

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Where Industry Meets Opportunity



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CITY COLLEGE
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Career Technical Education Programs

The Career Technical Education (CTE) programs at San Diego City College are designed to offer industry-aligned pathways that empower students to achieve their career goals, gain economic independence, and thrive in a global economy while contributing to California's economic growth. Each program is developed in collaboration with business and industry partners to ensure highquality, relevant, and rigorous learning experiences. These programs cultivate creativity, innovation, leadership, and community engagement, preparing students to turn their passions into paychecks and their dreams into meaningful, successful careers.

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Non-Discrimination Statement: The San Diego Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, religion, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.



ACCOUNTING

The Accounting program offers certificates and associate degrees in accounting and financial management, with emphases on tax preparation, CPA preparation, and financial management.

The program prepares students for leadership roles, transfer to four-year institutions, and certification exams like CPA and CMA. Coursework equips students with foundational skills for entry-level positions and enhances existing job competencies.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program will be equipped with strong communication skills tailored to a variety of business environments. They will learn to critically analyze business scenarios and develop effective actions plans. Additionally, students will gain the ability to leverage technology to manage information and support informed decision-making in professional settings.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

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AIR CONDITIONING, REFRIGERATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TECHNOLOGY

The Air Conditioning, Refrigeration, and Environmental Control Technology (AIRE) program offers a comprehensive study of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVACR). The course covers controlled environments for homes, buildings, and conditioned spaces, with topics ranging from residential refrigeration to commercial air conditioning and industrial freezing systems.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program will be prepared to design and size HVACR systems for residential and commercial applications. They will be able to accurately diagnose and repair equipment using minimal replacement parts, demonstrating both efficiency and technical skill. Graduates will understand the impact of improper sub-cooling, superheat, airflow, or water flow on system performance and apply this knowledge in troubleshooting. With a solid grasp of the Refrigeration Cycle, they will confidently charge AC systems and trace both power and control voltages to diagnose and resolve issues within HVACR equipment.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

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ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG STUDIES

The Alcohol and Other Drug Studies (AODS) program prepares students for certification as substance use disorder counselors in California.

The program is vocational, academic, and clinical, training students in core competencies of counseling and providing a theoretical foundation in behavioral sciences. It includes education on addiction factors, evidence-based clinical practices, and a supervised internship. The program is fully accredited by the California Department of Health Care Services through CAADE.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the Alcohol and Other Drug Studies Program will be equipped to assess and diagnose substance use disorders using evidence-based treatment models. They will understand the behavioral, psychological, physical, and social impacts of psychoactive substances on individuals and their loved ones. Graduates will be able to recognize the co-occurrence of medical and mental health conditions with substance use disorders and will demonstrate knowledge of the laws, regulations, and ethical standards of the profession. Through a hands-on internship, students will apply the eight core practice dimensions of addiction counseling, preparing them for real-world clinical settings.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement

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BUSINESS STUDIES

The Business Studies program offers a variety of programs for both transfer and career-focused students. These programs provide the education needed to launch a business or join an established one in an entry-level position. Students gain strategies, plans, procedures, and policies to guide a business and prepare for roles in retail, corporate establishments, small businesses, human resources, and other business settings.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program will be able to communicate effectively in a variety of business settings, adapting their skills to meet professional demands. They will learn to analyze business situations, develop strategic solutions, and implement action plans. In addition, students will be proficient in using technology to manage information and support informed decision-making across business operations.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

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CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The Child Development program offers certificates and associate degrees for career and transfer students. These programs prepare students for various child development opportunities and meet the requirements for California Child Development Permits and Title 22 Community Care Licensing. The program includes coursework, training, and supervised practicum experiences for working in centers, schools, child care homes, and related agencies. Beginning courses provide a foundation for more specialized studies.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program will gain a strong understanding of child growth and development and learn how to apply inclusive practices that support all children. They will be able to plan and implement curriculum grounded in developmentally appropriate practices and model ethical behavior in their work with children, families, colleagues, and communities, following the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement

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COMPUTER BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

The Computer Business Technology programs offers certificates and degrees for entry-level positions. Skills learned in this program are applicable to any career field, with Business Information Worker programs available for both transfer and career-oriented students. Emphasis is placed on upgrading computer skills for college success and employment in business office environments.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program will be able to identify the functions of computer operating systems, navigate various software applications, and effectively use web browsers and internet search tools. They will gain hands-on experience creating professional documents using Microsoft Office Suite, including Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Publisher. Graduates will understand workplace environments, labor trends, and organizational structures, and apply critical thinking to support lifelong learning and problem solving. They will also demonstrate essential interpersonal skills such as leadership, communication, conflict resolution, and teamwork.

