Onward Upward

Transferring from CSM to the university of your choice.

College of San Mateo
The Savings

$34,000 to $137,000

compared to four years at a university*

The Track

01
ENROLL in classes at CSM

02
START on general education + lower division major requirements

03
APPLY to the university of your choice

04
TRANSFER to your university with general education requirements completed at CSM

05
COMPLETE upper division major requirements at your university

06
CELEBRATE! You’ve earned your Bachelor’s Degree!

You Can Major In ANYTHING when you’re a CSM Transfer Student!

Visit assist.org to explore all of your major options.

*Range based on 2 years tuition at CSM with no room/board compared to tuition & off-campus housing costs for 4 years at CSU, UC & Ivy League Schools. Sources: ccleague.org | aces.ed.gov.
Interested in earning a bachelor’s degree? College of San Mateo (CSM) offers an affordable way for you to do so. Simply complete the first few years of undergraduate (general education) work at CSM, then transfer to the university of your choice.

Every semester, new CSM students start their studies unsure where they are going or what they might be able to achieve. With the help of our support services, many of these students will progress further than they ever dreamed. After finishing their bachelor’s degrees, our transfer alumni have gone on to earn master’s and doctorate degrees, become leaders in their industries, and enjoy the satisfaction that comes from a rewarding career path, backed by a great education.

We’ll assist you every step of the way during those first years—whether you’re planning on a two-year track, or taking a little extra time to accommodate a busy life schedule. We customize each transfer plan for the individual student, so you can be sure you’re getting the support that’s exactly right for you.

To experience College of San Mateo through our virtual tour or to sign up for an in-person campus tour, visit collegeofsanmateo.edu/explorecsm.

Everyone’s path is a little different—but at CSM, transfer students are all heading onward and upward.
I have never met a person who regretted getting a college education. Getting a college degree is the most reliable way to increase social mobility and improve one’s overall quality of life. But for many people, moving forward with their higher education can be daunting—not because the classes themselves are hard, but more often because other things come up in their lives that they perceive as hindrances to their educational goals. Things like not having the financial support to pay for school, or maybe not having done well in high school, or having taken a break from school to pursue other interests or to deal with the sorts of problems that come up in everyone’s life. Maybe it’s even simpler—you’re not really sure what you want to study or what you want to be. A gazillion things can get in a student’s way.

This is why I am excited to be a professor at College of San Mateo. After earning my Ph.D. in philosophy, I had the opportunity to teach at a number of different universities and colleges. As unglamorous as it may sound to some, I chose to dedicate my career to being a professor at a California community college and accepted a position at CSM. I made this choice because I believe that this college makes a difference in people’s lives. We do an excellent job of helping students overcome those hindrances that get in the way of pursuing their educational goals. Our primary focus is to get students on a productive educational track and transfer to the four-year institution of their choice. And it turns out we do a very good job of this. At CSM we transfer many of our students to UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Davis, SF State, SJSU and countless others. We work hard to give students the skills to not only succeed once they transfer, but to excel.

All of our professors and instructors are hired because of their ability to teach students. At many other colleges and universities, faculty are hired because of their ability to do research, work with promising graduate students, or to bring big-dollar funding to the university from large grants—all noble pursuits. At CSM it’s not so glitzy. Here we focus on teaching students and giving them the skills and confidence they need to be successful. Our comprehensive array of amazing student support programs such as tutoring, academic and personal counseling, mentoring programs, veterans’ support services, disabled student support services and financial aid assistance will help get you on your way. We work very hard to help you no matter where you’re starting from or what you’ve gone through.

Community college is no longer a great second choice for students—it’s starting to look like a better first choice.
While starting at a four-year school is a good choice for some, coming to CSM and transferring is also a great choice. As I tell my students, if you were to go to CSM, transfer to a University of California campus and graduate, you'd get the exact same degree you would get if you spent all four years at a UC. You would end up paying about half of what you would pay if you spent all four years there. You would have much smaller classes here, all taught by highly trained, professional teachers whose primary goal is teaching—we don’t have any teacher assistants. And you would have access to all of CSM’s support services. To make it even more appealing, we have many transfer agreements with four-year schools that guarantee admittance once you complete the requirements here. Community college is no longer a great second choice for students—it’s starting to look like a better first choice.

