ASU EdPlus
Arizona State University

Expanding Pathways | California Community College Achievement Plan
San Diego Community College District

Overview of Scholarship Program

Arizona State University (ASU) is partnering with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to offer a pathway to affordable, accessible four-year degrees for California Community College students and alumni. This partnership is designed to support students who face barriers due to the limited admission capacity within the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems. ASU's scalable online infrastructure provides a solution, delivering high-quality bachelor's degree programs that address these capacity gaps and promote educational advancement for California communities.

Program Criteria and Eligibility

The scholarship offers a 23% tuition reduction applied to the scheduled credit hour rate at the current tuition rate excluding fees. AY25 translates to a $130 discount per credit hour.

To qualify for the ASU California Community College Achievement Plan, students must:
- Have graduated from or been enrolled at an eligible California community college on or after January 1, 2023.
- Completed at least 30+ credits at a California community college.
- Students must not hold a previously earned bachelor's degree.
- Maintain continuous enrollment (minimum of one course per term) at ASU upon admission.

This criterion ensures that ASU is pushing students to complete their associate degrees at their California Community College and that they are leveraging MyPath2ASU early in their journey to ensure full transferability and articulation. This creates great opportunities for community colleges and ASU to work closely on advising and student support, reducing excess credit accumulation and ensuring students stay on track toward their bachelor's degrees.

Pilot Program

While ASU works with the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges (CEOCCC) board to finalize a state-wide all-encompassing partnership, ASU would like to work with two willing partners to establish the scholarship and begin measuring outcomes to shared goals with a focus on access and attainment.

ASU would like to invite SDCCD to join an exclusive pilot program alongside 4 other districts. This initiative is focused on establishing clear pathways for community college students to transition successfully to four-year degrees, leveraging backend systems for eligibility verification and transcript mapping, and collaborating to amplify degree attainment most relevant to workforce needs. The pilot will help refine processes for a broader statewide rollout.

District	Community College(s)	Point of Contact
San Diego CCD	1. San Diego Mesa College 2. San Diego Miramar College 3. San Diego City College	**Gregory Smith** Chancellor, San Diego CCD

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Mt. San Jacinto CCD	1. Mt. San Jacinto College	**Roger Schultz**, Superintendent/President, Mt. San Jacinto CCD President, CEOCCC
South Orange County CCD	1. Irvine Valley College 2. Saddleback College	**Julianna Barnes** Chancellor, South Orange County CCD Immediate Past President, CEOCCC
Coast CCD	1. Coastline Community College 2. Golden West College 3. Orange Coast College	**Angelica Suarez** President, Orange Coast College Board Member, CEOCCC
Los Rios CCD	1. American River College 2. Cosumnes River College 3. Folsom Lake College 4. Sacramento City College	**Artemio Pimentel** President, Folsom Lake College Board Member, CEOCCC

Opportunity Analysis

Addressing Access Gaps in San Diego and California

Capacity Constraints at UCSD & SDSUSan Diego Community College students face significant barriers to transferring to local four-year institutions due to high demand and impaction:

- San Diego State University (SDSU) received 120,000+ applications for Fall 2024, far exceeding available spots.
- University of California, San Diego (UCSD) had 80,000+ applicants, making transfer admission highly competitive.

Many place-bound students in San Diego are left without viable local options for completing a four-year degree.

High-Demand Programs That Address California's Workforce Needs

The ASU Online portfolio directly addresses some of the most impacted and in-demand programs in the state:

- **Nursing (RN to BSN):** Supports California's critical nursing shortage; all CSU nursing programs are impacted.
- **Psychology:** Highly impacted at multiple CSU and UC campuses; a versatile degree for careers in counseling, mental health, and research.
- **Biological Sciences:** A crucial pathway for pre-health students struggling to secure seats in impacted UC/CSU programs.
- **Engineering & Computer Science:** High-tech job sectors in California require more STEM graduates; ASU Online provides pathways in electrical, mechanical, and software engineering, all accredited by ABET.
- **Business Administration:** Impacted at CSU Fullerton, San Diego State, and other campuses; ASU provides a seamless alternative.

Key Benefits to SDCCD Students

- **Guaranteed Scholarship:** $130/credit hour discount making tuition comparable to in-state rates at CSU/UC.

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- **Structured & Transparent Credit Transfer:** MyPath2ASU provides pre-mapped articulation agreements for SDCCD students, ensuring their community college coursework transfers fully and efficiently into their chosen ASU degree.
- **Advising & Student Support Collaboration:** Through MyPath2ASU, ASU and SDCCD advisors can work together to ensure students make informed course selections that align with their bachelor's degree goals.
- **Early Student Engagement:** Encouraging students to sign up for MyPath2ASU early in their community college journey reduces credit loss and improves degree completion rates.
- **Flexible & Fully Online:** Allows students to remain in San Diego while earning a degree from a top-tier university. We also offer many immersive, in-person optional experiences for lab sciences.
- **Improved 4-Year Completion Rates:** This creates additional opportunities for students to earn a bachelor's degree despite capacity constraints at California institutions.
- **Industry-Aligned Programs:** Directly supports local workforce needs in high-growth industries.
- **Nationally Recognized Academic Excellence:** ASU's online programs are ranked in the top 10 nationwide for Best Online Bachelor's Programs (U.S. News & World Report), ensuring students receive a high-quality education. See more [rankings information here](#).
- **Same Faculty & Curriculum as On-Campus Programs:** ASU Online students receive the same education and credentials as those attending ASU's in-person programs.

ASU Online Proof Points

ASU Online provides a flexible, accredited, nationally recognized option for students to complete their bachelor's degrees without leaving San Diego. ASU is ranked #1 in Innovation (U.S. News & World Report, 9 years running) and offers over [130+ online bachelor's degree programs](#) that align with high-demand fields.

ASU Online's engineering programs are also ABET-accredited, ensuring a rigorous, industry-recognized education in STEM disciplines. ASU also holds regional accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), reinforcing its commitment to academic excellence.

Furthermore, **ASU Online degrees are the same as those offered on campus, with identical faculty, curriculum, and academic rigor.** This ensures that online students receive the same high-quality education and credentials as their on-campus peers.

Next Steps & Operationalization
- **March 2025:** SDCCD presents the pilot opportunity to the Chancellor's Cabinet and gathers feedback.
- **April 2025:** ASU provides articulation support and holds initial operational planning meetings with SDCCD stakeholders.
- **May 2025:** Transfer Center, Academic Advising, and Financial Aid teams collaborate to integrate ASU pathways into existing student support structures.
- **June 2025:** Scholarship promotion and student outreach begin.
- **Fall 2025:** First students begin enrolling under the scholarship program.