Degree/Certification Types

- Certificate of Performance

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COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Computer Information Systems (CIS) program offers multiple areas of study to prepare students for careers in technology. The Computer and Information Sciences (CISC) area introduces programming, software, database, and game development, equipping students for programming roles and transfer to four-year programs. The Information, Network, and Web Technologies (INWT) area emphasizes computer systems, network administration, and cybersecurity, preparing students for IT management and technical support careers. The Cyber Defense and Analysis (CYDA) area builds advanced cybersecurity skills for careers in cyber-workforce operations.

Areas of Study

- Computer Information Systems (CIS)
- Computer and Information Sciences (CISC)
- Cyber Defense and Analysis (CYDA)
- Information, Network, and Web Technologies (INWT)

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will analyze computing problems and apply principles to develop effective solutions. They will design, implement, and evaluate solutions that meet specific requirements. Students will communicate clearly and professionally, demonstrating an understanding of legal, ethical, and inclusive practices in computing. They will be prepared to work as team members or leaders and apply security principles to protect systems and maintain operations against risks and threats.

Degree/Certification Types

- Bachelor's of Science
- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

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COSMETOLOGY

The Cosmetology program prepares students for various aspects of the beauty industry, providing the technical foundation needed to pass the California State Board of Cosmetology licensing exam.

The program integrates theoretical principles with practical laboratory courses, offering an authentic experience that exceeds job-market standards. Students receive critical feedback from licensed faculty with industry experience and practice on mannequin heads and real models in the college's salon and spa. Graduates leave with a robust portfolio and enhanced business skills for networking and job placement.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Cosmetology program, students will be prepared to apply industry concepts and techniques to pass the California State Board Examination. They will demonstrate proper safety, health, and sanitation procedures in accordance with state regulations and effectively use professional terminology and practices required for licensure. Students will be able to perform all practical applications needed for the exam, explain key cosmetology concepts and terms, compare various procedures and techniques, and confidently apply products and services in real-world client settings.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

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COMMERCIAL MUSIC

The Commercial Music program helps aspiring artists, music producers, and engineers take their music technology skills to the next level. As an AVID Learning Partner, the program offers Pro Tools certification as well as training in Ableton Live, Reason Studio Reason, and Apple Logic Pro X. Students can also explore music business, live sound, and audio for multimedia. Facilities include two 24-seat Mac-based computer music labs and a state-of-the-art recording studio with an AVID S6 M10 mixing console and analog outboard gear. The studio's large live room includes a grand piano and drum kit and can accommodate a 20-piece ensemble.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program will gain hands-on experience operating Pro Tools in a professional recording studio setting and be prepared to pass the AVID certification exam. They'll develop a solid understanding of MIDI technology and how to run a MIDI-based studio, as well as master analog and digital signal flow. Graduates will also learn to effectively use microphones and proper placement techniques to capture live instruments using Pro Tools.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement

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ELECTRICITY

The Electricity program is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to master the skills required for success in the electrical trades. Prior knowledge of the electrical trade is not required. Students in the program learn skills and knowledge needed to install, maintain and troubleshoot a variety of electrical systems, residential as well as commercial and industrial facilities, while adhering to the National Electrical Code (NEC), specifications and blueprints. The two-year curriculum leads to a Certificate of Achievement or an Associate in Science degree. Recommended electives are designed to introduce additional areas in the electrical field to students or working electricians. These courses may also be used to satisfy the State of California recertification requirements for electricians.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program will demonstrate a solid understanding of electrical codes, blueprints, and safety practices essential to the electrical field. They will be able to evaluate wiring diagrams for practical application, understand the fundamentals of generators and motors, and be prepared to apply for and take the State of California electrician certification exam.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

