



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.

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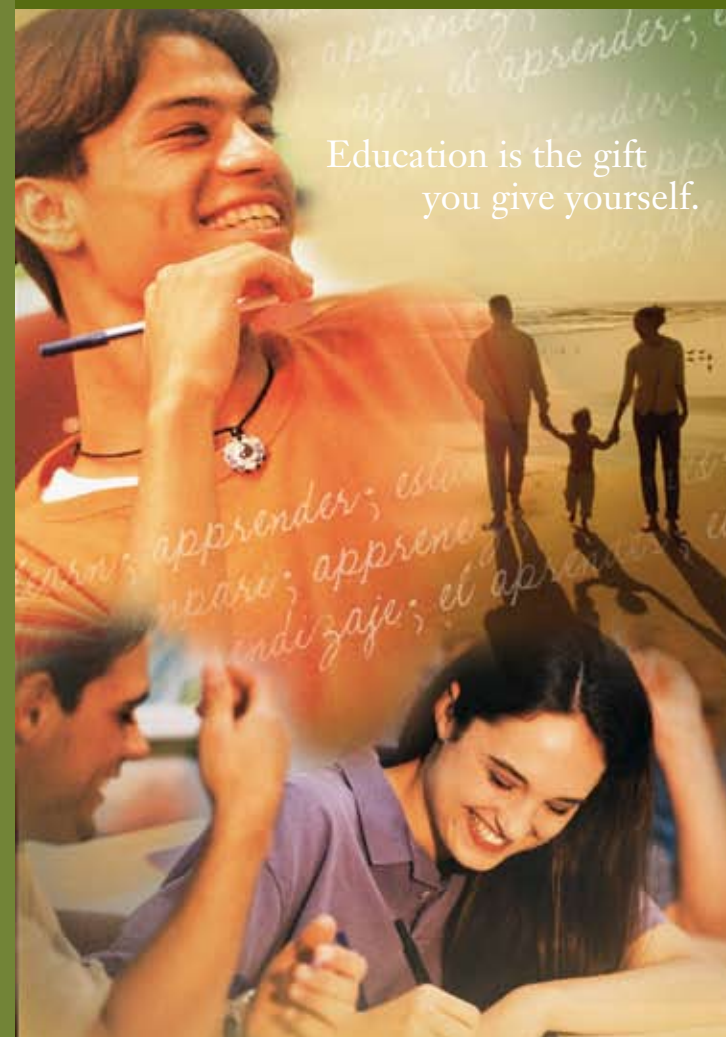
www.first5sanmateo.org



<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*](http://www.collegeispossible.org)

California Tomorrow

[*www.californiatomorrow.org*](http://www.californiatomorrow.org)

Parent Institute for Quality Education

[*www.piqe.org*](http://www.piqe.org)

The Campaign for Quality Education

[*www.collegcampaign.org*](http://www.collegcampaign.org)

National Council of La Raza (NCLR)

[*www.nclr.org*](http://www.nclr.org)

Child Development Training Consortium

[*www.childdevelopment.org*](http://www.childdevelopment.org)

Children's Advocate /

Action Alliance for Children Publications

[*www.4children.org*](http://www.4children.org)

California Association for Bilingual Education

[*www.bilingualeducation.org*](http://www.bilingualeducation.org)

Parent Leadership Institute, Parent Services Project

[*www.parentservices.org*](http://www.parentservices.org)

California Family Resource Association

[*www.californiafamilyresource.org*](http://www.californiafamilyresource.org)



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