

To Mt. San Jacinto College **Students:**

California's **Budget Crisis** and what it means to **You**

California's budget crisis means MSJC students may experience difficulty in finding available classes.

Why are classes limited?

- Community colleges receive funding from the State. The historic State budget cuts means community colleges do not have the funding to offer as many classes as in previous years, so colleges have been forced to reduce classes. MSJC has reduced fewer classes than many other colleges. In 2010-11, MSJC reduced about 9 percent of classes compared to offerings in 2009-10. MSJC is ensuring it is retaining the core courses needed to complete degrees or transfer.
<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/oct/04/local/la-me-college-classes-20101004>
- January 2011 has the potential for the largest budget cuts in state and college's history (\$5 million was cut from MSJC in 2009-10).
<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/12/15/3258163/jerry-brown-fasten-your-seat-belt.html>
- State officials anticipate more cuts in January and expect the economy to be a challenge through 2014-15. (FOR MORE SEE WWW.MSJC.EDU/BUDGETWATCH)
- *Unprecedented growth.* The rise in population in the region ranked MSJC as the 2nd fastest growing Community College in the nation (2008). The economic crisis means even more people are turning to MSJC for classes because many have lost jobs and are seeking job training. In addition, record numbers of high school students are attending college.

Mt. San Jacinto College remains committed to providing the education our students need. Despite the historic state budget cuts, MSJC is serving thousands of students for which it receives no state funding. In 2009-2010, MSJC took in nearly the equivalent of 3,000 full-time students who needed the education even though the college did not receive state funding for those students. That translates into \$12.8 million of funding MSJC did not receive, yet still provided the education and services to those students.

Tips to help you get into classes and be successful:

Be flexible when selecting/registering for classes.

Afternoon and night classes are more likely to have available seats.

Consider MSJC classes offered at different locations.

MSJC classes are available at the San Jacinto, Menifee Valley and San Geronio Pass campuses or the Temecula Education Complex.

Make college a priority over your job/work schedule.

If you can get into a class at a time that conflicts with your usual job schedule, consider explaining the situation to your employer to see if your work can be flexed around the class.

Always attend the first day of class and BE ON TIME to avoid being dropped from the class.

Avoid dropping or withdrawing from a high-demand class once you get in.

Be aware that "Ws" count against you and you may not get another opportunity to take that class.

Make full use of available student and instructional support services.

MSJC offers a wide range of services that can assist in your academic success. Services include counseling, tutoring, library services, transfer center and MORE. See www.msjc.edu/student-services

Stay Connected with Up-to-Date Information:

MSJC will use your college-provided e-mail account for important communications. Instructions to access your account can be viewed at <http://my.msjc.edu>. Please check your college e-mail regularly.

Through strategic planning and effective communication, MSJC continues to seek solutions that minimize the impact of these budget challenges on our students.

What are some steps MSJC has taken to address state budget cuts?

- Reduced other department budgets to increase the instructional budget, minimizing the cuts to classes at MSJC
- Hired only essential positions
- Reduced employee overtime
- Reduced Child Development Center work year
- Eliminated non-essential travel
- Implemented 4-10 work schedules for summer

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What Can You Do?

Contact your respective state legislators and urge them to make Community College funding a high priority.

Log on to:

www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators/your_legislator.html