So when you're ready, give it a try. At CSM, we’ll meet you where you are and take you to where you need to be in order to transfer to the college or university of your choice. Investing in yourself will be the smartest decision you’ll ever make. And if along the way you want to take a philosophy course or two, well stop by and introduce yourself—I look forward to meeting you.
CSM Students Transfer To...

University of California
UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UC Los Angeles
UC Riverside
UC San Diego
UC Santa Barbara
UC Santa Cruz

California State University
Cal Poly Pomona
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
CSU Chico
CSU East Bay
CSU Fullerton
CSU Long Beach
CSU Los Angeles
CSU Monterey Bay
CSU Northridge
CSU Sacramento
CSU San Marcos
Humboldt State University
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Sonoma State University

California Private Colleges & Universities*
Academy of Art University
California College of the Arts
Chapman University
Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising
Menlo College
Mills College
Notre Dame de Namur University
Palo Alto University
Santa Clara University
Stanford University
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
William Jessup University

Out-of-State Colleges & Universities*
Alabama State University
Arizona State University
Auburn University
Carson-Newman College
Central Methodist University
Clarke College
Colorado State University
Cornell University
Dakota State University
Dakota Wesleyan University
Davidson College
Eastern New Mexico University
Faulkner University
Georgia State University
Hastings College
Kennesaw State University
Long Island University
Louisiana State University
Midwestern State University
Northern Arizona University
Oregon State University
Penn State University
Portland State University
Southeastern Louisiana University
Tarleton State University
Texas Tech University
Tiffin University
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Central Arkansas
University of Hawaii
University of Louisville
University of Nevada, Reno
University of Oregon
University of Sioux Falls
Utah State University
Vanderbilt University
Washington State University

* includes full and partial scholarships for CSM student-athletes

"CSM laid the foundation for my success; if you work hard, study hard and thrive here, I guarantee it can do the same for you."  

Luis Alvarez
CSM ➡️ Stanford University
Sarah Lowe first stepped foot on CSM’s campus as a concurrently enrolled high school student. By the time she graduated from Mills High school, she had already earned eight units of college credit and completed several college requirements. Her decision to continue at CSM as a transfer student was easy.

Building on her previous college experience, Sarah became a more competitive and motivated student. She also became more active in campus life, working as a student ambassador, participating in student government, and joining Alpha Gamma Sigma, an academic honor society. Not only did this involvement contribute to her success, it helped her become more informed about the transfer process.

Sarah transferred to UC Davis as an environmental science major. During her first year there, she changed her major to human development after discovering a strong interest in studying people. With her recent graduation in 2016, she is now pursuing a career in nursing.

“CSM helped me grow, develop a strong work ethic and formulate my goals. I left CSM as a much more confident student and definitely felt ready to compete at a major university.”

Sarah Lowe

CSM University of California, Davis
Welcome! You have just embarked on a great first step that will lead to transferring to your desired four-year university and ultimately, to a bachelor’s degree. Our goal is that CSM Transfer Services will make your transfer journey smooth and successful.

Transfer Services provides a full range of offerings. We host transfer workshops, university tours, and college fairs. By working closely with four-year university counselors and admissions staff, we help students get the information they need.

This past year we visited UCLA, USC, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and UC Santa Barbara. These tours typically include transfer information sessions, alumni student panels of former CSM and other community college transfer students.

Additional university campus tours will be planned based on students’ interests and educational goals. If you would like to be part of that planning process you can join our growing and energetic Transfer Club to help plan those and other events. Check out the story on the next page to learn more about the impact club participation can have.

Finally, we would like to invite you to our annual Transfer Day. Held in fall, this is our premiere transfer event to start the academic year and it takes place in our beautiful College Center. It provides attendees an opportunity to meet over 60 college/university representatives from both in and out of California as well as from universities around the world. To preview other events we host throughout the year, see page 12.

We look forward to seeing and serving you during your time here at College of San Mateo and wish you much success in your transfer journey!

Mike Mitchell, Transfer Services Director

Join the Transfer Club!

