

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The California Community College System (CCC) is the largest system of higher education in the world serving over 2.5 million students. Fifty-five percent of students who graduated from a CSU and 30% of those who graduated from a UC, started at a California Community College. There are over 100 Community Colleges in the state of California, all offering the following types of programs.

OPTION 1: Certificate Program

A specific occupational program is selected and courses are completed from the list in the college catalogue for that skill area. Examples include automotive technology at Cypress College, administration of justice at Fullerton College, culinary arts at Cypress, etc. General education courses are not required; the focus is earning a certificate to prove proficiency in your occupational area. The certificate programs range from 18-30 units.

OPTION 2: Transfer Program

Lower division university course requirements can be completed at a CCC. Students may then enter a four year college as a junior to complete their bachelor's degree. There are two general education transfer patterns- CSU and IGETC that students must meet, have 60 transferable units, and maintain a required GPA, as well as meet prerequisite coursework for their major.

OPTION 3: Associate Degree Program

The Associate Degree is granted upon completion of 60 college units, general education courses, a major and a minimum 2.0 grade point average. Each Community College has a list of required general education courses for the AA and AS degrees.

OPTION 4: Associate Degrees for Transfer

Senate Bill 1440 required CCCs to develop associate degrees for Transfer (AA-T or AS-T) in collaboration with CSU. Students are given guaranteed admission into a CSU upon granting of an associate degree and meeting specified general education and major requirements. This is in place for certain majors.

There are five steps to enrolling at the Community College:

1. **Apply:** apply online at www.cccapply.org
2. **Testing:** make an appointment for placement testing as soon as application is submitted.
3. **Orientation/advisement:** after testing is completed, make an appointment for orientation and advisement. At some Community Colleges this step is on-line.
4. **Counseling:** make an appointment for counseling to discuss career goals, transfer programs.
5. **Registration:** you will be given an appointment time for registration. You may register on that date or any time afterward. Registration is completed on-line on your portal *My Gateway*.

Enroll in Fullerton College *Counseling 50* course offered in the Spring semester, here on-campus. This free class takes care of steps 2-5 above!!

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(samples of programs they offer)

<p>FULLERTON COLLEGE</p> <p>www.fullcoll.edu 714-992-7075</p> <p>Construction Technology Crime Scene Investigation Cosmetology Horticulture Child Development Theater Arts/Technical Theater Police Academy Business Management Fashion & Interior Design Gaming</p>	<p>CYPRESS COLLEGE</p> <p>www.cypresscollege.edu 714-484-7346</p> <p>Airline & Travel Court Reporting Hotel Management and Culinary Arts Nursing Medical/Dental Programs Radiology/Ultrasound Automotive Photography</p>
<p>SANTA ANA COLLEGE</p> <p>www.sac.edu 714-564-6005</p> <p>Automotive Business Administration Criminal Justice Diesel/Heavy Equipment Technology Digital Media Arts Family Consumer Studies Fire Technology Manufacturing Technology Medical Assistant Nursing Occupational Therapy Assistant Pharmacy Technology</p>	<p>CERRITOS COLLEGE</p> <p>www.cerritos.edu 562-860-2451</p> <p>Court Reporting Dental Assisting/Hygiene Emergency Medical Technician Nursing Pharmacy Technician Physical Therapist Assistant Speech Pathology Assistant Welding Woodworking Manufacturing</p>

TRADE & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Over 10,000 private vocational schools throughout the United States teach a variety of careers. Admission requirements for these schools vary, and the tuition ranges from approximately \$500 to \$60,000 depending on the nature and length of the course. **ACCREDITATION** is an important indicator because an accredited school has passed a thorough examination of its business practices and teaching ability by an accrediting agency. Read the school contract carefully to determine the total cost and what part of the payment would be returned if you do not complete the course and/or the program (usually nothing is returned to you). Be careful and know what you are getting into when you enroll at a trade/technical school.

<p>KEY FACTS</p> <p>Choosing a private vocational school is a big decision. You probably want to know:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> What is the cost? <input type="checkbox"/> How long does it take? <input type="checkbox"/> How hard is it? <input type="checkbox"/> What programs/degrees are offered: certificates, AA/AS, BA/BS?</p>	<p>OPPORTUNITIES AFTER GRADUATING</p> <p>Talk to prospective employers and ask:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Would you hire graduates of the school? <input type="checkbox"/> How many have you actually hired? <input type="checkbox"/> Were they hired because of school training? <input type="checkbox"/> Will there be jobs available for the skills taught at the trade school?</p>
<p>ADDITIONAL FACTS</p> <p>Research on-line and talk to school representatives to learn:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is the school accredited? <input type="checkbox"/> What percentages of the students finish the course? <input type="checkbox"/> Is placement included as a service of the school? <input type="checkbox"/> Will a refund be given if the course is not completed? <input type="checkbox"/> How long has the school been in operation?</p>	<p>CATEGORIES OF TRADE/TECHNICAL SCHOOL</p> <p>This is a sampling of the types of specialized schools:</p> <p>Automotive Business Culinary Arts & Design Cosmetology Education Health Care Legal/Criminal Justice Media Arts Real Estate Technology Travel & Tourism Trades (such as electrician, plumbing, welding, aviation)</p>