



Law Pathway Program

Law Pathway Program Faculty



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Counseling Champion



Christina Gabler, PhD
Faculty Champion



Nathan Khalil, JD
Faculty Champion

Law School Admission Council Study



- ▶ Students starting at 2-year institutions succeed in law school as well as students who start at 4-year institutions
- ▶ The goal is for more 2-year students to apply successfully and to proactively develop skills in:
 - ▶ Logical Reasoning
 - ▶ Reading Comprehension
 - ▶ Analytical Reasoning

California and Law Pathway

- California is a majority-minority state
 - 60% of population is from a racial or ethnic minority group
 - Latino, African-American, Asian, Pacific-Islander
- State Bar Association is only 20% racial or ethnic minority
- Growth of racial or ethnic minority attorneys lags behind population growth

Law Pathway Initiative

- ▶ Help diversify the legal profession to better reflect California's diverse population
- ▶ Sponsored by Council of Access and Fairness (COAF) of the CA State Bar Association
- ▶ Program provides:
 - ▶ Academic counseling and mentoring
 - ▶ Exposure to different careers in law
 - ▶ Networking and learning opportunities
 - ▶ Pre-Law Society (student club)



Participating Law Schools

Priority admission review & Application fee waived.

- ❑ UC, Berkeley
- ❑ UC, Davis
- ❑ UC, Irvine
- ❑ UC, Los Angeles
- ❑ UC, San Francisco

- ❑ Chapman University
- ❑ Loyola Marymount University
- ❑ Pepperdine University
- ❑ Santa Clara University
- ❑ Southwestern Law School
- ❑ University of the Pacific
- ❑ University of San Francisco
- ❑ University of San Diego
- ❑ University of Southern California

Law Pathway Program Curriculum

- Participants must complete 8 required courses
 - COUN 20 - Student Success Seminar
 - ENGL 1* - Reading & Composition
 - ENGL 2* - Critical Analysis & Int. Composition
 - MATH 54* - Elementary Statistics
 - HIST 11* - U.S. History through Reconstruction OR HIST 12* - U.S. History since Reconstruction
 - POLS 1* - National and California Government
 - COMM ST 21 - Argumentation
 - BUS 5 - Business Law OR POLS-24 - Intro to Law

**AP Credit can be used to satisfy requirement*

Law Pathway Requirements

1. Enroll in 12 units each full semester, unless approved for less by LP Counselor
2. Meet with the LP Counselor at least once each semester.
3. Enroll in designated LP courses indicated on an approved Student Educational Plan (SEP) developed with the LP Counselor.
4. Attend required program orientations, workshops and activities.
5. Maintain a minimum GPA of at least a 3.0 every semester.

In addition, we strongly encourage and recommend the following:

- Participation in the SMC Pre-Law Society.
- Participation in an internship or experiential learning opportunity.

SMC Law Pathway Resources

- **Dedicated Individual Counseling Support**
- **Networking/Educational Events & Speaker Series**
- **Pre-Law Society (student club)**
- **Law Pathway Scholarships (\$10,000)**
- **Law Pathway Graduation Recognition**

Law Pathway Resources

- **LSAT Test Prep Support - www.khanacademy.org/prep/lsat**
- **Law School Presentations**
- **Law Pathway Summer Bootcamp Academy**
- **Pathways to Law Annual Summit**

On the pathway to (law) success



(From left) Edna Chavarri, Santa Monica College interim director of academic affairs initiatives, with Law Pathway student Alexander Gomez, instructor Dana Nasser and political science professor Christina Gabler. (Photo: SMC)

BY GRACE SMITH MAY 26, 2017

Santa Monica College (SMC) is celebrating the graduation of the first students in its **Law Pathway Program**, a program designed to help traditionally underrepresented students to become competitive applicants to law school.

The 10 SMC students have offers from and are transferring this fall to Columbia University, UCLA, Stanford University, California State University, Northridge (CSUN). Their successful completion of the SMC program has earned them admission review at six prominent California law schools.

In 2016, SMC joined the California State Bar Association's **Community Colleges Pathway to Law School** initiative, a partnership effort between the bar association and 29 community colleges and six law schools, designed to create a clear path to law school for underrepresented students.

"This is a career-focused opportunity," said

Santa Monica College > News > SMC In Focus > Volume III, Issue 3 > SMC's Law Pathway Celebrates Graduation



Alexander Gomez and Nilou Sheikhpour each dreamed of becoming lawyers ever since they were in high school. Now, they are gaining a solid educational foundation along with real-world legal experience through the **Law Pathway Program** at Santa Monica College. The first 10 participants in SMC's Law Pathway graduated from the program on May 10, 2017. The graduates are: Alexander Gomez, Nilou Sheikhpour, and the other eight students. They are all transferring to law schools: **Columbia University, UCLA, Stanford University, and California State University, Northridge (CSUN).**

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Community News

SMC's Law Pathway Program Welcomes 26 New Students

By Guest Author
October 5, 2023



The Law Pathway Program at Santa Monica College (SMC)—which supports traditionally underrepresented students on their path to law school and is designed to diversify the legal profession—has entered the seventh year with 26 newly admitted students and 25 continuing students. The program has seen a 100% graduation and transfer rate since its inception. The most recent batch of 16 graduates transferred this fall—all of them headed to UCLA, with the exception of one student headed to UC Berkeley, tripling the total number of graduates over the program's existence to 107.

The rigorous pre-law program requires completion of nine courses and offers one-on-one mentoring, exposure to careers in law, networking opportunities, tailored counseling and leadership training. Students who successfully complete the Law Pathway Program earn priority admission review—along with the waiving of applications fees—at 14 California law schools (the number has doubled since the program's inception): UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Irvine, UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC San Francisco, University of Southern California, Loyola Marymount University, Santa Clara University, Pepperdine University, University of San Francisco, Southwestern Law School, and Chapman University.

<https://smcdp.com/2023/10/07/smcs-law-pathway-program-welcomes-26-new-students/>

Law Pathway in the News

Law Pathway Graduates

100% Transfer Rate!

Year	Graduates
2017	2
2018	54
2019	29
2020	25
2021	12
2022	3
2023	20
TOTAL	145



UC San Diego



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA CRUZ



Law Pathway Alumni



Loyola Law School
Loyola Marymount University
Los Angeles



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Fowler School of Law



School of Law

USC
Gould

School of Law

PEPPERDINE | CARUSO
SCHOOL OF LAW



Law Pathway Alumni

A decorative graphic consisting of numerous overlapping squares in various shades of blue and green. The squares are of different sizes and are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement. The word "QUESTIONS" is centered over this graphic in a large, white, sans-serif font.

QUESTIONS