



STUDENT HANDBOOK



ACADEMIC OPTIONS

CAREER CERTIFICATES

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

TRANSFER

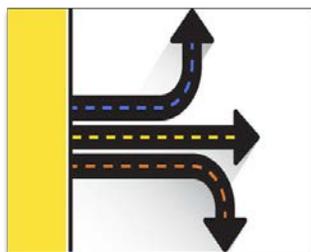
- Series of special major courses, all related to a particular occupational skill/field
- Required coursework varies from 7 - 36 units based on program**
- Programs offered in high-wage, high-demand career fields**
- Leads to employment, Associate Degree and/or transfer**

- Associate in Arts or Science
- AA-T/AS-T CSU Transfer Associate Degrees
- Requires a minimum of 60 degree-applicable units** (General Education + Major + Electives)
- Requires two-years of full-time study, but may take longer**
- Leads to employment and/or transfer**

- Preparation for a Bachelor's Degree**
- Requires a minimum of 60 transferable lower-division units (General Education + Major + Electives)
- Major General Education patterns:**
 - California State University General Education (**CSU GE**) - Primarily used for CSU system and some private colleges in California
 - Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (**I.G.E.T.C.**) - Primarily used for the UC system. Can also be used for CSU and some private colleges and universities in California
- Leads to admission to a four-year college/university**

What are Academic Pathways?

Academic Pathways are groups of subjects and programs that would be considered "similar" either in curriculum, focus, and/or career goals. For example, students interested in majoring in Art or Theater will find their programs under Visual and Performing Arts. Students interested in exploring the differences between Math and Physics will find their programs under STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).



Academic Programs

www.goldenwestcollege.edu/pathways

Golden West College offers majors and programs that lead to a Certificate, Associate Degree and Transfer. We also offer courses that fulfill general education requirements, and transferable courses which fulfill lower division requirements for many other majors. It is important that you meet with a GWC Counselor early in your studies to develop your Student Educational Plan (SEP).

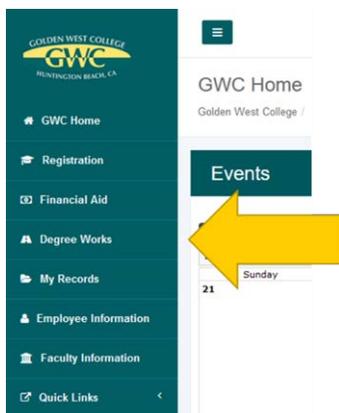


Dual Enrollment

Students enroll in a GWC course offered as part of a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnership agreement between the Coast Community College District and a local high school district. The classes are taught either at a local high school campus during school hours or on GWC's campus. Classes taught at a high school are restricted and are only open to high school students. These courses are completely free for students, and students receive both high school and college credit. Students must complete the [online application to Golden West College](#) and submit the [Dual Enrollment Release Form](#) to register.

DegreeWorks

DegreeWorks provides an accessible, convenient, and organized way for students to view their Student Educational Plan (SEP) and track their academic progress. DegreeWorks can be accessed through the MyGWC portal. Students can use the WORKSHEET to track which General Education and Major requirements have been completed, are in progress, or still have yet to be satisfied. Students will also find a link to PLANS, which is their personalized Student Educational Plan (SEP).



MAP (My Academic Plan)

MAP is the program Golden West College uses to help you place into English and Math courses, identify your Major or Program of Study at the college, and select some general education courses. Counselors use MAP to build your initial Student Educational Plan (SEP): a semester-by-semester plan of courses you should take to work toward your educational goal(s).

Student Resources

www.goldenwestcollege.edu/student-resources

Golden West College offers support to students from enrollment to completion with a variety of services. Our staff is here to help you and we invite you to take advantage of the many services we have to help you to achieve your educational goals.

Counseling

www.goldenwestcollege.edu/counseling

The Counseling Department is dedicated to assisting students to achieve success in their academic, career, and life goals in an inclusive environment that embraces the diversity of our students and community. Our professionally trained counselors are available to assist you with clarifying career and educational goals, educational planning and course selection, university transfer, and personal counseling.

Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS)

www.goldenwestcollege.edu/dsps

The Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) provides educational services and access for eligible students with documented disabilities who intend to pursue coursework at Golden West College (GWC). A variety of programs and services are available, which allow eligible students with disabilities the opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of college programs and activities through appropriate and reasonable accommodations.