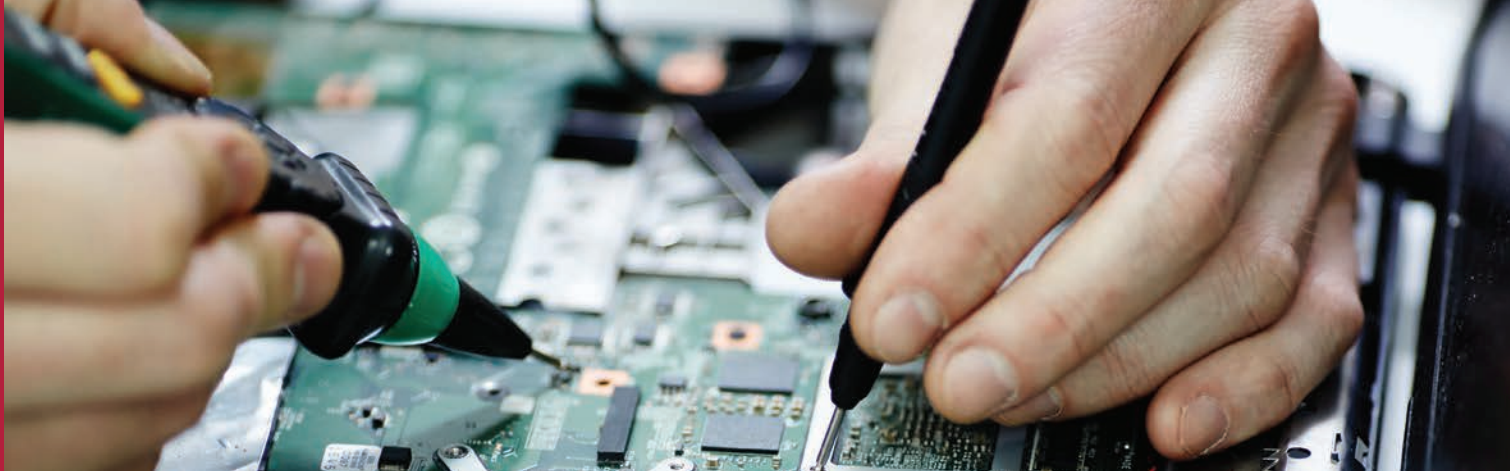
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ELECTRONICS

The Electronics program focuses on the installation, operation, repair, maintenance, calibration, modification, and documentation of electronic circuitry, components, and systems. Technicians are trained to diagnose electromechanical malfunctions and assist engineers in preparing reports and prototypes. Graduates understand the physical sciences, mathematics, and applications necessary for working with microcontrollers, microcomputers, and microprocessor-based systems.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program will be able to properly operate basic electronic test instruments such as oscilloscopes, digital volt-ohm meters, signal generators, and dual power supplies. They will understand and apply fundamental electronic theories, including Ohm's Law, the power formula, and calculations for voltage and power gain. Graduates will also be able to identify key electronic components, such as resistors, capacitors, inductors, diodes, transistors, and integrated circuits. Additionally, they will demonstrate the ability to create detailed reports using computer productivity software, incorporating text, tables, and spreadsheets.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

