

# 4 Support Services and Special Academic Programs

## Academic Advisement

Assistance in developing an educational plan to obtain a certificate, degree, or to transfer to a university is available through contact with the counselor who advises in the student's major field or any general counselor in the Counseling Department.

All regular instructors maintain office hours each week to interact with students. Faculty members are valuable contacts in providing personal information related to a student's career or college choice.

## Assessment Center

The Assessment Center administers a variety of tests and surveys to provide current information about student educational preparation, interests and other characteristics. This information is important for the advisement process and for student selection of courses and programs appropriate to their needs, experiences, background, and educational goals. Assessment tests must be completed before registering for English, ENLA, mathematics and Reading courses. Information about scheduling assessment tests is available on the Assessment web page. The Assessment Center is located in the Learning Resource Center, room LR141.

## CalWORKs Program

CalWORKs stands for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids. It is the state's welfare-to-work program for families with children.

The purpose of the CalWORKs program at Rio Hondo College is to provide students who are receiving cash aid/ Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) with education, training, and employment skills to become self-sufficient.

*The following services are available to students:*

- **Counseling** – to provide academic, career, and personal counseling, assist students in assessing planning and implementing their immediate and long-range goals. Assist students in interpreting certificate, associate degree, and transfer related requirements. In addition, counselors help students meet the rules and regulations required by the Department of Social Services. Counselors, complete county forms, provide one-on-one counseling services, help students meet the 20/30/35 hour county requirement, and advocate for students rights.
- **Work Study** – Paid part-time jobs on and off campus (based on funding). Work study does not affect cash aid.
- **Employment Services** – One-on-one assistance with resume writing, interview techniques, and job search assistance.



The CalWORKs program is located in the Student Services Building, room SS220. For more information, please visit the CalWORKs web page or call (562) 463-7311.

## Career Counseling

### Center for Career & Re-entry Services Career Services:

Counselors in the Center for Career & Re-entry Services (CCRS) offer assistance in clarifying educational and career goals as well as life choices. Utilizing validated career assessments, research, and goal setting methods, skilled Career Counselors can help students determine a major and choose a career based on interests, aptitudes, and abilities. An extensive collection of resources including books, pamphlets, software, and DVDs are available to assist with the career exploration process. The EUREKA software program offers career information and assessments for career decision making. On the CCRS website, a monthly calendar of career related workshops and an online jobs and internships database (College Central Network), can be found.

### Re-entry Services:

The CCRS also provides comprehensive support services including educational planning, career, and job search assistance for re-entry students (students age 25+ who are new to college or are returning to college after at least a 5 year absence).

For more information visit the CCRS located in SS350 or go to <http://www.riohondo.edu/career-center/>.

## **Child Development Center/ Pre-School Laboratory**

The Child Development Center/ Pre-School Laboratory operates a high quality early childhood program for preschool children, who turn 3 by September 1st up until they qualify for kindergarten, while offering laboratory opportunities for community college students and responding to the needs of the children's families. Enrollment is available for Rio Hondo student parents, staff and faculty and the local community. California State Preschool provides funding support for families who qualify according to income and family need. Full fee enrollment is also available. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Holidays and breaks are observed in accordance with the RHC academic calendar. For more information, please call (562) 908-3494 or visit the Rio Hondo website under the Current Student Menu>Resources>Preschool.

The program implements the California Preschool Learning Foundations and Curriculum Frameworks, which prepares children for Kindergarten and the child development field's agreed upon developmentally appropriate practices.

Teachers prepare the learning environment and plan activities to challenge each child's developing skills and understanding while focusing on their interests. Each child's entry skill level and developmental progress is tracked and documented utilizing the California Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP).

## **Computer Resources**

Rio Hondo offers computer access to students at various locations. Visit the Computer Resources web page for more information.