EOPS

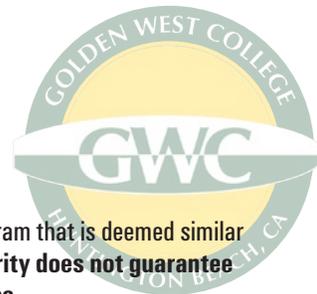
www.goldenwestcollege.edu/eops

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) is a state-funded program serving students who face economic, language, social and/or educational barriers. EOPS assists students to attain their educational and career goals as they prepare to enter an increasingly technological and multicultural society. The goals of the program are to encourage the enrollment, retention, and transfer of students by providing academic and support counseling, financial assistance, and other support services. Within EOPS, there are two additional programs which are [CARE](#) (single parents) and [NextUp/Guardian Scholars](#) (foster youth).

Puente

www.goldenwestcollege.edu/puente/

Established in 1981, Puente is an academic, counseling, and mentoring program for students to build the necessary skills for college and life success. Students enrolled in the Puente program work closely with their counselor, English instructor, and mentor to prepare for transfer to four-year colleges and universities.



Campus Life

www.goldenwestcollege.edu/campus-life

Golden West College provides a variety of opportunities for involvement, service, and leadership in co-curricular activities and clubs. In response to the varying needs of the student population, we recognize diversity as a core value of our campus community. We strive to create experiential learning opportunities outside of the classroom and encourage you to actively participate in the greater educational community.

GWC Mobile App

Get connected to Golden West College for all things GWC! [Download](#) the GWC App for free on your mobile device through the App Store or Google Play by searching for Golden West College.



Transfer Center

www.goldenwestcollege.edu/transfer-center

The Transfer Center provides a variety of resources and services to assist students in achieving their transfer goals. The Transfer Center offers the following services to assist students in the transfer process: application and transfer workshops, transfer fairs, university campus tours, and university representative appointments.

ADT (Associate Degree for Transfer) for the CSU System

California Community Colleges are now offering associate degrees for transfer to the CSU. These may include Associate in Arts (AA-T) or Associate in Science (AS-T) degrees. These degrees are designed to provide a clear pathway to a CSU major and baccalaureate degree. California Community College students who are awarded an AA-T or AS-T degree are guaranteed admission with junior standing somewhere in the CSU system, and given priority admission consider-



ation to their local CSU campus or to a program that is deemed similar to their community college major. **This priority does not guarantee admission to specific majors or campuses.**

Students who have been awarded an AA-T or AS-T are able to complete their remaining requirements for the 120-unit baccalaureate degree within 60 semester or 90 quarter units.

To view the most current list of Golden West College Associate Degrees for Transfer and to find out which CSU campuses accept each degree, visit: [ADT Major and Campus Search](#)

TAG (Transfer Admission Guarantee) to the UC System

Interested in a GUARANTEED TRANSFER to a UC CAMPUS?

A TAG is a written agreement between the student, the community college and a specific university within the University of California (UC) system, which states that if the student meets the requirements, the student is admitted to the university.



A TAG is a free, quick and easy way to determine if the student is eligible for admission to a specific university within the UC system. The TAG secures a seat at a selected university, provided that the student meets the conditions specified in the agreement. Not all majors are included in TAG agreements (by school).

Students can TAG one (1) of six (6) participating UCs. If transfer plans change, students are not obligated to attend the TAG school. However, TAG agreements are university specific and may not be altered or substituted for another university. So, if a student decides to go to a different university than was specified in the TAG agreement, the agreement may not be applied to another university.

If the student completes a TAG, he or she will be given first consideration for admission to the selected university. The student must complete agreed-upon general education courses, and courses in the student's major, with a specified minimum GPA by the date specified in the TAG agreement.

TAGs are available for the following schools:

- UC Davis
- UC Irvine
- UC Merced
- UC Riverside
- UC Santa Barbara
- UC Santa Cruz



Chromebook Loan Program

The Golden West College Student Equity and Achievement Program offers Chromebook loans. Please follow the steps below to request your Chromebook.



1. Students will need to request a Chromebook using the link below.
2. The deadline to submit a request is every Thursday by 5:00 pm. Any requests received after Thursday at 5:00 pm will be added to the following week's distribution.
3. On Friday of the same week you will receive a text or call confirming your Chromebook request and availability for pickup on the following Tuesday.
4. Once confirmed you will be sent an email with pick-up instructions.
5. The Chromebooks will be available for pick-up the following Tuesday between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm.