CONTACT

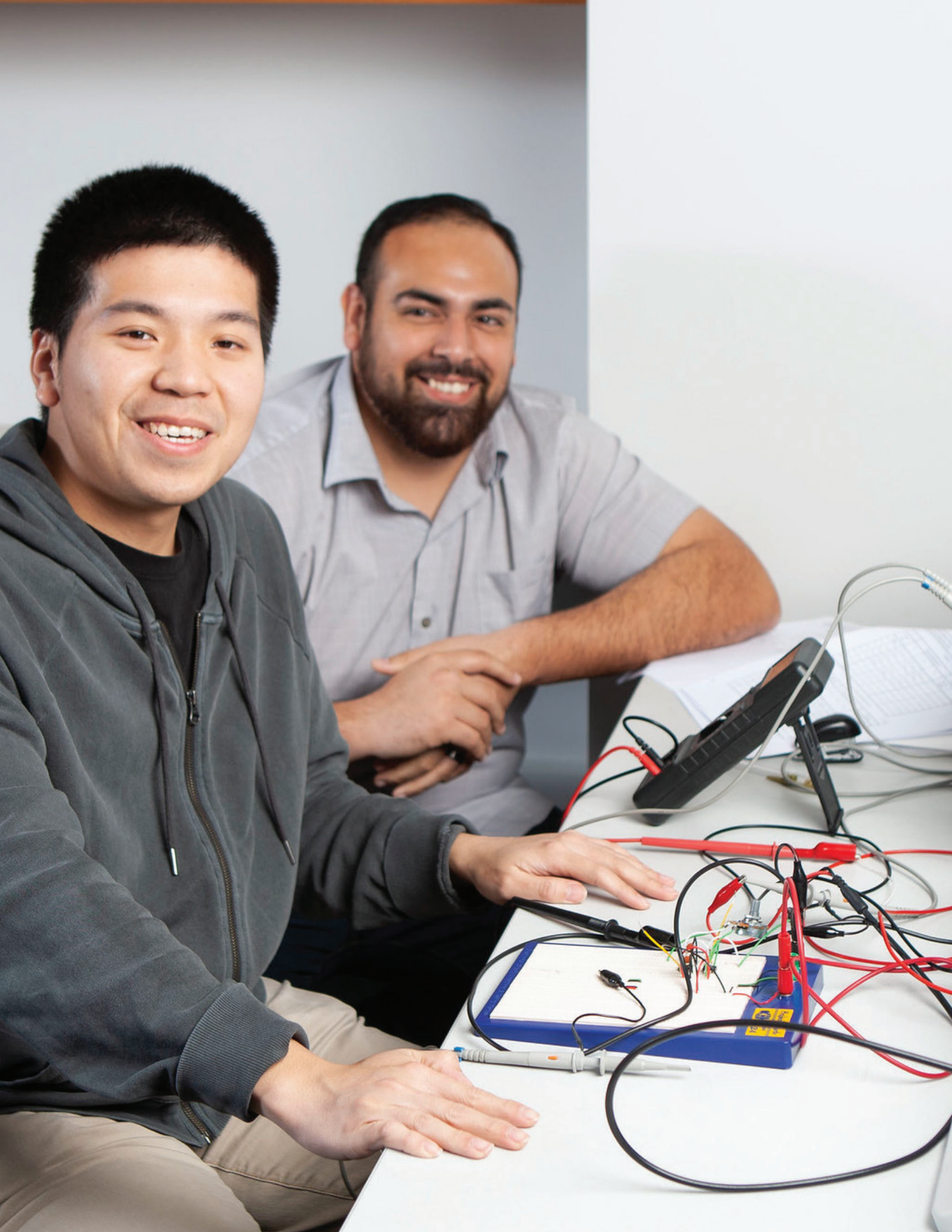
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FITNESS SPECIALIST

The Fitness Specialist program prepares students for immediate entry-level employment in the growing fitness industry, equipping them with the skills to design and lead safe, effective, and creative exercise programs for individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds. You can complete the program in as little as nine months if you start in the fall. With most courses just two units, it's fast, affordable, and hands-on — combining classroom instruction with real-world experience. Students are also prepared for national certification exams, including ACE and ACSM.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Fitness Specialist Program, students will be able to prescribe safe and effective exercise routines and design both group and individual fitness programs. They will have a practical understanding of human anatomy, physiology, and nutrition as they relate to physical fitness, and be able to develop specialized programs tailored to meet the unique needs of each client.

Degree/Certification Types

- Certificate of Achievement





GERONTOLOGY

The Gerontology program emphasizes adult development, social and public policy, advocacy, and services for older adults. Students participate in a field placement internship to gain direct experience with the elderly and interact with service providers. The program targets students seeking new careers in gerontology and those wishing to advance their current careers by adding professional gerontology education and training.