- Center for Career & Re-entry Services (SS350)
- Disabled Students Programs and Services (SS330)
- District Computer Lab (B107 and B108)
- First Year Success Center (LR101)
- Learning Assistance Center (LR114)
- Library (2nd Floor)
- Math and Science Center (S300)
- Student Services Building (1st Floor)
- Transfer Center (SS250)
- PASS Program (LR105)
- El Monte Educational Center
- Santa Fe Springs Regional Training Center
- South Whittier Educational Center

## **Continuing Education & Contract Education Classes**

The mission of Continuing Education is to enrich the lives of non-traditional college students by providing lifelong learning opportunities. The high quality instructional programs are a combination of fee-based and non-credit courses, and directly reflect the needs of the community. The courses provide students with an opportunity for career advancement, prepare students for a college education, and enrich their lives through good health and personal fulfillment. While the College offers many of the same opportunities, the Continuing Education department focuses on the personal and professional development of diverse, non-traditional students who are looking for a short-term alternative to credit courses.

The Continuing Education Office brings customized Professional Development business, and short-term training to the community and local businesses. Training programs

are designed to meet specific needs of the organization. Professional development courses and workshops are offered on campus, in the community, online, and are available to community members and employees of area businesses. Programs include computer applications, small business workshops, career development, supervision, international business, environmental technology, pharmacy technician, personal development and more. Contract Training can be conducted at a company site or at the college training facilities. Bilingual training programs are also provided.

For information, please refer to the Continuing Education Class Schedule, our web page or call (562) 908 463-4606.

## **Counseling**

The primary responsibility of the counseling staff is to provide counseling support for Rio Hondo students, faculty, and the campus community. Counselors strive to respect individuality, to encourage personal development and to foster a climate in which academic growth will occur. Therefore, counseling and student services are organized to aid each student in establishing, clarifying, and pursuing personal, educational, and career goals.

The Counseling faculty offers courses (COUN 105, 100, 101 and 151) which are designed to aid students in acquiring the skills, information, and personal awareness needed for college and career success.

Counselors are available throughout the year for consultation. Counselors can assist students with a variety of issues: program planning, choosing a major, graduation requirements, transfer requirements to 4-year colleges and universities, personal problems, scholarships and financial aid programs, tutoring, and communication with a professor. Students should make an appointment well in advance of registration to meet with a counselor. More information is available on the Counseling web page or by calling (562) 908-3410. The Counseling Department is located in the Student Services Building, room SS160.

## **Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS)**

Rio Hondo College offers both classroom instruction and student support services for students with disabilities. Resource rooms and expert staff are available to students who need disability-related accommodations and support services. A variety of support services are available to eligible students with a disability. Students with a disability, including but not limited to students with a physical, learning or psychological disability, students with a visual impairment, acquired brain injury, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), an Autism Spectrum Disorder, or Intellectual Disability may be eligible for services..

Services include specialized tutoring, test-taking assistance, sign language interpreters and real-time captioners, Braille and non-Braille transcription services, and disability-related specialized counseling services. Other services include registration assistance, priority enrollment and a variety of assistive computer technologies which promote equal access to college instructional programs and activities for students with disabilities.

For complete information on our programs please contact Disabled Students Programs & Services at (562) 908-3420,

via video phone at (562) 364-8433 or visit our web page. The DSPS office is located in the Student Services Building, Rm SS330.

### **Distance Education: Online Courses**

Rio Hondo College offers students the opportunity to take college courses over the Internet through its Office of Online Education. Online courses offer the same curriculum as traditional classes except students may obtain lectures, class materials, communicate with the instructor, participate in class discussions and complete assignments via the Internet anywhere and at any time. Rio Hondo's Office of Online Education offers students a variety of online courses to fulfill general education and transfer requirements for the University of California, California State Universities and other private universities. Online registration, counseling, tutoring and library support services are available. The instruction provided as distance education is subject to the requirements that may be imposed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. §12100 et seq.) and section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, (29 U.S.C. §794d). For further information check the online Class Schedule, visit the Office of Online Education web site or call (562) 463-3218.

