Río Hondo College (RHC) first opened its doors to the community in 1963, and has served more than one million students on its hillside campus and at satellite educational centers. Approximately 17,000 students enroll each semester in a wide variety of transfer preparation courses and in career and technical programs. It is one of the top community colleges in the state at transferring underrepresented minorities to the University of California system and Cal State Universities.

Students may select from one bachelor of science degree, 31 associate degrees for transfer, 66 associate degree programs and 131 certificate programs of study. In 2021, RHC awarded 3,964 degrees and certificates of achievement, including degrees for registered and licensed vocational nurses. RHC is home to one of the state’s most successful community college nursing assistant certification programs, with a 100 percent pass rate on state exams for the last four years. RHC’s licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) program ranks in the top 15 of 127 state approved and accredited programs in California. Río Hondo is also home to nationally ranked police, fire and wildland academies and an emergency medical technician program.

RHC was named as one of the few California community colleges by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors to offer a four-year degree in automotive technology, as part of a historic statewide pilot program.

The College also offers instruction in multiple science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and provides a Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program.

The College fields 14 intercollegiate athletic teams, and is home to an active student government organization that supports a vibrant college environment and sponsors an eclectic assortment of clubs and interest groups.

Today, more than 1,000 employees, including classroom faculty members, counselors and staff, help students reach their educational and career goals. RHC is committed to student success by providing resources to support student achievement and increase educational outcomes. The Student Success and Dream Center offers first-time college students resources to help them thrive and succeed in the first critical year of higher education. The Center for Career and Re-Entry Services provides comprehensive support for students ages 25 or older who are beginning their higher education journeys or who are returning after an absence of five years or more.

As RHC enters the final phase of a $245 million facilities bond construction program the College is equipped and prepared to better serve students in contemporary and technologically advanced learning environments. Satellite educational centers in El Monte/South El Monte, Pico Rivera and South Whittier have brought essential college classes to the more remote parts in the College service areas.