

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Accreditation

Sierra College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), which operates under the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the United States Department of Education.

Contact information:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges

Western Association of Schools and Colleges  
331 J Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95841

Telephone Number: (415) 506-0234

Fax Number: (415) 506-0238

Email Address: [accjc@accjc.org](mailto:accjc@accjc.org)

Website: [www.accjc.org](http://www.accjc.org) (<http://www.accjc.org>)

Accreditation is a voluntary system of self regulation developed to evaluate overall educational quality and institutional effectiveness, providing assurance to the public that Sierra College meets the Standards; the education earned is of value to the student who earned it; and employers, trade or profession-related licensing agencies, and other colleges and universities can accept a student's credential as legitimate.

For more information about Accreditation at Sierra College, please visit our Accreditation and SLOs website (<https://www.sierracollege.edu/about-sierra-college/planning-and-governance/accreditation/>).

## Instructional Programs

### General Education

A range of courses to help students gain breadth of knowledge about the environment, natural sciences, social and behavioral sciences, humanities, English, communication and analytical thinking, awareness of cultural differences, and the importance of maintaining health and fitness.

### Educational Programs

Organized sequences of courses leading to a defined objective, a degree, a certificate, a diploma, a license, or transfer to another institution of higher education.

### Transfer Curriculum

Courses that meet general education and lower-division major requirements equivalent to the first two years at a four-year university to which students may transfer with junior standing.

### Career and Technical Education

Certificates and degrees designed to prepare students for entry into professional level employment opportunities, or update job skills in the rapidly changing workplace.

## Basic Skills

Both nondegree-applicable credit courses and noncredit courses in reading, writing, mathematics, and English as a Second Language (ESL).

## Contract Course

Course offered under a contract pursuant to Educational Code 78021 with a public or private agency, corporation, association, or other organization.

## Community Education Program

Provides convenient classes and activities to meet the needs and interests of our diverse community for enrichment and personal and professional growth. Classes are offered in areas of business, career, computers, creative arts, food, health, home and garden, music, and more. Additionally, special activities such as sports camps, motorcycle training, bus trips and global travel are offered. The Kaleidoscope schedule of not-for-credit, fee-based classes is published in spring, summer, and fall. Classes are open for the admission of adults and those minors who, in the judgment of the governing board, may benefit from the program. Students shall be charged a fee not to exceed the cost of maintaining the classes. For further information see the Community Learning website (<https://academics.sierracollege.edu/community-education-0/>).

## Distance Learning

Online courses may be accessed from anywhere at anytime through an Internet connection. Hybrid courses, which are a combination of online and on-ground formats, are also offered.

## Field Trips

Trips sponsored by the various instructional divisions to provide students with the enriching experience of visiting such locations as the Sierra - Nevada, the ocean, and the desert. Additional fees may be assessed.

## Internship Program

Work site learning which provides students an opportunity for hands-on experience, application of classroom learning and exploration and development of skills and knowledge in a particular field or profession. Sierra College offers a two-level internship program. The lower level, called Internship 94, is a Career Exploration internship in which the primary focus is for a student to learn more about a particular field or profession, without extensive previous knowledge or experience. The upper level placements, called Internship 95, are designed for advanced students to expand their knowledge and skills in an area related to their college major.

## Noncredit

Noncredit is an educational gateway offering courses that develop foundational skills, strengthen self-sufficiency and provide pathways to higher education and/or employment. Designed for a diverse student population, courses improve access to college, enhance job opportunities, and promote lifelong learning.

## Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)

Provides noncredit, tuition-free instruction specifically designed to serve the interests of adults 55+ years of age. Classes are short term, typically four to six weeks in length. A variety of course topics are offered, including art, film, fitness, music, nutrition, and literature. For further information see the C (<http://www.sierracollege.edu/olli/>)community Learning website (<https://www.sierracollege.edu/academics/community-learning/>).

## Short-term or Fast-track Classes

Classes not a full semester in duration. Each class designated short-term or fast-track has its own add, drop, withdrawal, refund, and pass/no pass deadlines.

## Student Services

Services include, but are not limited to academic, transfer, and career counseling, Success Center, financial aid, housing, tutoring, EOPS/CARE, CalWORKs, TRIo, health services and support for disabled students, former foster youth, and veterans; as well as crisis intervention services.

## Governance

The Sierra College community determines its educational and other policies through a participatory governance process involving students, classified support staff, faculty and administration. A senate formed by each group advocates the group's interests. Each organization represents its constituency with a formal voice in determining educational policy, procedures, and regulations as well as coordinating representatives on committees and councils.

The **Student Senate** actively represents the students in the College's committee work and planning. The organization also promotes student activities and clubs as well as providing information on current events for the student body.

The **Classified Senate** represents the College's support staff on professional matters.

The **Academic Senate**, under authority from Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, represents all faculty on academic and professional matters.

The **Management and Confidential Senate** represents educational administrators, supervisory, and confidential employees on professional matters.

The **Strategic Council** consists of five representatives from each of the constituency groups. The purpose of the Council is to present and discuss the concerns and interests of the constituent groups; to collaborate with the Superintendent/President by conveying the interests of the constituent groups on the strategic direction of the college; to share in decision-making by advising the Superintendent/President in the development of policies and procedures; and to assist in disseminating information to the college community.

The **Board of Trustees** is the elected governing body of the Sierra Joint Community College District and has the final authority to establish policy for current and long-range educational plans and programs, promote orderly growth and development, and ensure fiscal responsibility. Board Policies and Administrative Procedures may be found here (<https://www.sierracollege.edu/about-us/leadership/board-of-trustees.php>).

## Advisory Committees

To insure that meaningful curricula in the career technical programs are maintained, department advisory committees, comprised of specialists in the subject matter area, meet to advise on program emphasis and change. Individual committee members are listed on the appropriate department overview pages in this catalog.

## Sierra College Foundation

The Foundation seeks private funds to support Sierra College students and programs, assisting in the development of a trained workforce that

promotes the economic development and viability of the community. The Foundation assists students in pursuit of higher education by offering scholarships, book vouchers, computers, and emergency grants.

Foundation accomplishments include: establishment of a million dollar scholarship endowment; establishment of a technology endowment; funding for the implementation of WiFi on all campuses; establishment of an emergency fund endowment to provide grants to students facing one-time emergencies; and funding and equipment for the Sierra College Veterans Resource Center. The Foundation offers refurbished computers to students with financial need; supports former foster youth attending Sierra College with care packs; and offers approximately \$300,000 in scholarships annually.

The Foundation is supported by financial contributions (cash, stocks, planned gifts, memorials, bequests, real estate, trusts) and activities (wine and food tastings, auctions, golf tournaments, dinners, the auto fair and other fund-raising events). For additional information or to contribute, please visit the website at [www.sierracollege.edu/foundation](http://www.sierracollege.edu/foundation) (<http://www.sierracollege.edu/foundation/>), call the Foundation Office at (916) 660-7020, or write to:

Sierra College Foundation  
5100 Sierra College Boulevard  
Rocklin, CA 95677

## Speakers Bureau

The Speakers Bureau is designed to acquaint community members with Sierra College and its fine staff. Faculty and staff are available to address a variety of timely subjects at meetings of community groups and organizations. For information, contact Marketing/Public Relations, (916) 660-7272.