Be part of a special group of students who have the “inside track” on transferring! Transfer Club members have maximum access to college representatives, transfer information, and priority invitations for university tours. Become part of the Club and increase your chances for university admission! You’ll gain a competitive advantage while learning about the transfer process and networking with other students.

Like us on Facebook @csmttransferclub.
A College of Opportunity

College of San Mateo is a community college that is filled with endless opportunities, support, and encouragement. I came to CSM in spring 2014 in a second attempt at college. I had my license in cosmetology and was working in a salon. I never made it as a stylist but I fell in love with all operational aspects of the industry. My goal as a returning student was simple: to learn business. Little did I know that, two years later, I would be transferring to a four-year university.

My first semester was a complete blur, as I was getting used to being around students of all ages, finding my way around campus, and jumping through hurdles to get financial support for my studies. A friend suggested that I check out Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS). I honestly feel that this program is what launched the start of a new passion! I remember meeting with my EOPS counselor and figuring out my educational plan. At the time, I had no goal other than to learn business. She explained to me that I should pursue an associate’s degree for transfer. I clearly remember saying transferring wasn’t for me but she said she would mark me down as a transfer student, in case I changed my mind. With that being said, my next two years were planned and all I had to do was register for classes and check them off my list.

As I progressed, I felt I needed more from college so I got involved with a few clubs. I loved being part of the EOPS Club and appreciated the opportunities it gave me. The following semester, I chose to be brave and see if transferring was for me. I joined the Transfer Club and became heavily involved. I learned so much about the transfer process such as the various majors that are offered at four-year universities and CSM’s transfer agreements. With this newfound knowledge, I made transferring my mission. During my final year at CSM, I became president of the Transfer Club.

CSM has a lot of faculty members who truly invest their time in nurturing and encouraging students to develop their plans and ideas. I was involved in three clubs: EOPS Club, Psychology Club, and Transfer Club. My advisors Mike Mitchell, Denise Toomer, Ruth Turner, and Katrina Evasco helped me achieve my goals while I was working to help each club reach theirs. I learned to work as part of a team, to take initiative, and to never be afraid of my mistakes. My proudest moment was when the Transfer Club took 25 students on a tour of four Southern California universities. Thereafter, I was honored by CSM with the Allan R. Brown Outstanding Leadership and Service Award at commencement.

I have transferred to San Jose State University as a major in human resources management. Everything that I have learned at CSM, such as training, developing, and managing, sparked an interest in pursuing a career in human resources. It has also assisted my upward movement at Gap Inc., and you can now find me at Old Navy as the Business Training Specialist. This position directly correlates to my major, as I am responsible for recruiting, training, loss prevention, and safety programs.

As a student at SJSU, I am always proud to talk about CSM and what it offered me. It is more than just a gorgeous campus, it is a college of opportunity. I feel prepared and ready to face what SJSU has to offer and I can’t wait to see where I go after I graduate.

Vianca Jennifer Menjivar

CSM → San Jose State University
Common Transfer Questions

What do I need to do to be eligible to transfer?
A minimum of sixty (60) transferable units are required to transfer to a university as a junior. Requirements may vary depending on the major and transfer institution. Typically, lower division major requirements and general education course work must be completed.

How long will it take me to transfer?
It depends on the major, transfer institution and number of units you take each semester. It takes many students a few years to transfer.

What is the best university to attend?
It all depends on what is “best” for you! Some factors to consider are major, course curriculum, cost, internships, research opportunities, housing, social activities, and geographic location. CSM Transfer Services can help you determine the best college for you.

Is there any guarantee that I’ll be able to transfer to my preferred university?
In some cases, yes! CSM has agreements with many CSU, UC, and private universities called Guaranteed Transfer Contracts (GTCs). These are agreements that outline CSM courses you must complete before transferring to a participating institution. Upon completion of GTC requirements, transfer admission is guaranteed. See the next page for a list of universities/colleges offering GTCs.

Can I earn a degree from CSM while I’m completing transfer credit?
Actually, you can! CSM offers associate degrees for transfer that are intended for students who plan to complete a bachelor’s degree in a similar major at a CSU campus. Students completing these degrees are guaranteed admission to the CSU system. See page 10 for more information and the list of degrees offered.
Transfer. Guaranteed!