The program prepares students to work effectively with older adults by providing a comprehensive understanding of aging, including its physical, psychological, and social aspects. Students will gain knowledge of the aging network and available services at all government levels, develop awareness of societal attitudes toward aging, and learn to challenge stereotypes.

Career Options

The field of gerontology is quite diverse and offers a variety of employment opportunities. Career opportunities for students who successfully complete the Certificate of Achievement in Gerontology include employment with home care agencies and individual/ family services, community care facilities, residential communities and nonprofit and for-profit organizations serving the elderly and their families.

Degree/Certification Types

- Certificate of Achievement

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GRAPHIC DESIGN

The Graphic Design program is one of six options in the Visual and Performing Arts division. The program provides students with strong foundational coursework, emphasizing typography and design principles needed to enter the field. Students benefit from instructors who are working professionals in the field. Students receive hands-on experience in the fundamentals of typography and design principles, using the most current industry software to create projects for the real world.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program will learn to transform ideas into impactful visual designs by researching, analyzing, and organizing creative concepts. They will gain fluency in the global visual language, understanding the meaning and influence of symbols and words. With a focus on social and ecological impact, students will design products and services using both digital and traditional methods. They will apply design principles to projects such as packaging, magazines, posters, logos, and brochures, while developing skills in concept development, layout, typography, and production. Graduates will create a professional portfolio suitable for transfer or entry into the design industry.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Arts
- Certificate of Achievement

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HUMAN SERVICES/SOCIAL WORK

The Human Services/Social Work program is an applied behavioral science that emphasizes the application of behavioral science principles in various cultural contexts. Students are expected to think critically and scientifically about behavior, apply behavioral science principles, and understand the role of values in diverse settings. The profession focuses on methods to help people from different social groups improve their quality of life.

Program Goals

The program has two primary goals. The first is to provide students with the basic science and social work courses that prepare them for entry-level sociology work in the field and/or transfer to four-year colleges, universities or other institutions. The second goal is to provide students with general knowledge related to the behavioral sciences that complements their interests in the field of Social Work.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Arts

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology program incorporates four pathways: Computer Business Technology; Cybersecurity; Information Technology Management; and Programming & Software Development. We take a hands-on approach to cultivating the foundational skills you will need in today's Internet of Things (IoT) world. Explore our flexible certificate and degree programs below.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program will demonstrate proficiency in software and programming skills aligned with industry standards and transfer requirements for computer and IT-related fields. They will apply critical thinking and advanced technical skills to solve complex problems and use effective interpersonal skills such as leadership, communication, and teamwork in professional settings. Graduates will be able to identify and evaluate network security threats, implement prevention strategies across IT disciplines, and apply current project management principles to successfully lead technology projects.

Degree/Certification Types

- Bachelor's of Science
- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

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MACHINE TECHNOLOGY

The Machine Technology program provides comprehensive instruction in modern manufacturing processes, with a strong emphasis on CAD/CAM and CNC technology. Designed to prepare students for careers in CNC machining, the program also serves those looking to update their existing machine shop skills to meet current industry standards.

Program Goals

Students who complete the program will gain a solid understanding of safety protocols in modern machining facilities and will be able to use precision measuring instruments to meet project specifications. They will apply mathematical problem-solving to machining tasks, read and interpret technical prints, and set up machine tools efficiently. Graduates will be able to machine parts using both conventional and CNC equipment, create CNC programs through hand coding and CAD/CAM software, design complex parts, and complete all required documentation and inspection forms.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

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MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

The Manufacturing Engineering Technology (MFET) program at San Diego City College provides students with highly valued skills in an innovative, hands-on learning environment. The program integrates experiences across all aspects of a manufacturing enterprise, including materials, processes, safety, design, automation, quality, and lean manufacturing. MFET graduates are prepared for rewarding careers in diverse industries such as plastics, automotive, biomedical, electronics, aerospace, machining, and other high-value manufacturing sectors.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Manufacturing Engineering Technology program, students will gain skills tailored to their chosen focus.

In the Electronics Manufacturing option, students will operate test equipment, use industry-standard design tools, apply quality control methods, and understand electronics theory and manufacturing processes.

