

2025-2026 Institutional Effectiveness Committee's Annual Report

Institutional Effectiveness (IE) is the systematic and continuous process of measuring the extent to which a college achieves its mission, as expressed through the goals and strategic objectives developed in an education master plan. The Academic Senate Joint Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IE Committee) provides input in the IE process, engages in activities to support the College's assessment of IE each year, and reports to the District Planning and Advisory Council (DPAC) on the areas of college needing attention based on the College's performance on the IE metrics. This report provides a summary of the activities of the IE Committee during the current academic year as well as a recommendation based on SMC's performance on the IE dashboards to inform the development of the 2027-2028 DPAC Action Plans that support the SMC Mission, Vision, and Strategic Initiatives.

REVIEW OF SCOPE AND FUNCTIONS

No substantial revisions requiring a vote were made to the Committee's scope and functions during the 2025-2026 academic year.

SCFF DATA DIVES INITIATIVE

The IE Committee collaborated with the Chief Business Officer (CBO) and Institutional Research (IR) to plan and support the implementation of the SCFF Data Dives initiative, a 2026–2027 DPAC Action Plan designed to educate and engage the campus community around the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF). Launching during Fall Flex 2026 and continuing throughout the 2026–2027 academic year, the initiative will include a series of interactive Data Dives focused on key SCFF metrics and their connection to student enrollment and success. Through this collaborative effort, IEC has helped develop the overall framework, session template, facilitation flow, guiding principles, and deliverables for the series to ensure a consistent, accessible, and learning-centered experience across sessions. The Data Dives are intended to demystify SCFF by helping faculty, staff, and managers better understand how metrics are calculated, why they matter, and how their everyday work contributes to improving student enrollment, persistence, completion, and success outcomes.

ACCJC INSTITUTION-SET STANDARDS AND STRETCH GOALS

The Committee reviewed the institution-set standards (ISS) and stretch goals for metrics included in the annual ACCJC report. The Committee's recommendations for ISS and goals, including revisions, for 2026-2027 ACCJC metrics are posted on the [IEC website](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DPAC ACTION PLANS

The Committee reviewed SMC's performance across collegewide metrics related to student enrollment, progress, success, student support, and campus climate. Performance was assessed against the goals established in the 2025–2028 Student Equity Plan.

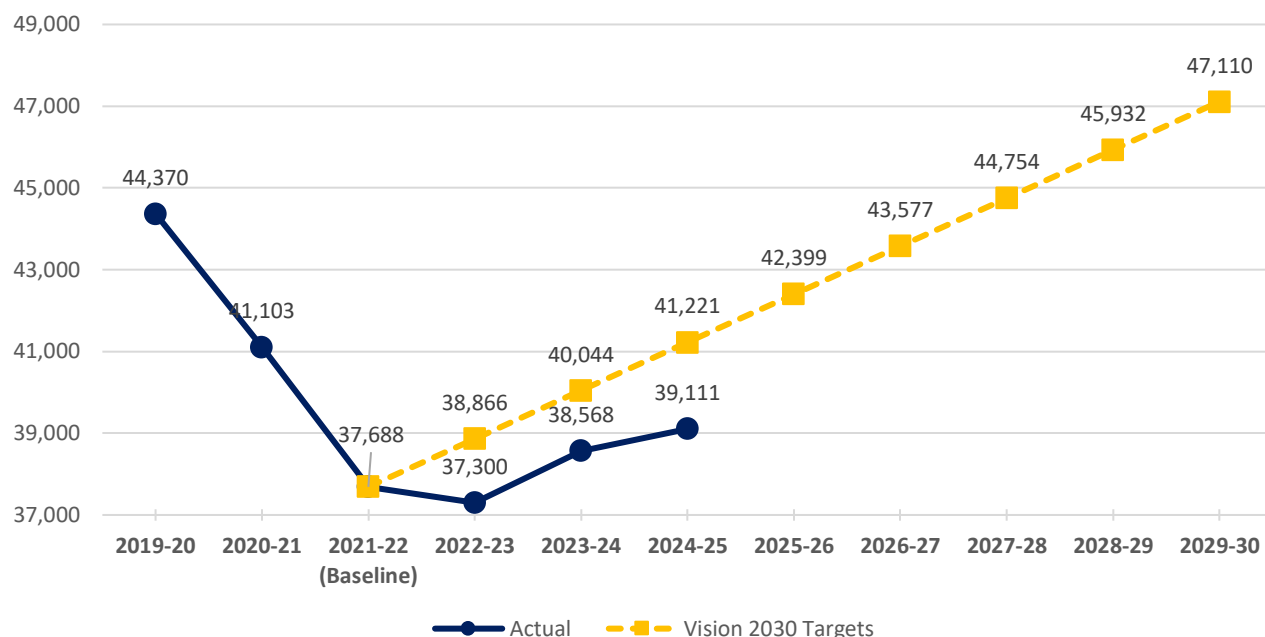
Committee discussions centered primarily on the metrics that align with the California Community Colleges Vision 2030 framework. These conversations reinforced the importance of monitoring not only overall institutional performance, but also equity gaps experienced by racially minoritized and

