



**SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

CITY COLLEGE • MESA COLLEGE • MIRAMAR COLLEGE • COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

## **Graduation Surveys 2018 – 2021**

*Prepared by:*

*Miramar College of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness*

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# San Diego Miramar College (SDMC) Graduation Survey: Spring 2018

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Prepared by the *Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness*

## ***What was the purpose of the study?***

- (1) Learn about graduates' experiences at SDMC to inform institutional planning and reform
- (2) Learn more about students' post-graduation plans

## ***What was our research method?***

We distributed individualized links to an online survey to all students who were candidates for a SDMC certificate and/or degree in Spring 2018. 200 students responded, for a response rate of 16.5%.

## ***What did we find?***

### **SDMC plays an important role in shaping students' goals.**

While a majority of respondents began their education in the San Diego Community College District with the intention of receiving either a degree or certificate at SDMC, others shared how their experience at SDMC shaped their desire to achieve these goals. However, a few students shared that institutional barriers had delayed or prevented them from achieving their initial goals.

### **We are doing well in supporting the “six factors of student success,” with the majority of respondents reporting that they felt directed, focused, engaged, nurtured, valued, and connected. From the student perspective, key strengths of SDMC include:**

- Caring, supportive, and knowledgeable classroom instructional faculty and classified professionals who center students in their work
- High quality wrap-around services to support student success
- Flexibility and support for working professionals and students with complex needs
- Strong preparation for the next step of students' educational and personal journeys

### **Here's what SDMC could do better:**

- Develop a stronger system for connecting struggling students to available support services
- Provide more opportunities for students to engage in career exploration and network with employers
- Ensure students feel like they are part of a greater community, for example, by connecting students to meaningful extracurricular activities
- Provide clearer directions about the courses that students need to take and the institutional requirements they need to meet in order to achieve their goals

### **Our alumni want to remain connected to SDMC.**

SDMC alumni would like to participate in career fairs, other career-related events held on campus (56%), alumni networking events (53%), and receive alumni newsletter (31%)

# San Diego Miramar College Graduation Survey: Spring 2018 Compared to Spring 2019

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Prepared by the *Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness*

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This is a comparison of students' responses to the San Diego Miramar College (SDMC) Graduation Survey for Spring 2018 and Spring 2019.

## ***What stayed the same from year to year?***

### **Goals**

- The majority of students responded that their initial goal was to obtain an AA/AS and transfer to a 4-year institution.
- About a third of respondents reported changing their goals over the course of their education.

### **Educational Plans**

Most students said they planned to transfer to a 4-year college or university in the next six months.

### **Supporting Students**

- When asked what Miramar College has done well in supporting graduates' career, educational, and personal goals, students continue to mention instructional faculty and classified staff.
- When asked what we could have done better, students continue to mention counseling services, including improving the accuracy and consistency of advice from counselors. They also mentioned offering more courses or courses at different times/modalities.

### **Barriers Impacting Award Completion**

- Health/illness, including mental health issues
- Struggling with academic materials
- Work
- Family responsibilities or issues
- Counseling services
- Getting courses transferred/transfer services

## ***What other patterns do we see?***

### **Service Utilization and Perception**

- In 2019, higher percentages of students reported never having used most services.
  - Exceptions to this are the Student Affairs Office and Veterans Affairs, which had a high percentage of students reporting usage in 2019.
- Counseling services were the most-utilized in both years.
- Mental health services were the least-utilized in both years, despite mental health being a relatively highly-reported barrier to students meeting their goals in both years.
- Students' perceptions of the services they used were very similar from year-to-year, with all services receiving positive weighted average scores for both years.<sup>1</sup>
  - Perceptions of EOPS were the highest in 2019, and among the highest in 2018.
  - Perceptions of the Student Affairs Office were the lowest in 2019, and among the lowest in 2018.

### **Summary of Preparation**

- A slightly higher percentage of students (2%) agreed or strongly agreed to the following statement in 2019: "I feel like I have gained meaningful knowledge, skills, and experiences during my education at Miramar College."
- A higher percentage of students (8%) did *not* agree or strongly agree to the following statement in 2019: "As a result of my education at Miramar College, I feel prepared for the next step of my personal, educational, and agree journey."