For additional information please contact the Student Equity and Achievement Program at equity@gwc.cccd.edu

[Chromebook Request Form](#)

Financial Aid

www.goldenwestcollege.edu/gwcfao

The Financial Aid Office staff are here to assist you with all your questions regarding the student financial aid process. We encourage all students to apply for financial aid, as a variety of assistance may be available. The Financial Aid Office does not want anyone to be deprived of an education due to a lack of financial resources.

Applying for financial aid can be a complex and confusing process. Financial aid workshops are available for students who need help! With each workshop, financial aid staff are available to help you through the application.

New to Online Learning / Canvas?

If taking an online course is new to you and you are concerned about whether it will work for your learning style, here are some video tutorials to familiarize you with Canvas!



www.goldenwestcollege.edu/how-to-videos

New Student Registration Checklist

www.goldenwestcollege.edu/nsrl

1. Apply to Golden West College

Create an account at [CCC Apply](#) and complete the application by adding the semester you want to attend.



Receive a welcome email from GWC Admissions within one business day with your login information and student ID#.

2. Financial Aid

The earlier you apply the better. Choose the application that fits best. (GWC Code 001206)

[Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) OR [California Dream Act](#) (AB540 eligible)

3. MAP (My Academic Plan)

MAP will help you with the process of:

- Completing Self-Placement for MATH and ENGLISH
- Selecting some of your General Education courses
- Telling us about your Major or Career goals

Once you complete MAP, Counselors will be getting to work on your Student Educational Plan (SEP). Completion of MAP will help you meet Priority Registration eligibility.

[Begin My Academic Plan](#)

4. Orientation

Complete your GWC Online Orientation; located in [MyGWC Registration](#). Completion of the orientation will help you meet Priority Registration eligibility.

5. Enroll in classes

Once your Student Educational Plan (SEP) has been created by a Counselor, you will use that information to enroll in your classes.

- Log into your MyGWC portal
- Click on DegreeWorks
- Click on PLANS to find your most current Student Educational Plan (SEP)
- Use this information to register for your classes!

Glossary of College Terminology

As a college student, it is important to know and understand the terms you will hear used by colleges/universities and academic professionals.

1. **Associate Degree** – A degree usually awarded by a community college upon completion of 60 units of college course work including general education, major requirements, and electives.
2. **California Dream Act** - Nonresident tuition exemption. Under California law AB 540, certain nonresident students are exempt from paying nonresident supplemental tuition and can apply for Financial Aid through the California Dream Act.
3. **California State University (CSU)** - The system of higher education in California that has a more practical, career-oriented approach to education.
4. **CSU General Education Breadth** - Completion will permit a student to transfer from a community college to a campus in the California State University system without the need after transfer to take additional lower-division general education courses to satisfy GE requirements.
5. **FAFSA** - Application that determines eligibility for financial aid at an institution. The U.S. Department of Education offers a variety of student financial aid programs for assistance with paying for the costs of college attendance. Aid is from both federal and state programs and can be a combination of grant and loan options.
6. **General Education Requirements** - A group of courses in varied areas of the arts and sciences, designed by a college as requirements of the degree.
7. **Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)** - Completion will permit a student to transfer from a community college to a campus in the California State University or University of California system without the need after transfer to take additional lower-division general education courses to satisfy GE requirements.
8. **Pass/No Pass** - A method of grading whereby a student receives a grade of P or NP, instead of an A, B, C, D, or F. A “P” is assigned for the equivalent of “C” or better grades.
9. **Prerequisite** - Requirement that must be met before enrolling in a particular course.
10. **Transcript** – A list of all courses taken at a college or university showing the final grade received for each course. Official types of this document are sent and bear the seal of the institution.
11. **Units** – A unit is usually calculated as one lecture hour per week.
12. **University of California (UC)** - The system of higher education in California that has a more theoretical approach.

DOWNLOAD THE GWC APP

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Everything you need to succeed in college!

- ▶ Stay connected with friends and classmates
- ▶ See upcoming events and activities
- ▶ View your Canvas classes: assignments, grades, and due dates

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Let's Chat! goldenwestcollege.edu/chat



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