### **Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOP&S/CARE)**

Extended Opportunity Programs & Services is a state funded program that provides "over and above" services to student from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. The program supports the enrollment, retention, and transfer of students and helps facilitate the successful completion of their educational goals. EOP&S services include:

- Counseling Services/Educational Planning
- Priority Registration
- Academic Probation Interventions
- Merit Grants
- Textbook Services
- Educational Supplies
- Laptop, Voice Recorder & Calculator Loans
- Cap & Gown for Graduates
- Rio Café Meal Vouchers

Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) is a supplemental component of (EOP&S) that specifically assists students who are single head of households with young children, by offering supportive services so they are able to acquire the education, training and marketable skills needed to transition from welfare-dependency to employment and eventual self-sufficiency for their families.

In addition to EOP&S services, CARE students also receive:

- Motivational & informational Workshops
- CARE Merit Grants
- Rio Café Meal Vouchers
- Gas Cards
- Agency & County Referrals
- Single Parent Conferences
- Case Management and Advocacy
- Family Holiday Events
- Fundraising Events

To find out how to qualify for EOP&S/CARE or to get more information, please contact our office at (562) 908-3423 or come visit us in the Student Services Building, room SS240. [www.riohondo.edu/eops](http://www.riohondo.edu/eops)

### **Financial Aid Services**

Rio Hondo College participates in a variety of federal and state financial aid programs. These programs are designed to assist students with tuition, fees, books, supplies, transportation and room and board.

Most financial aid programs require a student to be enrolled at least half-time in a degree, certificate, or transfer program. Federal aid eligibility is also limited to students who are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or other eligible non-citizens. Additional eligibility requirements apply to each program and may be obtained from the Financial Aid Office.

To apply, students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The Rio Hondo College Federal School Code is 001269. The priority deadline to apply is March 2 to be eligible for all available aid. However, you may still apply after March 2, although funding may be limited. Visit the Financial Aid Office for further information located in the Student Services Building, room SS130 or visit Financial Aid the web page.

#### **Federal Financial Aid Programs**

The federal government offers a variety of grants for students.

**Federal Pell Grant** - This grant is available to all eligible applicants. Limited eligibility may also be available to less than half-time students.

**Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant** - A limited number of grants are available through this program. Priority is given to students who apply by the priority deadline and have exceptional need.

**Federal Work Study** - This program allows students to seek employment for on-campus jobs. Students generally work up to 20 hours per week.

**Federal Direct Loan Program (FDLP)** - Students may apply for a Subsidized or Unsubsidized loan from the federal government.

#### **Return to Title IV Funds**

In accordance with the Federal Regulations HEA, Section 4848, 34 CFR 668.22, Rio Hondo College will apply a refund policy to all eligible students under the Return to Title IV funds requirements. Students who receive federal financial aid and withdraw from all classes prior to completing at least 60% of the semester will have their financial aid eligibility recalculated and may have to repay any "unearned" portion of financial aid received.

#### **Loans**

##### **(Emergency Loans from ASRHC)**

The Associated Students of RHC offer a 60-day, interest-free loan to students to assist them in emergency situations and for the purpose of buying books and supplies. Students who have no outstanding debt to the college, are enrolled in a minimum of 6 units, and have a GPA of 2.0 or above may apply at the Student Life & Leadership Department in the Student Union, during the first 2 weeks of the fall and spring semesters only. Loans are on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Scholarships

### (Institutional Financial Aid Programs)

There are numerous scholarships available to Rio Hondo College students. These scholarships are funded and sponsored by a variety of on and off campus resources. To view or apply for available scholarships please visit: [www.riohondo.edu/scholarships/](http://www.riohondo.edu/scholarships/)

### State Financial Aid Programs

The State of California offers a variety of grants for students. The California Dream Act of 2011 is the result of two assembly bills (AB130 and AB131). Together these bills allow undocumented and documented students who meet certain provisions of AB540 law to apply for and receive private scholarships funneled through public universities, state-administered financial aid, university grants and community college fee waivers. To apply, students must complete a free California Dream Act application with the California Student Aid Commission each year by March 2nd for priority filing.

**Cal Grants** – the California Student Aid Commission awards Cal grants. Students must be legal residents of California and have financial need. To be considered, students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or California Dream Act Application at [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov), and submit a GPA Verification form by March 2 or September 2.

