

# OC Community College Enrollment Continues to Fall

## EDUCATION: 10% decline follows 21% drop year ago

By AUDREY KEMP

Enrollment rates at Orange County's community colleges experienced a steep decline for the second consecutive year.

The area's nine community colleges reported total enrollment fell 10% to 123,259. Last year, the decline was 21%.

The decline is almost three times the rate nationally, where community college enrollment is down 3.5% nationwide, according to the National Clearinghouse Research Center.



**Elliot Stern**  
President  
Saddleback College

Saddleback College in Mission Viejo faced the steepest drop of full-time students, 38% to 6,603.

"In general, our students tend to come from less privileged households; many had to drop out to support family members during this time—and a lot of our students actually got COVID themselves," Saddleback President **Elliot Stern** told the Business Journal.

"From a fundamental point, our students are far more vulnerable than four-year university students."

### 10%+ Drops

The falloff in the combined full and part-



PHOTO CREDIT: SADDLEBACK

Saddleback College: uses a hybrid model with 60% in class and 40% online

time enrollment was widespread as eight of the nine colleges reported declines, five topping 10%.

Biggest decreases were 19% at **Coastline College** and 16% at **Golden West College**, both in the North Orange County district.

The only college that increased its full-time enrollment was **Orange**

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**Coast College**, which reported 3.1% to 6,839.

**Santa Ana College** saw a large influx of part-time students, increasing 23% to 12,460, whereas their full-time students dropped 33% to 3,750.

The colleges employ about 1,737 full-time faculty and 4,528 part-time faculty.

The current fall is an anomaly compared to other recessions, according to nonprofit newsroom **The Hetchinger Report**, which said community college admissions tend to increase during recessions.

In 2008, it was older students leading the surge in community college admissions. This time, it's younger students who are not coming back.

### Demographic Disparities

According to Stern, when Saddleback College went completely online, the school had to deploy 1,000 computers by drive-thru to students who did not have the technology at home to complete their work.

"It showed us how much we needed to be enlightened about the non-academic barriers our students face," he added.

About 10% to as many as 30% of Saddleback students may have gotten COVID-19, he said.

"Think about the impact on their lives and their families' lives," Stern said. "I think you can account for the decline just by that alone."

Currently, Saddleback is using a hybrid model with 60% in class and 40% online.

Stern downplayed the notion that students are dropping out because of less interest in higher-education.

"It's more evidence of life getting in the way," he said, referring to COVID.

"Whether or not we're seeing a true questioning of higher education for the long haul is a question to be answered over the next several years," Stern said. ■

## THE LIST COMMUNITY COLLEGES



**GILBERT CONTRERAS**  
Interim President  
Fullerton College



**MARILYN FLORES**  
Interim President  
Santa Ana College



**JOHN C. HERNANDEZ**  
President  
Irvine Valley College



**TIM MCGRATH**  
President  
Golden West College



**PAMELA RALSTON**  
President  
Santiago Canyon College





























**ANGELICA L. SUAREZ**  
President  
Orange Coast College

# THE LIST COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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Automakers, Auto Dealers

