



Law Pathway Program

Law Pathway Program Faculty



Vicenta Arrizon, EdD
Counseling Champion



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Faculty Champion



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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 Chavarry, 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, 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, California State University, Northridge (CSUN). Their successful completion of the SMC program has earned 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, an effort between the bar association and 29 community colleges and six law schools, designed to "open the door" to law school for underrepresented students.

"A career-focused opportunity," said

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



Alexander Gomez and Nilou Sheikhpour each dreamed of becoming lawyers even

they are gaining a solid educational foundation along with real-world legal experience at Loyola Marymount University, Loyola Law School Los Angeles, UC Santa Clara, UC Davis, UC Irvine, University of

of the first 10 participants in SMC's Law Pathway graduated from the program on May

amamoto—one of the most distinguished criminal defense attorneys in Southern

California, and the first to graduate from SMC's Law Pathway Program. The other nine students will attend Columbia University, UCLA, Stanford University, and California State University, Los Angeles.

SMC's Law Pathway Program Welcomes 26 New Students

By Guest Author
October 7, 2022



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 10 graduates transferred this fall—all of them headed to UCLA, with the exception of one student headed to UC Berkeley, bringing 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 waiver of application 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, University of Southern California, Loyola Marymount University, Santa Clara University, Pepperdine University, University of San Francisco, Southwestern Law School, and Chapman University.

<https://smdp.com/2022/10/07/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

UCI



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA CRUZ



Law Pathway Alumni



Loyola Law School
Loyola Marymount University
Los Angeles



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW



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Fowler School of Law



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COUNTY BEACHES IN NEED OF PROTECTION
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE MISSING OUR INTERNS ISSUE

NO COUNTRY: Andrea Jimenez, a Santa Monica resident, was brought over from Mexico at the age of 3. She dreams of becoming an immigration attorney to help other undocumented immigrants like herself.

Living in limbo
Santa Monica's undocumented share struggles, dreams

BY ILEANA NAJARRO
Special to the Daily Press

ELEVENTH STREET: About a year ago, when Andrea Jimenez's father got pulled over and ticketed, her family faced the worst. If the ticket fees were not enough of a nightmare, they worried their son would have faced probation at his court appearance that would lead to his deportation.

Jimenez — an undocumented immigrant brought over from Mexico at age 3

serve as his translator. Taking a chance, she sought out an attorney to take on her father's case pro bono.

One woman heard her story and expressed interest but she was too busy. After several months, Jimenez said, the attorney finally agreed to help, got five tickets dismissed and offered her a job as a paralegal scientist, making at Santa Monica College, her community information for an internship opportunity at her law firm.

While Jimenez' story has a happy

still face several day-to-day challenges as the nation looks to the U.S. House of Representatives for its verdict on a bipartisan immigration reform bill approved by the Senate.

The number of undocumented people in Santa Monica is indiscernible, a report from the White House's National Immigration Forum estimates about 11 million undocumented immigrants living and working in the U.S.

The far legislation has supported

BY AMEERA BUTT
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOHI: Kids across town are already back in school, plunking pen to paper and studying for the first time since summer ended. There's still time to get your kids vaccinated and turn in the necessary forms.

The time to get vaccinated for younger kids is also still time to be in August, right around the back to school rush, said Denise Stri, chief of staff at Santa Monica Unified School District.

"The schools are probably our best sources to make sure things happen and they do say they have to be vaccinated before they can come to school," said Stri, a public health doctor.

Unless disease is eradicated, it is important to keep immunizing, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vaccines reduce the risk of infection by working with the body's natural defenses to help it safely develop immunity to disease.

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U.S. births may be leveling off after years of decline

BY MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA: After falling four years in a row, U.S. births may finally be leveling off.

The number of babies born last year — a little shy of 4 million — is only a few thousand less than the record low set according to a government report released Friday.

That suggests that lately, fewer couples may be scared away from having children because of the economy or other factors,




Law Pathway Alumni



QUESTIONS