- **Cal Grant B** - This grant helps students with living expenses, books, supplies, transportation and other non-direct educational expenses.
- **Cal Grant C** - These awards help vocational students with tuition and supplies. Recipients must be in a program of study that is between four months and two years duration.

**Board of Governors Waiver** - The Board of Governors Waiver (BOGW) helps to pay the per unit enrollment fee for all eligible applicants. If you request a fee waiver, you will be asked to sign a Fee Waiver Application under the penalty of perjury that all statements and information are correct. You must be a California resident in order to apply for these waivers.

- **BOGW A** - If you or your family receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or General Assistance/General Relief, you may qualify for BOGW A. You may also qualify if you are the dependent of a deceased or disabled veteran. Apply in the Financial Aid Office.
- **BOGW B** - You may be eligible for a fee waiver if you have certification from the appropriate agency that you are a dependent of a deceased or disabled veteran or a recipient or a dependent of a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor or a dependent of an individual killed in September 11th terrorist attacks or a dependent of a deceased law enforcement officer or fire protection personnel.
- **BOGW C** - You have qualified for federal or state financial aid, such as a Federal Pell Grant or Cal Grant based on the FAFSA application results.

### Loss of Eligibility for Board of Governors Waiver

A student shall become ineligible for a Board of Governors Waiver (BOGW) if the student is placed on academic or progress probation, or any combination thereof, for two consecutive primary terms.

Loss of BOGW eligibility shall become effective at the first registration opportunity after such determination is made. Foster Youth shall not be subject to loss of BOGW due to placement on academic or progress probation. This exemption for Foster Youth is effective until the date specified in Education Code section 66025.9(c).

### Appeal Loss of Board of Governors Waiver

A student may appeal the loss of a BOGW due to extenuating circumstances, or where a student with a disability applied for, but did not receive a reasonable accommodation in a timely manner. Extenuating circumstances are verified cases of accidents, illnesses, or other circumstances that might include documented changes in the student's economic situation or evidence the student was unable to obtain essential student support services. Extenuating circumstances also includes special consideration of the specific factors associated with Veterans, CalWORKs, EOPS, and DSPS student status. Additionally, a student may appeal to regain BOGW eligibility by demonstrating significant academic improvement (i.e. minimum 2.0 GPA and completing more than 50% of attempted units) or by sitting out for two consecutive primary terms.

### First Year Success Center

The First Year Success Center is a place to enhance the academic success of all first year students at Rio Hondo College through a network of student support services. Students meet with a counselor to develop an Educational Plan and receive assistance with AccessRIO navigation, registering for classes and applying for Financial Aid. It is located in room LR101 in the Learning Resource Center.

### Guardian Scholars

The Guardian Scholars Program is a comprehensive student support program that serves current and former foster youth pursuing higher education. The Guardian Scholars Program at Rio Hondo College is dedicated to providing services and support that meet the personal and academic needs of our students in successfully transitioning into adulthood, obtaining a degree/certificate and/or transferring to a four-year university. It is located on the third floor of the Student Services Building in room SS307.

## Honors Transfer Program

The Rio Hondo College Honors Transfer Program is designed to meet the needs of students who seek a challenging educational experience that goes beyond the regular degree program.

The Honors Transfer Program incorporates a more in-depth investigation of topics. Many honors classes are kept intentionally small to facilitate the discussion/seminar rather than lecture format. A reduced class size also encourages a more collaborative learning experience allowing students to interact more freely with each other and the faculty members who teach these courses.

Rio Hondo College has signed honors transfer agreements with UCLA, UC Riverside, UC Irvine, UC Santa Cruz, CSU Long Beach, San Diego State, CSU Fullerton, CSU Stanislaus, Chapman University, Pomona College, Pitzer College, Occidental College, La Sierra University, Loyola Marymount, Whittier College, Pacific University (Oregon) and Whitman College (Washington).