In the Fabrication Manufacturing option, students will use CAD/CAM and CNC tools, apply quality control techniques, optimize product design for manufacturing, and understand materials, workflows, and equipment used in fabrication.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

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MENTAL HEALTH WORK

The Mental Health Work program is designed to prepare entry-level mental health workers for the workforce and to serve as a stepping stone toward higher academic degrees in the field of mental health.

Potential entry-level mental health work positions include: mental health technician, social services assistant, residential home counselor, child care worker assistant, counselor aid, gerontology aid, research assistant, youth counselor, foster care worker, behavior analyst, case management aid, family services aid, patient care specialist and patient advocate assistant.

Students will learn about clinical disorders, counseling techniques, the role of community in the field of psychology, and local support services available to individuals and families. The certificate is offered through our Public Mental Health Academy (PMHA) which provides specialized academic counseling support and resources to students enrolled in the PMHA.

Program Learning Outcomes

Employment options for students who complete the Certificate of Achievement in Mental Health Work include Mental Health Worker/ Counselor, Behavioral Health Technician/Educator, Peer Mentor, Residential Counselor, Outreach Worker and Patient Care Specialist.

Degree/Certification Types

- Certificate of Achievement

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NURSING

Nursing is a profession which provides health care to individuals of all ages. Nursing encompasses many activities including health promotion, health maintenance, health care during illness and injury and rehabilitation. Nurses apply knowledge from the biological, physical, behavioral and nursing sciences to care for clients in varied settings. The purpose of the San Diego City College Nursing program is to provide an educational opportunity for qualified individuals interested in a career in nursing.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students will be prepared to pass the NCLEX-RN exam and deliver safe, accurate client care through sound clinical judgment. They will practice within ethical, legal, and regulatory standards, apply nursing practice guidelines in entry-level settings, and commit to lifelong learning in the nursing profession.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

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PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography major is one of six programs in the Visual and Performing Arts department. The program provides students with strong foundational coursework, emphasizing photographic concepts, and camera handling techniques needed to enter the field. The program offers a wide range of theory, technique, and skills course work from beginning through advanced levels. Students benefit from instructors who are working professionals in the field and hands on experience in studio practices and current industry software to create projects for the real world.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, students will demonstrate technical and creative proficiency in both film and digital photography. They will skillfully use camera settings, composition, and lighting techniques, develop film and prints in a darkroom, and apply digital editing using Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop. Students will also understand the historical and contemporary role of photography, present work using professional methods, and create marketing materials and portfolios suitable for clients or graduate school applications.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Arts
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

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FILM, JOURNALISM & MEDIA PRODUCTION

The Film, Journalism, and Media Production (FJMP) program at San Diego City College provides the opportunity for students to develop fundamental skills in these fields for employment in media and related industries or transfer to a four-year institution. The program includes all aspects of multi-platform content creation and production, including fiction and documentary films, journalism, broadcast news, radio, podcast, and media production. Students also develop skills to think critically, problem-solve efficiently, and communicate ideas effectively.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an emphasis in the Radio, Television, and Film program, students will be able to analyze the impact of media on the public, operate industry-standard audio, video, or film equipment, and produce a range of media projects. They will also be prepared to direct or perform as voice or acting talent in professional settings.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The Sustainable Urban Agriculture program offers a hands-on approach for students to enter into the academic and/or professional fields related to sustainable agriculture. This program provides a foundation in plant and soil science, integrated pest management, and crop production while focusing on ecological principles of sustainable agriculture. Students gain practical experience working alongside professional urban farmers and farm educators in the Seeds at City Urban Farm on the City College campus. Courses emphasize the how-to aspects of organic gardening and farming, including compost production, greenhouse propagation, crop planning and production.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, students will understand the three pillars of sustainability—economic, environmental, and social—and how they apply to landscaping and urban farming. They will be able to explain food system components, design organic urban farms that promote ecosystem health and water conservation, and evaluate the soil food web. Students will create crop plans suited to the Southwest region, identify plant diseases and pests, and apply organic pest management strategies. They will also demonstrate basic plant propagation techniques essential for sustainable agriculture.

Degree/Certification Types

- Associate of Science
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Performance

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