

College Information

HISTORY

A 20 year vision became a reality for a dedicated group of residents in February 1967 when the Los Angeles Board of Education approved plans to build a community college at the corner of Western Avenue and Imperial Highway in Los Angeles. On September 11, 1967, Los Angeles Southwest College officially opened its doors with 600 students and 22 full-time faculty members.

Since then, Los Angeles Southwest College has established itself as an educational and cultural hub of the southern part of Los Angeles and surrounding communities.

In addition to classroom instruction, students are exposed to a myriad of learning experiences to broaden their horizons, to expand their options and alternatives, to develop an appreciation for the academic work ethic, and to understand intellectual pursuits. Our graduates are among the most successful — ranging from medical professionals and professional athletes to recording artists and educators.

Currently, our enrollment exceeds 6,000. As we develop new partnerships with local schools and community agencies, we continue to “Embrace the Spirit of Excellence and the Vision of Change.”

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The Los Angeles Community Colleges affirm the principle that individuals should have opportunities to develop to their fullest potential. To that end, our main responsibility is to students and to the provision of education which benefits students and enables them to contribute to society.

Our colleges, therefore, are accessible to all individuals who have the capacity and motivation to profit from higher education. Curricula and services of our colleges provide means for fulfilling the promise of open access.

We recognize the necessity to adapt to the changing educational needs of the Los Angeles Community Colleges' communities and to the growing diversity among students.

The quality of the educational experience is to be judged by its value to our students and our communities. We recognize that academic freedom is essential to excellence in education.

MISSION AND GOALS

Our Mission

Los Angeles Southwest College is committed to providing an environment for quality learning to enrich the lives of our diverse population.

Educational Goals

In order to accomplish the mission, our goals are to:

- Serve student needs and success through coordinated, collaborative, and integrative state-of-the-art delivery of services that are flexible and inclusive.
- Provide quality education that incorporate technology and responds to the needs of students, business,

industry, and institutions of higher learning with curricula that improve student learning outcomes;

- Maintain a commitment to students and expand collaborative community relationships in a safe, healthy and aesthetically pleasing environment conducive to quality learning;
- Identify, develop and support leaders to effectively manage an environment of shared governance with respect, support and recognition.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

To accomplish the educational philosophy and mission of the Los Angeles Community Colleges, Los Angeles Southwest College offers the following types of educational programs:

Transfer. A college transfer program which enables the student who completes two years of study to continue upper division (third year) work at accredited four-year colleges and universities through careful and continuous articulation with accredited collegiate institutions and high schools.

Occupational. An occupational education program planned to offer the student basic business, technical, and professional curricula to develop skills which can lead to employment, job advancement, certification, or the associate degree.

General Education. A program of general education comprised of associate degree programs and other planned experiences which develop knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the student to be effective as a person, a family member, a worker, and a citizen, thereby enhancing the quality of life for the individual and for society-at-large.

Transitional Education. A program of remedial and basic skills education for students needing preparation for community college level courses and programs and English as a Second Language instruction for immigrants, foreign students and other students with limited English proficiency.

Continuing Education. Continuing education comprised of graded and ungraded classes to provide opportunities for personal and occupational competence that supplement formal full-time college attendance.

Community Services. Community services offered to meet the needs of the community for vocational and recreational courses, community and cultural events; summer youth programs and civic functions, completely financed by fees charged those in attendance.

Joint Programs. Joint programs with business, industry, labor, education, government and other institutions, which are of mutual benefit to sponsoring institutions, enhance the educational opportunities of program participants, and advance the mission and functions of the District.