



Rancho Santiago Community College District Course Offering Preferences for Upcoming Semesters

March 2021

Including student feedback into our planning and decision-making process is important to us. Early in the spring 2020 semester, the COVID-19 pandemic forced our colleges to quickly move to remote instruction. Since then, we have continued to monitor and adjust our practices and processes to ensure the safety of our students. As we look forward to plan for summer and fall 2021 semesters, we again reached out to students who have enrolled at our colleges since fall 2019 to understand their preference of instruction modality, as well as when in the upcoming semesters they would be comfortable to enroll in face-to-face instruction courses.

Nearly 80,000 students (58,554 for Santa Ana College (SAC) and 21,412 for Santiago Canyon College³ (SCC)) were invited to participate in our survey, and 9% of these students responded. In general, many of the 6,973 students-respondents prefer online classes to in-person classes. For those who do not plan on enrolling at SAC and SCC, they continued to express anxiety about the virus and their safety at this time, as well as not having time for school. A noticeable number of the respondents indicated that they do not intend on enrolling this summer/fall semesters since they have already completed their educational goal at our colleges.

Santa Ana College

Summer 2021

We invited 58,554 students who have enrolled at Santa Ana College (SAC) since Fall 2019 to share their opinion on class preferences. Nine percent (5,128 of 58,554 of the students) responded and their feedback is as follows:

- Of the 5,128 students responded, 68% (or 3,487) are planning on taking a course at SAC during summer 2021 (classes starting June 2021).
 - Nearly two-thirds (63%) of those who will enroll in the summer prefer to enroll in online courses,
 - Twenty percent will enroll in face-to-face courses, and
 - The remaining 17% were opened to taking classes in both formats.
- Of those who want to enroll in face-to-face classes, they would like to see the following courses offered (students were given the opportunity to list the course(s)):
 - Math, chemistry, biology, psychology, criminal justice, EMT, English, fire technology, child development and science labs were mentioned by at least 50 students.
 - Nursing, welding, accounting, history, engineering, statistics, human anatomy, business, and physiology were mentioned by at least 30 students.
 - Photography, paralegal, political science, art, computer, sociology, automotive, music and fashion design were also listed.
- Of the 32% (n=1,641) remaining respondents who are not planning on enrolling at SAC this summer, their reasons included the following (respondents were given the opportunity to note more than one reason):
 - Nearly two-fifths of them indicated that they have already completed their educational goal at the college,
 - One-quarter stated that their schedules do not allow time for school,
 - Fourteen percent stated that they do not feel safe at this time,

- Twelve percent did not want to expose a vulnerable family member to COVID-19,
- Six percent were still concerned that the college will not follow health protocols that reduce the spread of COVID-19,
- Nearly 10% stated that their decision depends on their vaccination status and/or that of their family members,
- Another 10% stated that their decision depends on the overall vaccination rate of the region,
- A smaller percent (3%) does not have childcare and/or their school-age children have not returned to classroom instructions, and
- Ten percent stated that “other” reasons ranging from their frustration with online classes, they plan on attending another college, SAC’s class offerings do not fit their needs, completed their education needs at community college level, they are still in high school, mentally not ready for school again, and/or do not plan to take classes this summer, etc.

Fall 2021

- Of the 5,128 respondents, three-fourths (76% or 3,897) are interested in enrolling at SAC this upcoming fall 2021 semester (classes start August 2021).
 - More than half (56%) of those who will enroll in the fall prefer to enroll in online courses,
 - A quarter of the respondents will enroll in face-to-face courses, and
 - The remaining 19% were opened to taking classes in both formats.

- Of those who want to enroll in face-to-face classes they would like to see the following courses offered (students were given the opportunity to list the course(s)):
 - Math, chemistry, biology, psychology, physiology, microbiology, accounting, history, criminal justice, English, child development and science labs were mentioned most often.
 - Nursing, welding, accounting, history, engineering, statistics, human anatomy, business, physiology, paralegal, political science, art, computer, sociology, music and fashion design were also listed.