LISTED ALPHABETICALLY BY DISTRICT, THEN SCHOOL NAME

School •Address	School logo	Full-time enrollees •Part-time •Total	2020-2021 associate degrees awarded	Full-time faculty •Part-time •Total	Notable trade/vocational programs	Year established	Top local official •Title •Phone/Fax	
<b>Coast Community College District</b> 1370 Adams Ave. Costa Mesa 92626-5429 Website: cccd.edu		10,695 23,386 34,081	7,478	427 1,037 1,464		1947	John Weispfenning chancellor (714) 438-4600	
<b>Totals for the district</b>								
<b>Orange Coast College</b> 2701 Fairview Road Costa Mesa 92626-5563 Website: orangecoastcollege.edu		6,839 10,114 16,953	2,317	261 498 759	Culinary arts, sailing and seamanship, Allied Health Professions, fashion, photography and video, welding, aviation	1947	Angelica L. Suarez president (714) 432-5072	
<b>Coastline College</b> 11460 Warner Ave. Fountain Valley 92708-2597 Website: coastline.edu		696 6,572 7,268	1,033	49 234 283	Cloud computing/Amazon Web Services, cybersecurity, data analytics, emergency management, paralegal, real estate	1976	Vince Rodriguez president (714) 546-7600	
<b>Golden West College</b> 15744 Goldenwest St. Huntington Beach 92647-3103 Website: goldenwestcollege.edu		3,160 6,700 9,860	4,128	117 305 422	Criminal justice, nursing, cosmetology, automotive technician	1966	Tim McGrath president (714) 892-7711	
<b>North Orange County Community College District</b> 1830 W. Romneya Drive Anaheim 92801-1819 Website: nocccd.edu		11,463 20,804 32,267	5,195	603 908 1,511		1965	Cheryl A. Marshall chancellor (714) 808-4500	
<b>Totals for the district</b>								
<b>Cypress College</b> 9200 Valley View St. Cypress 90630-5805 Website: cypresscollege.edu Email: info@CypressCollege.edu		4,725 9,137 13,862	1,734	224 428 652	Automotive technology; aviation; airline travel careers; mortuary science and funeral services (baccalaureate); dental hygiene; nursing; hotel, restaurant, and culinary arts	1966	JoAnna Schilling president (714) 484-7000	
<b>Fullerton College</b> 321 E. Chapman Ave. Fullerton 92832-2011 Website: fullcoll.edu Email: campus.communications@fullcoll.edu		6,738 11,667 18,405	3,461	379 480 859	Business administration, pre-nursing, business management, computer science, psychology, kinesiology, career education	1913	Gilbert Contreras interim president (714) 992-7000/(714) 992-9933	
<b>Rancho Santiago Community College District</b> 2323 N. Broadway Santa Ana 92706-1606 Website: rsccd.edu		6,750 19,460 26,210	2,702	318 1,279 1,597		1915	Marvin Martinez chancellor (714) 480-7300	
<b>Totals for the district</b>								
<b>Santa Ana College</b> 1530 W. 17th St. Santa Ana 92706-3398 Website: sac.edu		3,750 12,460 16,210	2,582	226 1,154 1,380	Automotive technology, criminal justice, fashion design and merchandising, fire technology, medical assistant, nursing, Orange County Sheriff Regional Training Academy, occupational therapy assistant, paralegal, welding	1915	Marilyn Flores interim president (714) 564-6000	
<b>Santiago Canyon College</b> 8045 E. Chapman Orange 92869-4512 Website: sccollege.edu		3,000 7,000 10,000	120	92 125 217	Online real estate programs; STEM programs; nursing assistant, water utilities, bio-technology program	1985	Pamela Ralston president (714) 628-4900	
<b>South Orange County Community College District</b> 28000 Marguerite Parkway, Ste. 3699 Mission Viejo 92692-3635 Website: socccd.edu		11,594 19,107 30,701	5,363	389 1,304 1,693		1967	Kathleen F. Burke chancellor (949) 582-4850	
<b>Totals for the district</b>								
<b>Irvine Valley College</b> 5500 Irvine Center Drive Irvine 92618-0301 Website: ivc.edu		4,991 6,369 11,360	2,386	152 432 584	Engineering, accounting	1985	John C. Hernandez president (949) 451-5100	
<b>Saddleback College</b> 28000 Marguerite Parkway Mission Viejo 92692-3635 Website: saddleback.edu Email: jmccue@saddleback.edu		6,603 12,738 19,341	2,977	237 872 1,109	Nursing, paramedic, architecture, culinary arts, automotive technology	1968	Elliot Stern president (949) 582-4500	

Note: To the best of our knowledge, this information is accurate as of press time. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of the list, omissions and typographical errors sometimes occur. Unless otherwise noted, the information on this list was provided by the companies themselves. List may not be reprinted without permission of the editor. Photos show the first top official listed.

Researched by Meghan Kliever

Highlight provided for fee