

College Advantage

Information Night 2026



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Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Program Overview
- Student Perspective
- Role of High School Counselors
- Role of WVC Counselor
- Application Process
- Questions



Meet the Team

Mark Manrose: WVC Director of Continuing Education

Emily Hanson: CUHSD Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Erin Reyes: High School Counselor (CUHSD)

Mary Carol Bernal: High School Counselor (LGSUHSD)

Chris Jones: WVC Counselor



Evening Overview

- **6–6:45 PM:** Presentation
- **6:45–7 PM:** General Questions
- Please enter questions in the Q&A
- Application available online tonight at 7 PM on the High School District Websites
- Unique questions can be emailed to HS counselors



Program Overview



Program Overview

- Joint program with Campbell and Los Gatos/Saratoga Union High School Districts and West Valley College
- 12th graders enroll in 6–15 college units per semester at West Valley College
- 12th graders are no longer enrolled in any more high school classes



Program Benefits

- Complete high school graduation requirements **AND** earn college credit (dual enrollment)
- Opportunity for 12th graders to become more self-sufficient in a mature and academic setting
- Offers a smoother transition from high school to college
- Opportunity to save up to 1 year of tuition fees
- Variety of class selection in a challenging and supportive environment
- Flexible schedule!



Students who Succeed in College Advantage are:

Independent
Proactive
Responsible
Mature
Self Disciplined
Organized
Communicative



Required Classes

English:

- If you are currently in English 3 → **ENGL C1000**
- If you are currently in AP/IB English Language → **ENGL 1B or ENGL C1001**

American Government:

- POLS C1000

Economics:

- ECON 1A/1AH (Macroeconomics) **OR**
- ECON 1B/1BH (Microeconomics)

Any remaining grad requirements (ex. Science, PE, Fine Art)



West Valley College Courses

- Students enroll in 6–15 college units per semester
- Semester–long
- Students receive college credit on a West Valley College transcript
- 1 unit = 1 hour long class
- 1 unit = 3.33 High School credits
 - Ex. Beginning Piano, Kickboxing
- 3+ units = 10 High School credits
 - Ex. Anthropology, Engineering Physics, Oceanography



College Advantage Counselors

Ms. Reyes

CUHSD
High School
Counselor

Mrs. Bernal

LGSUHSD
High School
Counselor

Chris Jones

**West Valley
College**
Counselor, LMFT



Alumni Voices

“The College Advantage program helped me to skip a lot of my GE requirements by taking transferable classes at West Valley all while boosting my GPA! Taking advantage of the smaller class sizes and making a habit of going to office hours or asking professors for help is a transferable skill that helped in 4 year universities as well!”

***Joey, Westmont HS 2023
UC Davis (BS Biotechnology)***

“College Advantage helped me get a lot of gen ed course work out of the way so I could take the classes I wanted to at UW. It also prepared me for registration and handling school independently.”

***Sierra, Los Gatos HS 2024
Univ of Washington (BS Construction Management)***



Student Perspective

Amy

Branham

Gita

Leigh



Role of High School Counselor

- We become the students' primary high school counselor
- Assist with all High School matters
- High School graduation requirements
- UC/CSU A-G Requirements
- Academic Counseling
- Social/Emotional Counseling
- 504/IEP support
- College application support including hosting workshops and submitting school reports, HS transcripts, recommendations & scholarships
- Support with navigating Naviance and California Colleges platforms, Common Application, and UC/CSU application websites
- Update high school transcripts with WVC classes



Stay Connected

- College Advantage students are still students with their home high school
- Receive HS diploma from home high school and can participate in graduation ceremony
- Can participate in home high school activities (clubs, athletics, games, prom) as long as it does not conflict with the College Advantage schedule



Textbooks & Supplies

- Students are responsible for obtaining class materials
- All **required** textbooks and materials for students' core classes for graduation are eligible for reimbursement
- Reimbursement requests submitted to High School District Offices



IEP/504s

- Students with IEP/504s may request accommodations for their college classes and must schedule an appointment with the **Disability and Educational Support Program (DESP)**
- westvalley.edu/services/desp/



College Courses vs AP or IB Courses

College Courses	AP/IB Courses
Semester-long	Year-long
Receives Academic Quality Point (weighted)	Receives Academic Quality Point (weighted)
3-unit course = 10 High School credits	5 credits per semester
Fewer assignments, more weight on exams	More assignments
Most classes are UC/CSU transferable	Must receive a score of 3, 4, or 5 on AP exam for college credit
Guaranteed college credit each semester	Dependent on score/course/college

The only sure way to receive college credit is to take the college class.

Colleges like this!



Middle College vs College Advantage

Middle College	College Advantage
2 HS classes + College classes	All College classes/Flexible Schedule
Enroll in 6-12 units per semester	Enroll in 6-15 units per semester
2 HS classes: Set classes with high school classmates	Fully integrated with WVC community
English, Gov, Econ fulfilled by MC High School Classes (college-prep)	English, Gov, Econ fulfilled by College classes (weighted)
May petition to enroll in up to 15 units by 2nd semester	Automatically enabled to enroll in 15 units

Must submit both applications if applying to both programs



Role of WVC Counselor

- Assist with all West Valley College matters
- Student Services
- Educational Plan/Degree Works
- Associate's Degree planning @ WVC
- WVC Course selection and scheduling
- Early Progress Form
- Student Success – Tutoring information
- Clubs & Activities
- WVC Course Drop and Add process
- College Transfer information (e.g. TAG, ADT)
- Community Grant information (students who plan to remain at WVC and transfer)
- Social/Emotional Counseling



College Advantage Students at West Valley College

- A student in College Advantage is considered a West Valley College Student
- Eligible for all the benefits entitled to a WVC Student:
 - Tutorial Services at the Success Center
 - Clubs
 - Practice with Athletic Teams
 - Support Services



West Valley Student Supports

The Office of Student Needs offers FREE resources including:

- The Cohn Family Food Pantry
- WVC Closet
- Free haircut dates
- Free dining plan (6 in person units required)
- Undocu Resource Office
- Public benefits assistance
- Transportation resources and more!



Application Process



Who We're Looking For

- Minimum GPA 3.8 (10-12) Unweighted
- A lottery may take place should we receive more applications than spots available
- Students enrolled out of district but live within the CUHSD or LGSUHSD district boundaries need to pre-enroll



Application Process

1. The online application opens tonight at 7 PM on the CUHSD and LGSUHSD websites
 - 2 Teacher Recommendations and 1 Counselor Recommendation (*if applying to both Middle College and College Advantage, recommenders only need to submit once*)
 - Short answers responding to application questions
2. Students may be invited to attend an Interview. Check your personal email address that you reported on the application for an application status update and/or final status.
3. **Application closes Friday, February 27, 2026 at 5 PM**



The Decision Process

1. Overall eligibility (grade, gpa, standing)
2. Student application question responses
3. Teacher and counselor recommendations
4. School Site representation
5. Lottery with all eligible applicants



Q & A



Thank you!

Please email us directly if you have a unique situation concerning your application.

CUHSD:

ereyes@cuhsd.org

LGSUHSD:

mbernal@lgsuhsd.org

WVC:

chris.jones@wvm.edu

We apologize as we may not get to all the questions tonight.



[Campbell Union High School District](#)



[Los Gatos Saratoga Union High School District](#)

