



Pursuing Higher Education...

is a rewarding experience and it can provide far-reaching benefits related to economic well-being and personal satisfaction and confidence. This brochure has been designed to provide simple and relevant guides to assist adult second language learners in achieving success in higher education. Topics include: considerations typically faced by adult students, a look at two-year institutions/community colleges as an entry point in higher education, and specific guides for adult second language learners in higher education settings. The aim is that adult students with diverse backgrounds will have greater insights and opportunities about how to achieve success in reaching their educational and career goals.

San Mateo County Community College District
Early Childhood Education/Child Development

Cañada College
Business & Workforce Development Division
4200 Farm Hill Blvd.
Redwood City, CA 94061
650.306.3201

San Mateo County Community College District

Board of Trustees
Helen Hausman
Richard Hober
Dave Mandelkern
Patricia Miljanich
Karen Schwarz

Ron Galatolo, Chancellor
Tom Mohr, Interim President
Linda Hayes, Dean

Sue Eftekhari, Program Services Coordinator
650.306.3404

Dianne Eyer, Professor Emeritus, ECE/CD
650.306.3295

Val Goines, Program Coordinator, ECE/CD
650.306.3148

This brochure was funded by a grant from



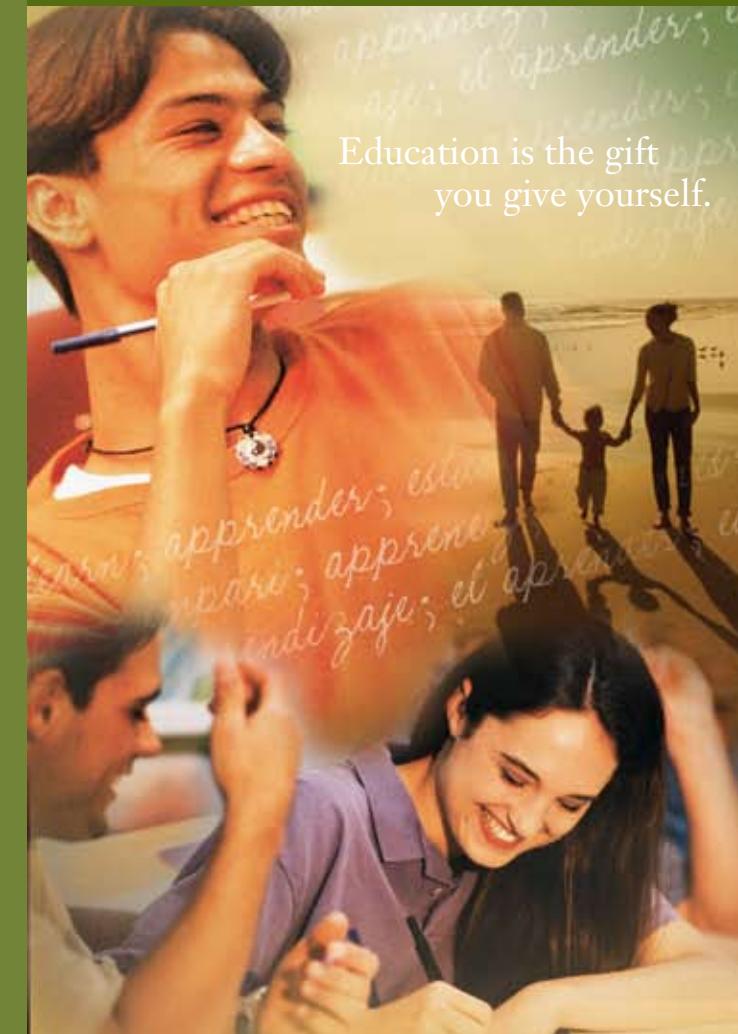
www.first5sanmateo.org



<http://www.canadacollege.edu/ece>

Adult Second Language Learners

Achieving Success in Higher Education



Education is the gift
you give yourself.