To complete the Honors Transfer Program, students must take six honors courses, achieve at least a 3.2 grade point average for all transferable college courses taken, complete the required general education courses as well as prerequisite work for their major. In addition, honors students must meet with the honors counselor twice a semester. For more information and application forms, visit the Honors Transfer Program website <http://www.riohondo.edu/honors/>.

## Labs

Labs provide an environment for students to practice and develop their skills in a variety of courses and often with the assistance of Instructors or Instructional Assistants.

### Foreign Language/ENLA Lab

The Foreign Language Lab is located on the first floor of the Learning Resource Center and is available for students enrolled in ENLA or foreign language classes that require a lab. Students should check their class schedule for their registered day and time.

### Nursing Simulation Center

The Simulation Center is a "safe" place for students to practice their skills in a simulated hospital environment, "Roadrunner General Hospital." It was created in order to support and supplement the clinical component of the nursing program. With the use of high-fidelity patient simulators and clinical scenarios, students are able to practice and experience situations that might not arise in the clinical setting, thus adding to their clinical expertise. The Simulation Center uses the following types of simulators: 2 adult, 1 birthing, 1 newborn and 1 pediatric, thus offering learning activities covering the full nursing curricula. Our Center is located on the 3rd floor of the L Tower. For more information, visit the Health Science & Nursing web page.

### Pre-School Laboratory

Rio Hondo Students from the Child Development/Education Department, the Behavioral and Social Science Division and Nursing utilize the Pre-school Laboratory to observe the development and behavior of pre-school children and to apply the knowledge that they gained in their courses working directly with children.

### Reading Lab

The Reading Lab is located on the first floor of the Learning Resource Center and is available for students enrolled in the lab that supplements Reading 21 or Reading 22. Students should check their class schedule for their registered day and time.

### Writing Center

The Writing Center is located on the first floor of the Learning Resource Center and is available for students enrolled in English 30, 35, 101 or 201 courses. Students must go through a Writing Center Orientation that takes place the first week of each semester. Students should check their class schedule for their registered day and time.

### Writers' Resource Center

The Writers' Resource Center is an interdisciplinary writing center housed on the first floor of the Learning Resource Center. It is open to any student who wishes to get assistance with writing for any subject. The student receives one-on-one assistance from an English teacher. Schedule an appointment or drop by LR126A.

## Library

The Rio Hondo College Library is the research center of the College. Occupying the second floor of the Learning Resource Center, the library offers a full range of books, periodicals, online databases, electronic books, recordings, and audiovisual materials in support of the college curriculum as well as for general enrichment. Computer workstations, ADA-compliant computers, wireless access, in-house laptops and a self-service copy/print center are also available.

Individual study carrels, group tables, and informal seating areas allow for quiet study. To students who prefer to work together on class assignments, the library offers seven group study rooms that can be reserved for two hours at a time. Listening and viewing stations are available for use with audiovisual resources.

### Circulation Services

The circulation desk at the entrance to the library serves as the first point of student service. Library staff help:

- Activate your library privileges
- Check out books, audiovisual items, laptops and a limited number of high-demand course textbooks
- Loan audiovisual equipment to faculty and staff, and fill requests for campus signage.

### Reference Services

Because of the ever-expanding variety and range of available information, students today must learn the critical thinking and information competency skills required to optimize the use of research resources. College libraries at the reference desk teach these skills through:

- Individualized assistance with research queries
- Extended consultation by appointment with students and faculty
- Instruction in conducting effective research, in collaboration with teaching faculty
- Drop-in research workshops, and
- A 3-unit library research class (LIB 101)

For much more information about library services, including the online catalog and research guides, please contact a reference librarian at (562) 908-3484 or check the library's website at: [www.riohondo.edu/library](http://www.riohondo.edu/library).

## Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) and TRiO Student Support Services STEM

The MESA Community College and TRiO SSS STEM Programs support students who plan to graduate from Rio Hondo College with an Associate's degree and transfer to four-year institutions in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

### Program Objectives:

- Increase college retention and transfer rates to four-year institutions for STEM majors.
- Increase the number of under-represented students who graduate with degrees in STEM majors.
- Provide academic and personal support for STEM majors.

