

CAÑADA COLLEGE PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

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Planning assumptions use the information from the environmental scan to establish a foundation for the Education Plan. The assumptions developed below will help guide the Cañada College's efforts to respond to and manage changes in its internal and external environments.

- Planning is a necessity for the college to approach its future. All planning will place the needs of students and potential learners first.
- Learners entering Cañada College in coming years will increasingly seek course choice and convenience, in addition to a quality education experience. Many of these learners will be "digital natives." They will be computer literate and expect more from technology at Cañada College.
- Students of color will represent a higher proportion of the college's population in the future, and their needs and interests must be considered fully and addressed appropriately.
- The proportion of disabled learners seeking services from the college will grow.
- The college's share of the high school market appears to be declining and the demographic projections predict fewer available adult learners. The college will need to develop partnerships and new market niches to grow enrollment. Student recruitment and retention will continue to grow in importance.
- Although San Mateo County is affluent and well-educated, there are places within its borders where the opposite is true. The growing divide between "haves" and "have-nots" particularly in the southern portion of San Mateo Counties will continue to challenge Cañada College.
- Planning documents and information will be clear, concise, coherent, and available to all major stakeholder groups. All plans should contain "success factors" for strategies that are developed so that stakeholders can measure progress.
- Cañada College will need to become increasingly entrepreneurial to meet the demands that will be placed on the institution especially if state dollars do not keep pace with those needs. The college will need to raise resources from traditional streams as well as to develop new partnerships.

- Cañada College will need to continue to document and share outcomes measurements in the format that is required by the state, but will also need to demonstrate its contributions to the health of southern San Mateo County and the region in new ways.
- To meet local needs, the college's mission will be comprehensive and will include the transfer and general education function as well as the career and technical education function. The college will continue its commitment to reach under-served populations and to respond with appropriate services and programs. It will also embrace the community to meet documented needs.
- New facilities will need to be constructed and existing facilities renovated to accommodate student need. However, maximizing present facilities with creative scheduling and course content should be a priority. When new facilities are constructed they will need to be scalable to meet the needs of learner population and the teaching styles utilized at Cañada College. They should be well-equipped to parallel technological advances, and to match a variety of learning activities and modes.