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<sup>1</sup> In 2018, student perception of services was measured by asking about satisfaction on a scale of 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied). In 2019, it was measured by asking about perceived impact of the service on a scale of 1 (strong negative impact) to 5 (strong positive impact). While direct comparisons of weighted response averages between 2018 and 2019 should be used with caution, these two scales can be helpful in identifying trends, for example, which services have consistently high averages.

# San Diego Miramar College Graduation Survey: Spring 2020

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Prepared by the *Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness*

## ***What was the purpose of the study?***

- (3) Learn about 2020 graduates' experiences at San Diego Miramar College (SDMC) to inform institutional planning and effectiveness.
- (4) Learn more about the students' post-graduation plans

## ***What was our research method?***

We distributed individualized links to an online survey to all students who were candidates for a SDMC certificate and/or degree in spring 2020.

## ***Who responded to the survey?***

A total of 414 students responded, for a response rate of 33%. Female respondents and respondents aged 18-24 were overrepresented compared to all SDMC graduates.

## ***What did we find?***

### **Satisfaction.**

Students were asked to rate their agreement with six statements indicating satisfaction with: feeling prepared for the next step of their journey; involvement in on-campus activities; feeling like part of a community; gaining knowledge and skills, feeling appreciated; and being motivated. At least half of respondents agreed or strongly agreed to five of the statements, with four of the statements getting 70% agreement or higher (see table 7 and figure 2). However, the majority of respondents did not agree that they became involved in meaningful on-campus activities.

### **Here's what respondents said SDMC did well in supporting their goals:**

- Instructional faculty who were helpful, supporting, and caring
- Helpful counselors
- Offering guidance

### **Here's what they said SDMC could do better:**

- Improve counseling services
- Provide more guidance
- Foster a sense of community on the campus

### **Students faced barriers:**

40% of respondents said they faced barriers that impacted earning their award, including financial issues, the global pandemic, class difficulty, and working while taking classes.

### **Supporting alumni after graduation:**

50% of respondents said they would like the ability to attend campus career fairs and other career events as alumni, and 44% said they would find networking helpful. 32% were interested in an alumni newsletter.

# San Diego Miramar College Graduation Survey: Summary of 3-year Comparison (2018-2020)

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Prepared by the *Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness*

This is a comparison of students' responses to the San Diego Miramar College (SDMC) Graduation Survey for Spring 2018, Spring 2019, and Spring 2020. The 2019 and 2020 survey instruments were nearly identical, while the Spring 2018 survey varied in some questions.

## Trends over time:

↔ = No change   ↓ = Downward trend   ↑ = Upward trend   ⇕ = Mixed changes

## Goals

- ↔ **Initial Goal:** Most students' initial goal was to get an associate's degree and transfer.
- ↔ **Goal Change:** About a 1/3 of students said their goal changed over time.

## Employment

- ↔ **Percentage:** Most students were employed (full-time or part-time) during their time at SDMC.
- ↔ **Type:** Most employment was part-time.
- ↔ **Relevance:** Work experience was usually not directly related to students' field of study.

## Growth

- ↑ **Contribution:** Higher percentages of students in 2020 said their experience at SDMC contributed to their growth in 13 of 15 areas than in 2019.
- ↔ **Impact:** Students in 2020 reported their SDMC experience had about the same impact on their growth as 2019 students in 11 of 15 areas.

## Satisfaction

Students were asked to rate their agreement with six statements indicating satisfaction with: 1) feeling prepared for the next step of their journey; 2) gaining knowledge and skills; 3) involvement in on-campus activities; 4) feeling like part of a community; 5) feeling appreciated; and 6) being motivated.

- ↔ **Preparedness:** Students in 2020 agreed to satisfaction statements 1 and 2 at about the same rates as students in 2019. (2019 and 2020 agreement to statement 1 was somewhat lower than in 2018.)

↑ **Satisfaction:** Higher percentages of 2020 students reported agreement to statements 3, 4, and 6 than 2019 students. (Agreement to statement 5 was about the same.)

## Services

- ↔ **Services Utilized:** The services students used the most (and least) stayed about the same from year to year.

- ↕ **Utilization Rates:** The percentage of students who used each service went up or down depending on the service.
- ↑ **Usage Frequency:** For the services they did use, on average 2020 students reported using services more often than 2019 students.
- ↑ **Impact:** Students in 2020, on average, said services had a more positive impact on their ability to reach their goals for 17 of 18 services compared to students in 2019.