What are Guaranteed Transfer Contracts?
Suppose that you could know at least a year before you transfer exactly which courses you must take and the grades you must earn to guarantee your admission to a university. A guarantee would mean that when you finish your academic preparation at College of San Mateo, your transfer goal would be achieved—absolutely. Such a guarantee exists and it’s called a Guaranteed Transfer Contract (GTC).

A GTC is a formal, written contract that outlines the courses you must complete before transferring, states the grade point average you must earn, and lists specific requirements for select majors. After the GTC is written, you sign the contract, along with your counselor and the university representative. These signatures guarantee you’ll be admitted, if you complete the contract and apply for admission during the filing period.

For more info on Guaranteed Transfer Contracts, stop by Transfer Services or visit collegeofsanmateo.edu/transfer.

CSM Offers Guaranteed Transfer Contracts To...

University of California
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UC Merced
UC Riverside
UC Santa Barbara
UC Santa Cruz

California State University
Cal State University East Bay
San Francisco State University

California Private Colleges & Universities
Notre Dame de Namur University
Menlo College
Golden Gate University
Academy of Art University
University of the Pacific
DeVry University
Palo Alto University
Saint Mary’s College

Out-of-State Colleges & Universities
Arizona State University
Northern Arizona University
University of Arizona
Historically Black Colleges & Universities

BETTER GRADES = MORE OPTIONS

IF YOUR GPA IS:         THEN YOUR TRANSFER OPTIONS ARE:
2.0 to 3.1              • Some UCs & CSUs
                        • Some private & out-of-state schools
3.2 to 3.6              • Most UCs & CSUs
                        • Most private & out-of-state schools
3.7+                    • Many highly selective schools
                        • Almost all UCs, CSUs, private & out-of-state schools

Check assist.org to learn more about major GPA requirements at public California colleges and universities.
Earn a Degree Before You Transfer

College of San Mateo offers associate degrees for transfer to the California State University system. These degrees are referred to as **Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T)** and **Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T)**. They are designed to provide students with a clear educational planning pathway to a CSU major and baccalaureate degree. CSM students who are awarded an AA-T or AS-T degree are guaranteed admission to a California State University campus with junior standing and given priority admission consideration to their local CSU campus and to a program that is deemed similar to their AA-T or AS-T major. This priority does not guarantee admission to any specific majors or campuses within the CSU system. In addition to transfer priority, students who have been awarded an AA-T or AS-T are guaranteed that in completing their remaining requirements for the 120-unit baccalaureate degree, they need only complete a selected 60-semester units of course work at the CSU.

**Associate Degrees for Transfer Offered at CSM**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administration of Justice</th>
<th>AS-T</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>AA-T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art History</td>
<td>AA-T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art, Studio</td>
<td>AA-T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>AS-T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>AS-T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Studies</td>
<td>AA-T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>AA-T</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>AA-T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film, Television &amp; Electronic Media</td>
<td>AA-T</td>
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<td>Geology</td>
<td>AS-T</td>
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<td>History</td>
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<td>Kinesiology</td>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>AA-T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition &amp; Dietetics</td>
<td>AS-T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>AS-T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>AA-T</td>
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Gabriel’s journey to college was anything but traditional. After leaving high school in his junior year, earning a GED and passing the state proficiency exam, he spent 10 years working. At CSM, he discovered a passion for learning and developed the confidence he needed for success. A physics major, Gabriel was accepted to some of the most respected universities in the nation but it was Columbia University’s offer of a full-ride scholarship that clinched the decision.

“I decided to step outside my comfort zone and give college a chance. A calculus class taught by Professor Rob Komas was the catalyst for me—it changed my life. I decided I wanted to become a teacher. CSM’s impact on my education, career choice, and future was profound.”

Gabe Denham
CSM Columbia University
Start Early & Get Involved

CSM Transfer Services hosts hundreds of events throughout the year to inform and assist students with their transfer plans. Some of the most significant events are highlighted below. For specific dates and times of these events or to view all transfer events, including campus tours, transfer scholarship information, college fairs, application/personal statement workshops, and visits by university representatives, visit collegeofsanmateo.edu/transfer.