historically underserved student populations. The following recommendations emerged from the Committee’s review and discussion of the data.

RECOMMENDATION #1: Examine the strategies, programs, and practices at peer LA County community colleges that are driving their stronger enrollment growth.

In 2024-2025, SMC enrolled 39,111 credit and noncredit students, an increase of 1,423 students (3.8%) over the 2021-2022 baseline year. To meet our Vision 2030 goal of a 25% enrollment increase (47,111 students), SMC must enroll an additional 7,992 students annually. Despite year-over-year growth, enrollment has remained below Vision 2030 targets each year since the baseline.

Figure 1. Annual Number of Students Enrolled at SANTA MONICA COLLEGE



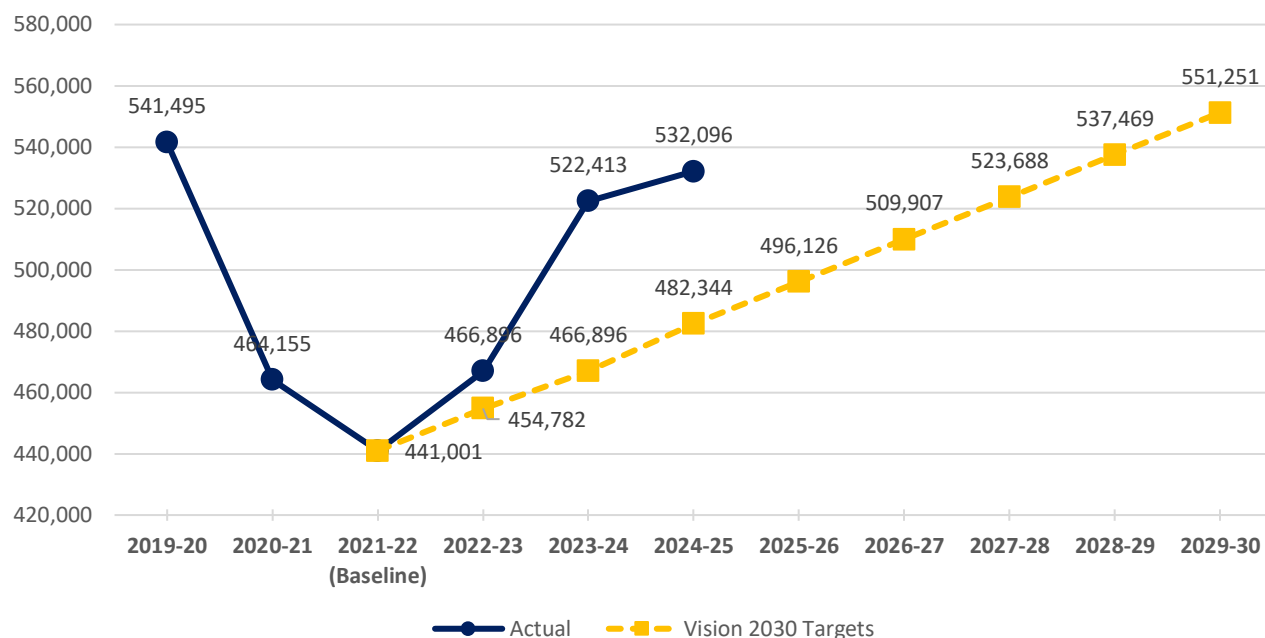
Source: Chancellor’s Office Management Information System Metric 122ST