### Supporting Students

- ↔ **Support Successes:** When asked what Miramar College did well in supporting them reaching their goals, students continued to mention teaching faculty, counseling faculty, and the Transfer Center.
- ↔ **Opportunities for Improvement:** When asked what Miramar College could have done better in supporting them reaching their goals, students continued to mention teaching faculty, counseling faculty, and the Transfer Center. (These percentages are smaller than the - percentages of students who said they found faculty and the Transfer Center helpful.)
- ↔ **Facing Barriers:** 40% of students said they faced barriers to goal completion.
- ↑ **Overcoming Barriers:** 17% more students said Miramar College did well in helping them overcome barriers in 2020 than in 2019.
- ↔ **Barriers Faced:** Students continue to face monetary barriers, issues with class difficulty or pacing, and the challenges of working as students.

### Future Plans

- ↓ **Current Unemployment:** 11% more students said they were currently unemployed in 2020 than in 2019.
- ↕ **Six-Month Plans (Currently-Employed Students):** Currently-employed students were asked if they planned to stay at their current job, seek a promotion in their current organization, seek full- or part-time employment outside of their current organization, quit working, or if they had other plans.
  - ↑ **Stay at Current Job:** The largest group of students planned to stay at their current job in both 2019 and 2020. The 2020 rate increased 9% in 2020 compared to 2019.
  - ↓ **New Part-Time Job:** 8% fewer students said they planned to seek a part-time job outside of their current organization in 2020 than in 2019.
- ↕ **Six-Month Plans (Currently-Unemployed Students):** Currently-unemployed students were asked if they planned to seek full- or part-time employment, not work to continue their education, or not work for other reasons.
  - ↑ **Part-Time Work:** 16% more students said they planned to seek part-time employment in 2020 than in 2019.
  - ↓ **Continue Education:** 9% fewer students said they planned to not work in order to continue their education in 2020 than in 2019.
  - ↓ **Not Work:** 8% fewer students said they planned to not work for other reasons in 2020 than in 2019.

# San Diego Miramar College Graduation Survey: Spring 2021

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Prepared by the *Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness*

## ***What was the purpose of the study?***

- (5) Learn about 2021 graduates' experiences at San Diego Miramar College (SDMC) to inform institutional planning and effectiveness.
- (6) Learn more about the students' post-graduation plans

## ***What was our research method?***

We distributed individualized links to an online survey to all students who were candidates for a SDMC certificate and/or degree in spring 2021.

## ***Who responded to the survey?***

A total of 332 students responded, for a response rate of 19%. There was a total of 1,719 graduates in the Spring of 2021. The majority of graduates were females and the age range of 18-24 was the most prevalent.

## ***What did we find?***

### **Satisfaction.**

Students were asked to rate their agreement with six statements indicating satisfaction with: feeling prepared for the next step of their journey; involvement in on-campus activities; feeling like part of a community; gaining knowledge and skills, feeling appreciated; and being motivated. At least half of respondents agreed or strongly agreed to five of the statements, with two of the statements getting 80% agreement or higher and another two getting 60% or higher (see table 7 and figure 2). However, around 40% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that they became involved in meaningful on-campus activities.

### **Here's what respondents said SDMC did well in supporting their goals :**

- Instructors and faculty members were helpful
- Transfer Center
- Goals

### **Here's what they said SDMC could do better:**

- Counselors and Counseling
- Online
- Transferring

### **Students faced barriers** (see tables 15 and 16):

41% of respondents said they faced barriers that impacted earning their award, including class issues, Covid-19 related issues, time constraints and online class difficulties.

### **Supporting alumni after graduation** (see table 22):

36% of respondents said they would like the ability to attend campus career fairs and other career events as alumni, and 41% said they would find networking helpful. 27% were interested in an alumni newsletter.

# San Diego Miramar College Graduation Survey: Summary of 4-year Comparison (2018-2021)

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Prepared by the *Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness*

This is a comparison of students' responses to the San Diego Miramar College (SDMC) Graduation Survey for Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020 and Spring 2021. The 2019 and 2020 and 2021 survey instruments were nearly identical, while the Spring 2018 survey varied in some questions.