Considerations for Adult Learners

An adult in a higher education setting can often face unique challenges. This is particularly true if the adult has acquired English as a second language and/or grew up in another culture.

Review the following to help you clarify your path toward higher education:

- Think about what you really enjoy doing and how higher education will help you achieve your goals
- Try to assess your skills and abilities, some "interest inventories" are available to help you
- If you are learning a new language, remember that it is an on-going process that can take many years
- Review how your decisions may influence the needs of your family
- Think about how much education are you planning to pursue and how this will influence family finances



Two-Year Institutions & Community Colleges

can be relevant and particularly supportive environments in which to **begin** your path in higher education.

Did you know...

- Only about one in three students at the community college is the "traditional age" (18-24)
- In 2004, 60% of the Hispanic/Latino students enrolled in higher education in California were enrolled part-time
- In 2006, 82% of all community college students worked on average 32 hours per week
- Almost half of all Hispanic/Latino undergraduates are first-generation college students, compared to about one-third of all undergraduates
- Lower costs, convenient locations, and specialty programs are just some of the reasons adult students select community colleges
- Many students never dreamed they would attend or graduate from college until they learned about the community college/two-year institution option

Adapted from: California's Gold – Claiming the Promise of Diversity in our Community Colleges. Woodlief, Thomas & Orozco. CA Tomorrow. 2003; National Center for Education Statistics, 2004; Census Bureau, 2006.



Guides for Adult Second Language Learners

Being successful in higher education requires personal planning and commitment. Academic services that are culturally and linguistically supportive are available.

- Look for Resource Centers or Student Services on campus; these provide information related to financial aid, child care, transportation, local clubs and community opportunities
- Seek out an understanding academic or career counselor; this is the person to help you select appropriate classes and design your educational/career plan
- Be sure to attend college orientations and personal development/study skills workshops; your counselor can help you find these support services
- Become part of a study group; get to know other students in your classes and those with whom you share assignments
- If you need additional help with class assignments, most colleges offer a variety of tutoring and bilingual services; tutors within a Tutorial Center have usually received specialized training themselves
- Get to know your individual professors and their course expectations as soon as possible; be sure you review course outlines and assignments carefully
- Seek out a mentor — someone you consider an "expert" in your chosen career and give yourself time to build this relationship

RESOURCE LIST for

Adult Second Language Learners

Achieving Success in Higher Education

April 2007

California Student Association of Community Colleges

2017 O Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-444-6244

www.calsacc.org

California Student Transfer Information for California/Articulation

System Stimulating Interinstitutional
Student Transfer
ASSIST Coordination Site
4199 Campus Drive, Suite 820
Irvine, CA 92612
949-842-4385
www.assist.org

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

P.O. Box 84
Washington, DC 20044
www.ed.gov/prog_info/SFA/FA/FSA

The Smart Student Guide to Financial AID (FinAid)

P.O. Box 81620
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
www.FinAid.org

Student Leader: The Forum for America's Emerging Leaders

Oxendine Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 14081
Gainesville, FL 32604
888-547-6310 / 352-373-6907
www.studentleader.com

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

1107 9th Street, Suite 240
Sacramento, CA 95814
213-692-2512
www.maldef.org

Additional Web Sites:

College is Possible
www.collegeispossible.org

California Tomorrow
www.californiatomorrow.org

Parent Institute for Quality Education
www.piqe.org

The Campaign for Quality Education
www.collegcampaign.org

National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
www.nclr.org

Child Development Training Consortium
www.childdevelopment.org

Children's Advocate /
Action Alliance for Children Publications
www.4children.org

California Association for Bilingual Education
www.bilingualeducation.org

Parent Leadership Institute, Parent Services Project
www.parentservices.org

California Family Resource Association
www.californiafamilyresource.org



Complied by: Cañada College, San Mateo County
Community College District with a grant from
First 5 San Mateo County.

www.first5sanmateo.org