When examining enrollment trends across all 19 Los Angeles community colleges (see Figure 2), the regional picture stands in sharp contrast to SMC’s trajectory. Collectively, LA County colleges grew from 441,001 students in the 2021-2022 baseline year to 532,096 students in 2024-2025, a 20.7% increase that has exceeded Vision 2030 targets every year since the baseline. SMC’s 3.8% growth over the same period, while positive, represents a fraction of that regional momentum and falls well short of the 25% Vision 2030 goal.

This gap suggests that while demand for community college education in the region is strong and growing, SMC has not captured its proportional share of that growth. Understanding the factors driving stronger enrollment gains at peer institutions, whether access, program offerings, outreach, or geographic reach, may offer valuable insight for closing SMC’s enrollment gap and meeting its Vision 2030 targets.

The IE Committee recommends that the College identify the specific strategies (i.e., outreach efforts, program expansion, community partnerships, etc.) that are driving the LA County peer institutions' disproportionately strong growth.

Figure 2. Annual Number of Students Enrolled in a LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Source: Chancellor's Office Management Information System Metric 122ST

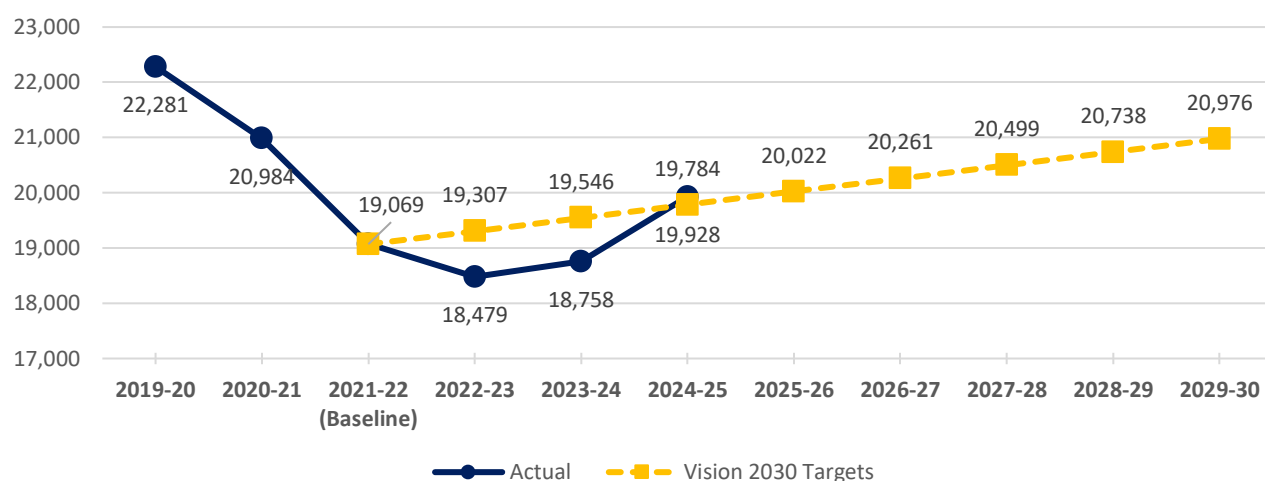
RECOMMENDATION #2: Investigate the barriers to financial aid access to increase the number of eligible students successfully receiving the CCPG and Pell Grant.