## Trends over time:

↔ = No change   ↓ = Downward trend   ↑ = Upward trend   ⇅ = Mixed changes

## Goals

- ↔ **Initial Goal:** Most students' initial goal was to get an associate's degree and transfer.
- ↔ **Goal Change:** About a 1/3 of students said their goal changed over time.

## Employment

- ↔ **Percentage:** Most students were employed (full-time or part-time) during their time at SDMC.
- ↔ **Type:** Most employment was part-time.
- ↔ **Relevance:** Work experience was usually not directly related to students' field of study.

## Growth

- ↑ **Contribution:** Higher percentages of students in 2021 said their experience at SDMC contributed to their growth in 12 of 15 areas than in 2020.
- ↔ **Impact:** Students in 2021 reported their SDMC experience had about the same impact on their growth as 2020 students in 10 of 15 areas.

## Satisfaction

Students were asked to rate their agreement with six statements indicating satisfaction with: 1) feeling prepared for the next step of their journey; 2) gaining knowledge and skills; 3) involvement in on-campus activities; 4) feeling like part of a community; 5) feeling appreciated; and 6) being motivated.

- ↔ **Preparedness:** Students in 2021 agreed to satisfaction statements 1 and 2 at about the same rates as students in 2020. (2018 had a slightly greater scores of satisfaction then 2019-2021.)
- ↓ **Satisfaction:** All satisfaction statements, 3-6, decreased in scores in 2021 compared to 2020 satisfaction ratings.

## Services

- ↓ **Services Utilized:** All services in 2021 saw a decrease in use compared to 2020, with the exception of the San Diego Promise, which saw an increase use of 8%.
- ↓ **Utilization Rates:** The percentage of students who used each service all went down in 2021.
- ↓ **Usage Frequency:** For the services they did use, on average 2021 students reported using services less than 2020, but around the same as 2019.
- ↕ **Impact:** Students in 2021, on average, said 10 of 18 services had a more positive impact on their ability to reach their goals compared to 2020, while 7 of 18 decreased from 2020, and 1 service remained the same.

## Supporting Students

- ↔ **Support Successes:** When asked what Miramar College did well in supporting them reaching their goals, students continued to mention teaching faculty, counseling faculty, and the Transfer Center.
- ↑ **Opportunities for Improvement:** When asked what Miramar College could have done better in supporting them reaching their goals, students continued to mention teaching faculty, counseling faculty, and the Transfer Center. (These percentages increased from 2020 to 2021.)
- ↔ **Facing Barriers:** 40% of students said they faced barriers to goal completion.
- ↓ **Overcoming Barriers:** 15% less students said Miramar College did well in helping them overcome barriers in 2021 than in 2020.
- ↔ **Barriers Faced:** Students continue to face monetary barriers, issues with class difficulty or pacing, and the challenges of working as students, as well as issues concerning the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Future Plans

- ↔ **Current Unemployment:** 2021 data only differentiated from 2020 data by 1%. The average amount of students employed and unemployed stayed almost the same.
- ↕ **Six-Month Plans (Currently Employed Students):** Currently employed students were asked if they planned to stay at their current job, seek a promotion in their current organization, seek full- or part-time employment outside of their current organization, quit working, or if they had other plans.
  - ↑ **Stay at Current Job:** The largest group of students planned to stay at their current job from 2019-2021. The 2021 rate increased 4% in 2021 compared to 2020.
  - ↓ **Seek Promotion with current organization:** 5% fewer students in 2021 reported seeking a promotion within their current organization compared to 2020.
  - ↑ **Seek part/full-time job outside current employer:** 2021 data saw an increase by 3% compared to 2020 data. An increase of 1% for full time job seekers and an increase of 2% in part time job seekers.

↕ **Six-Month Plans (Currently Unemployed Students):** Currently-unemployed students were asked if they planned to seek full- or part-time employment, not work to continue their education, or not work for other reasons.

↑ **Part-Time Work:** 1% more students said they planned to seek part-time employment in 2021 than in 2020.

↓ **Full-Time Work:** 4% fewer students said they planned to seek full-time employment in 2021 than in 2020.

↑ **Continue Education:** 5% more students said they planned to not work in order to continue their education in 2021 than in 2020.

↓ **Not Work:** 2% fewer students said they planned to not work for other reasons in 2021 than in 2020.