**August | University of California Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Workshops**
How would you like to be guaranteed admission into one of six University of California campuses before you even apply? Check out one of these workshops to learn how. Multiple dates, August through September.

**September | Transfer Day**
Each fall, representatives from UC, CSU, and private universities (both in California and out-of-state) attend Transfer Day to answer questions regarding transfer admission requirements, major preparation courses, minimum GPAs for high-demand majors, student housing, financial aid and more.

**September | UC Admissions/Application/Personal Insight Questions Workshops**
Learn how to successfully navigate through the UC online application process and how to construct the UC Personal Insight Questions (essays) which are required as part of the UC Transfer Admissions process. Multiple dates, September through November.

**October | California State University Admissions/Application Workshops**
Learn how to successfully navigate through the CSU online application process which is required for admission to CSU campuses. Multiple dates, October through November.

**February | UC Transfer Admission Planner (TAP) Workshops & College Tours**
Learn how to use the UC TAP tool if you are thinking about transferring to any of the nine University of California campuses as well as finding out about the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) requirements. Multiple dates, February through April.

**March | UC, CSU, and Private University Counseling Appointments**
Meet with representatives (preferably by appointment) to learn about transfer requirements and admissions information from CSM. Multiple dates throughout the year.

**May | Stepping Up: A Transfer Tribute**
A celebration for CSM students who will be transferring in the upcoming fall semester. Learn more about this event on the next page.
Enhancing the Journey

David Laderman, Ph.D.
CSM Professor of Film

Thanks for considering CSM as the first step towards your academic goals. I would like to introduce you to two offerings that we are very proud of. One helps prepare transfer students for university-level work while giving them a competitive edge. The other celebrates our students who are moving onward and upward towards earning their bachelor’s degree.

Around six years ago I stepped outside my comfort zone (teaching a bunch of cool film classes) and helped steer into existence the Honors Project, and the Stepping Up: A Transfer Tribute event. The Honors Project enhances students’ prospects for transfer from an “academic process” perspective. Transfer Tribute, on the other hand, is more of a culmination event, a celebratory rite of passage. Both the program and the event vividly illustrate the widespread enthusiasm and support for transfer here at CSM.

In the Honors Project, students engage in interdisciplinary study while earning honors credits for their transfer courses. The program provides concrete, hands-on training for upper division and even graduate work. Our unique seminars create a special academic space for inquiry, collaboration, and research. All across the spectrum of higher education, interdisciplinary research, collaboration and presentation of scholarship are vital to success. Our program gets students going on that path, giving them a sharper, competitive edge. But we also give them a deeper, more holistic academic experience. We’re especially proud of being a diverse and inclusive program, dedicated to networking with other learning communities and giving all students a chance to excel and follow their intellectual passions. A good barometer of our booming energy is our award-winning Labyrinth, which started as a newsletter, then morphed into a sophisticated and creative academic journal—produced by students and devoted to student writings.

Stepping Up: A Transfer Tribute is an event developed by CSM faculty that aims to complement our commencement ceremony. A celebration full of food, music, guest speakers, storytelling, and a strong congratulatory spirit, it’s open to all students who are transferring. The idea is to mark the act of transferring as a special ritual, similar to commencement. When our students continue their academic journeys, we want to say “Yes! We thank you for joining us at CSM, we hope we were good for you, and we wish you all the best in the future.” Most precious at this event, every year, is the “open mic” session, where transferring students in the audience come up on stage and briefly share their thoughts and experiences. Often provoking tears of joy, their voices crystallize the deep impact of this event.

Transfer: Bon Voyage!
Community College Transfer Fast Facts

California Community Colleges (CCC) is the largest system of higher education in the nation, and boasts some pretty impressive numbers when it comes to transferring to University of California and California State University.

- **31%** of UC graduates started at a CCC
- **52%** of CSU graduates started at a CCC
- **48%** of UC’s bachelor’s degrees in STEM fields are issued to CCC transfer students
- Grade Point Averages of CCC transfer students are **EQUAL TO** or **BETTER THAN** “native” UC and CSU students
- Graduation rates of CCC transfer students are **COMPARABLE TO** “native” UC and CSU students