In 2024-2025, a total of 19,928 SMC students received the California College Promise Grant (CCPG) and 12,729 received the Pell Grant, increases of 4.5% and 3.0%, respectively, over the 2021–2022 baseline year. After experiencing a post-baseline decline, both figures have rebounded and are currently meeting Vision 2030 annual targets. However, SMC has not yet reached the Vision 2030 goal of a 10% increase over baseline by 2029-2030, meaning continued and accelerated progress will be required in the years ahead.

Increasing the number of students who successfully apply for and receive the CCPG and Pell Grant is not only a student success and equity imperative, it is a matter of institutional fiscal stability. Under the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF), the supplemental allocation is calculated based on the headcount of students receiving the College Promise Grant, the Pell Grant, and those covered by AB 540. A student counted in two of these categories, for example, receiving both a Pell Grant and a need-based fee waiver, generates twice the supplemental funding for the district. With the supplemental rate approximately \$1,200 per student, SMC's current CCPG and Pell headcount represents over \$30 million in annual revenue, and every eligible student who does not apply or complete the process is funding left on the table.

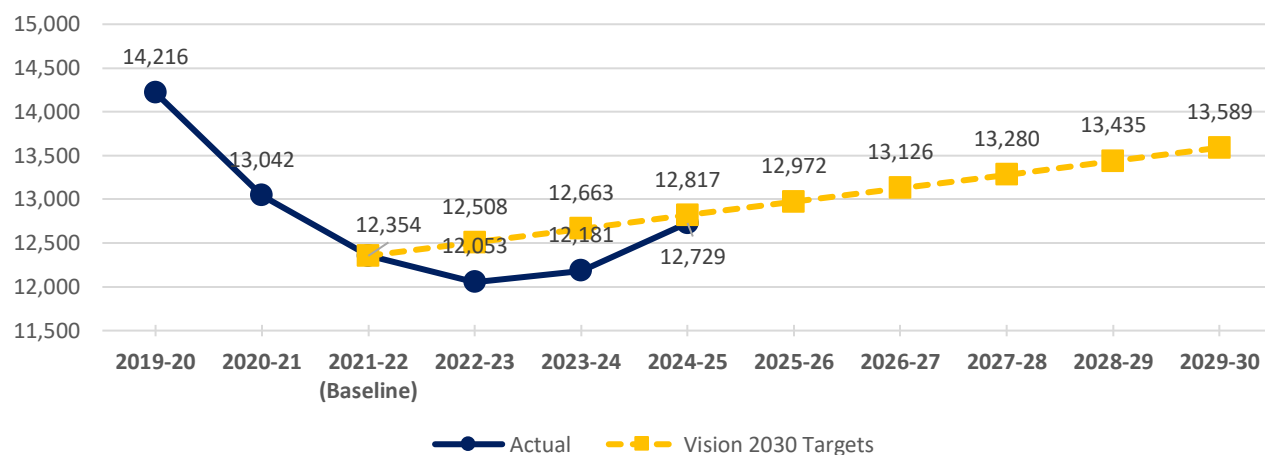
To sustain and grow this revenue stream while centering student need, the IE Committee recommends that the College invest in two complementary areas of inquiry: first, understanding the lived experience of students navigating the financial aid application process, including barriers, points of confusion or drop-off, and populations who are eligible but not applying; and second, assessing students' broader awareness of and attitudes toward available aid programs. Findings from surveys, focus groups, or journey mapping should directly inform simplification of the aid application process, culturally responsive outreach and communication strategies, and staff capacity to support students through the process, with the goal of ensuring every eligible student receives the aid they need to persist and succeed.

Figure 3. Annual Number of Students at SANTA MONICA COLLEGE Receiving California College Promise Grants (CCPG)



Source: Chancellor's Office Management Information System Metric 122SW

Figure 3. Annual Number of Students at SANTA MONICA COLLEGE Receiving Pell Grants



Source: Chancellor's Office Management Information System Metric 122SW