more disciplines, and build supportive friendships and a sense of community with classmates and instructors.

For more information, contact the Counseling Center at (408) 288-3750.

Metas Program

Caminos Summer Bridge and First-Year Experience (FYE) supports incoming students making the transition from high school to San José City College. Caminos provides an opportunity for students to begin the first year of college by completing foundational courses during Summer Bridge while learning to navigate college life. Students continue their Caminos experience through FYE with a team of counselors, instructors, and peers to guide students beyond the first year of college and through graduation. Upon completion of the first year, students will have clear expectations of the quality and quantity of work required to complete college successfully.

Visit the Metas Center (M-104) at the Multi-Disciplinary Building or contact staff at (408) 288-3125.

Cultivamos Excelencia

In collaboration with University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC), Metas offers San José City College (SJCC) students an opportunity to participate in an undergraduate research program.

The Cultivamos Excelencia Undergraduate Research Program provides San José City College students with the opportunity to engage in university-level studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz under the guidance and mentorship of San José City College faculty, UC Santa Cruz professors, and UC Santa Cruz graduate students. Students in this program work on research projects, either individually or in teams, delving into the fascinating world of university inquiry and discovery.

Visit the Metas Center (M-104) at the Multi-Disciplinary Building or contact staff at (408) 288-3125.

Peer-Led Team Learning

Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) is a learning and leadership program accomplished through a collaborative effort between the Metas Program and several disciplines. The central component of PLTL is weekly workshops facilitated by peer leaders for students enrolled in a variety of academic courses, mostly in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and expanding in other disciplines. During the workshops, students participate in discussions, problem solving, and other activities to assist them in enhancing their subject matter knowledge, study skills, and course success. Peer leaders are a key component of PLTL. They are chosen amongst students who have previously excelled in PLTL courses and receive continued training.

Visit the Metas Center (M-104) at the Multi-Disciplinary Building or contact staff at (408) 288-3125.

Supplemental Instruction

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is an academic assistance program that uses peer-assisted workshops. SI workshops are regularly scheduled review sessions in which students compare notes, discuss readings, develop organizational tools, and predict test items. Students learn how to integrate course content and study skills while working together in a small group setting. The workshops are facilitated by SI leaders, students
who have done well in the course and have a genuine desire to help their peers succeed. In addition to facilitating weekly sessions outside of class, SI leaders are embedded in classes; they attend all lectures and model good student behavior. In the words of the SI leaders, "Our mission of SJCC Supplemental Instruction is to engage math students in peer-assisted activities in a learner-centered environment. Students will cooperatively enhance their knowledge of the subject matter, develop study skills, and become independent learners to walk their path to higher learning."

Visit the Metas Center (M-104) at the Multi-Disciplinary Building or contact staff at (408) 288-3125.

**Parent College**

Parent College assists family members with gaining awareness to support their sons and/or daughters’ transition from high school to community college. Parents learn about the differences between community college and a university. They learn about the requirements for earning a certificate, attaining an associates degree, or transferring to a university. The sessions provide information about Federal Student Aid and other forms of financial aid. Parents also learn about campus resources and services connect their children to campus and to have a successful first year in college.

Sessions will be led by a community college counselor who has expertise in guiding students on their educational and career path. Upon completion of the program, parents will receive a Parent College Certificate of Completion. San José City College is committed to engaging parents so students will receive the maximum support at home and in school in effort to increase academic achievement.

Visit the Metas Center (M-104) at the Multi-Disciplinary Building or contact staff at (408) 288-3125.

**Middle College**

A partnership between San José Unified School District and San José City College, Middle College is an accelerated program designed to offer a unique option to high school students who are academically capable. It assists students in completing high school while beginning their college careers. Selected junior and senior students take their core subjects, English and Social Studies and two additional courses with high school teachers. Also, students must take a minimum of nine college units per semester. Community Service or Service Learning is an integral part of the program as well. All classes are held on the San José City College campus.

For more information, contact the Office of SJUSD at (408) 536-6187, Middle College Program Office at (408) 288-3100, or the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs at (408) 288-3146.

**Offsite Programs**

Several programs and classes are offered throughout the San José community in places such as public buildings, community resource centers, or schools. All of San José City College classes are open to admitted students who meet course prerequisites regardless of the location at which they are offered. Because the offerings are developed to respond to community requests or needs, the courses may begin or end at times other than the standard schedule on campus.

These offerings are listed in each semester’s class schedule and at http://www.sjcc.edu.

**Puente Program**

Puente (which means “bridge” in Spanish) is a nationally recognized, two semester academic program designed to help students adjust to college life and prepare for transfer to four-year universities. The mission of Puente is to increase the number of underrepresented students who enroll in four-year universities, earn degrees, and return to the community as successful leaders and mentors. Puente was founded in 1981 to address the low rate of academic achievement among Mexican-American/Latino community college students. Puente is co-sponsored by the University of California and the California Community Colleges and is open to all students.

Puente provides an academic and supportive environment in which students plan and work toward achieving their educational and career goals in partnership with a counselor, culturally sensitive instructors, and community professionals. The program integrates writing instruction, counseling, and mentoring to provide a focused and engaging learning environment for students. An important part of the program is the mentoring component. Students are matched with professionals from the community who provide them with knowledge and guidance about education, careers, and life.

The program provides students with a strong academic foundation and offers a one-year learning community that consists of Phase I: English 92 (Essay Development) linked with Guidance 87 (Study Techniques) and Phase II: English 1A (English Composition) linked with Guidance 96 (Career and Life Planning).

Puente is located in the Student Center, Room SC-216H. For more information contact the Puente Counselor: Veronica Harris at (408) 298-2181 X3344, or Veronica.Harris@sjcc.edu.

**Service Learning**

Service Learning allows students to experience meaningful community service that is tied to their college studies. By connecting the classroom to real-world experiences, students enhance their understanding of course content and develop an appreciation for the importance of civic engagement.

The Service Learning Program encourages students to interact with diverse and often underserved people in a variety of workplace environments, to critically reflect on what happens there, and to integrate their experiences with classroom learning and their own lives.

Service Learning is located in the Student Center, Room SC115J. For more information, contact Blake.Balajadia@sjcc.edu.

**Umoja Program**

The Umoja Program is an academic learning community and resource. A Kiswahili word meaning “unity”, Umoja engages students in culturally responsive curricula, supporting the legacy of the African Diaspora. The program is dedicated to increasing retention and graduation rates of African-Americans as well as other underrepresented student populations at SJCC.

The program incorporates academic and personal counseling as student support services. Umoja advances academic excellence, community building and student leadership as its program goals.

For more information, contact the Umoja Coordinator: Dedrick Griffin at (408) 298-3884, or Dedrick.Griffin@sjcc.edu.