- Of the 24% (n=1,231) remaining respondents who did not plan on enrolling at SAC this fall, their reasons included the following (respondents were given the opportunity to note more than one reason):
 - More than three-fifths (64%) indicated that they have already completed their educational goal at the college,
 - Thirteen percent stated that their schedules do not allow time for school,
 - Seven percent stated that they do not feel safe at this time,
 - Five percent did not want to expose a vulnerable family member to COVID-19,
 - Four percent stated that their decision depends on their vaccination status and/or that of their family members,
 - Three percent were still concerned that the college will not follow health protocols that reduce the spread of COVID-19,
 - Three percent stated that their decision depends on the overall vaccination rate of the region,
 - Two percent does not have childcare and/or their school-age children have not returned to classroom instructions, and
 - Nine percent stated “other” reasons similar to what have already been mentioned above: frustration with online classes, they plan on attending another college, limited class offerings do not fit their needs, completed their education needs at community college level, they are still in high school, and/or mentally not ready for school again, etc.

Santiago Canyon College

Summer 2021

We invited 21,412 students who have enrolled at Santiago Canyon College (SCC) since fall 2019 to share their opinion on class preferences in upcoming semesters. Nine percent (1,845 of 21,412 of the students) responded and their feedback is as follows:

- Of the 1,845 students responded, 65% (or 1,199) plan on taking a course at SCC during summer 2021 (classes starting June 2021).
 - Nearly three-fourths (73%) of those who will enroll in the summer prefer to enroll in online courses only,
 - Twelve percent will enroll in face-to-face courses only, and
 - The remaining 15% were opened to taking classes in both formats.

- Of those who want to enroll in face-to-face classes, they would like to see the following courses offered (students were given the opportunity to list the course(s)):
 - Math, English, psychology, biology, chemistry, physiology, and science labs were mentioned most often.
 - Water utility science, accounting, history, engineering, anatomy, philosophy, business, economic, political science, art, and computer science were also listed.

- Of the 35% (n=646) remaining respondents who are not planning on enrolling at SCC this summer, their reasons included the following (respondents were given the opportunity to note more than one reason):
 - Nearly half (49%) indicated that they have already completed their educational goal at the college,
 - One-fifth stated that their schedules do not allow time for school,
 - Twelve percent stated that they do not feel safe at this time,
 - Ten percent did not want to expose a vulnerable family member to COVID-19,
 - Eight percent stated that their decision depends on their vaccination status and/or that of their family members,
 - Another 7% stated that their decision depends on the overall vaccination rate of the region,
 - Six percent were still concerned that the college will not follow health protocols that reduce the spread of COVID-19,
 - A smaller percent (2%) does not have childcare and/or their school-age children have not returned to classroom instructions, and
 - Eight percent of the respondents stated “other” reasons ranging from their not having plans to take summer courses, planning to attend another college, class offerings do not fit their needs, not liking online class format, etc.

Fall 2021

- Of the 1,845 respondents, two-thirds (67% or 1,236) are interested in enrolling at SCC this upcoming fall 2021 semester (classes start August 2021).
 - More than half (53%) of those who will enroll in the fall prefer to enroll in online courses, and
 - The remaining 47% were opened to taking classes in both face-to-face and online formats.

- Those who indicated that they would enroll in face-to-face classes would like to see the following courses offered (students were given the opportunity to list the course(s)):
 - English, math, microbiology, biology, chemistry, physiology, public works, and science labs were mentioned most often.

- Calculus, physics, psychology, kinesiology, astronomy, child development, history, communication, and accounting were also listed.
- Of the 33% (n=609) remaining respondents who are not planning on enrolling at SCC this fall, their reasons included the following (respondents were given the opportunity to note more than one reason):
 - Two-thirds of the respondents (66%) indicated that they have already completed their educational goal at the college,
 - Ten percent stated that their schedules do not allow time for school,
 - Seven percent stated that they do not feel safe at this time,
 - Six percent did not want to expose a vulnerable family member to COVID-19,
 - Four percent stated that their decision depends on their vaccination status and/or that of their family members,
 - Four percent stated that their decision depends on the overall vaccination rate of the region,
 - Three percent were still concerned that the college will not follow health protocols that reduce the spread of COVID-19,
 - Less than one percent does not have childcare and/or their school-age children have not returned to classroom instructions, and
 - Six percent stated that “other” reasons similar to what have already been mentioned above: frustration with online classes and/or Canvas, planning on attending another college, transferring to the universities, class offerings do not fit their needs, and/or they have completed their education needs at community college level, etc.