

# Admission and Attendance Information



## Eligibility

### ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT PROGRAMS

Students eligible for regular admission to Santa Monica College must be 18 years of age or older or must possess either: (1) a high school diploma from a U.S. regionally accredited or from a foreign high school; (2) a GED; (3) a California High School Certificate of Proficiency (CHSPE); or the equivalent (i.e., a HiSET score report; a TASC [Test Assessing Secondary Completion] score report). Any apprentice, as defined in Labor Code Section 3077, or any other person who is over 18 years of age who, in the judgment of the Dean of Enrollment Services, is capable of profiting from the instruction offered at the College may also be admitted.

A student under the age of 18 who has completed high school from a U.S. regionally accredited or foreign high school or who possesses a GED or a California High School Certificate of Proficiency or the equivalent, may be admitted as regular students, but must submit official proof of completion to Admissions & Records in order to remove the "Under 18" years of age hold from the student's record.

SMC will not accept the CHSPE, HiSET, TASC, or GED diploma without the score report.

Students who have completed 8th grade and are at least 13 years of age or who are currently attending high school may be admitted to Santa Monica College as part of the High School Concurrent Enrollment program and receive credit for SMC courses. Students may only attend on a less than full-time basis. For further information, refer to [smc.edu/hsce](http://smc.edu/hsce) or visit the Admissions Office.

Each student applying for admission or enrollment is classified as a "resident" or a "nonresident" for purposes of admission and/or tuition. Please see the Residency information below for important details regarding California residency requirements and how they apply to students attending Santa Monica College.

### ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY FOR NONCREDIT PROGRAMS

Students eligible for admission to noncredit programs must be 18 years of age or older or must possess a high school diploma from a U.S. regionally accredited or foreign high school, a GED, California High School Certificate of Proficiency, or the equivalent (see above). A student seeking to enroll exclusively in noncredit courses, such as career development and college preparation courses, may be admitted to SMC once a noncredit application is completed. These students are not subject to the residency determination requirements of students enrolling in credit programs/courses. Students with F-1/F-2 status may not be admitted to noncredit programs. Students residing outside California are ineligible for enrollment in noncredit programs.

### ADMISSION OF F-1 AND F-2 STATUS STUDENTS

Applications will be accepted from those who wish to enter Santa Monica College with an F-1 or F-2 status. F-1 and F-2 students will be admitted for all terms. F-1 students are required to enroll in credit programs of 12 or more units in the fall and spring semesters. F-1 students admitted for

winter or summer sessions must enroll in 4 or more units their first term. F-2 students are limited to enrolling on a less than full-time basis. Neither F-1 nor F-2 students may enroll in noncredit courses.

## Residency

The following is a summary of Santa Monica College's residency rules and their exceptions. Students who need more detailed information should visit the Residency webpage ([go to smc.edu/residency](http://go.to/smc.edu/residency)), see the College Policies section of the Schedule of Classes, or contact a residence specialist in Admissions & Records.

### RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

To establish residency, a student needs to meet the three conditions below, subject to verification by submitting required proof as noted in the "Acceptable Proofs of California Residence" section. The burden of proof to demonstrate legal status, physical presence, and intent to establish residency in California is on the student (EC 68041).

1. Legal status that permits the establishment of domicile in the United States. Essentially, student must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, eligible temporary resident, hold an eligible visa, etc. Legal status must be sustained for at least one year plus one day prior to the start of the academic term for which the student was admitted. This date is known as the "Residency Determination Date" (Title 5 § 54045).
2. Physical presence is proved by being physically and continuously present in California for one year plus one day prior to the start of the academic term (the Residency Determination Date). (Title 5 § 54020 and § 54022).
3. Intent to establish residence is proven by providing evidence demonstrating intent to make California a permanent home of residence (see "Acceptable Proofs of California Residence" section below). Taking any of the following actions (not an exhaustive list) demonstrates a lack of intent to make California a permanent home of residence: filing or paying taxes in another state or country as a resident of that state or country; filing for divorce or a lawsuit in another state; paying resident tuition in another state; registering to vote or voting in another state. Moving to California for educational purposes alone does not grant residency (Education Code, § 68062(d)).

### RESIDENCY PROVISIONS

- Each person applying for admission to, or enrolled in, a California Community College is classified for tuition purposes as either a "resident" or a "nonresident" of the State of California.
- A "resident" is defined as a citizen of the United States or a person who holds a status that allows him or her to establish residency in the United States for a minimum of one year and one day, who has proof of physical presence in the State of California for one year and one day PRIOR TO the start of the semester for which California residency is being claimed, and who presents evidence of intention to make California his or her permanent home. Dates on any