### Program Components

- MESA Center for tutoring and group study
- Academic Excellence Workshops designed to reinforce concepts and topics learned in chemistry, mathematics, and physics courses
- Academic advisement and educational plans through transfer

- Assistance with study skills and time management
- Support with application and transfer to four-year institutions
- Exposure to information about internships, research opportunities, and other enrichment programs
- Information about financial aid, scholarships, and money management
- Mentoring with peers, professors, and professionals
- Leadership training
- Professional and academic conferences
- Networking opportunities
- Career information

For complete program information about the MESA/TRiO SSS STEM Programs, please contact us in room S205 (562)-463-3222 or visit [www.riohondo.edu/mesa](http://www.riohondo.edu/mesa). Program eligibility requirements apply.

## Orientation

Orientation familiarizes and acquaints students with important college policies and expectations, as well as the range of services and programs available. The “My Online Orientation” is available via the AccessRio portal. The completion of an Online or In-person Orientation is mandatory for all New Students. In compliance with SSI statewide regulations, New Students who do not complete an Online or In-person Orientation may have a hold placed on their registration. New and Continuing Students may access their “My Online Orientation” by logging onto AccessRio.>> Click on the My Online Orientation button.

## The PASS Program

The PASS Program (Personal and Academic Support Services) is a federally-funded TRIO Program, through Student Support Services, which prepares first-generation, low-income and/or disabled students for graduation or transfer into four-year colleges and universities.

Services are free to eligible students and include:

- Educational advisement
- Transfer and career information and support
- Tutoring services
- Priority registration
- Student success workshops
- Educational and cultural activities
- Financial aid and scholarship information
- Cash-aid stipends

The PASS Program office is located in the Student Services Building, room SS140. For more information, visit the PASS Program web page or call (562) 463-3216.

## Pathway to Law School

The Pathway to Law School program is for underrepresented first-generation college students interested in learning more about careers in the legal field and going to law school. The initiative is designed to enhance opportunities and advancement in the legal profession for diverse populations. Ideally, students will spend two years at Rio Hondo College then transfer to any accredited undergraduate institution to complete their bachelor’s degree and then be considered for a priority admissions review to the six participating law schools.

Students will receive:

- Individual counseling and mentoring
- Exposure to careers in law
- Networking and learning opportunities
- Membership to the Rio Hondo College Pre-Law Society

- LSAT Test prep support
- Priority admissions review at participating law schools
- Law school application fee waived

Please visit the Pathway to Law School web page for the list of participating law schools and course requirements. The program is located in the Administration Building, room A203.

## Puente Program

The Puente program is a one-year writing, counseling and mentoring program. The emphasis is on Chicano/Latino writers and authors. The goal of the program is to increase the number of students who transfer to four-year colleges and universities. For more information, visit the Puente web page <http://www.riohondo.edu/puente/>.

## Student Health Center and Psychological Services

Student Health and Psychological Services helps keep students physically and emotionally healthy so they can perform at their best. Professionals available include physicians, a psychologist, psychology interns, nurses and clerical support staff. The licensed professionals evaluate and treat minor, temporary physical and emotional conditions that require short-term care. If more intensive treatment is needed, referrals to outside resources are provided.

Health Services include:

- First aid care of illness and accidents
- Diagnosis and treatment of short-term medical problems
- Medication dispensed and/or prescriptions ordered by M.D. or NP
- Low cost immunizations
- Physical examinations at minimal cost
- Limited laboratory tests at cost
- Women’s Health Clinic
- Health counseling and education
- Vision and hearing testing
- Blood pressure monitoring
- Tuberculin skin testing

Psychological Services include:

Short-term counseling for students who are struggling with issues such as family and social relationships, romantic relationships, life transitions, sexuality, grief, stress, trauma, anxiety, or depression. The following confidential services are available to students who are experiencing personal problems:

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Crisis Intervention
- Stress Management
- Consultations and referrals

Whenever there is a reason to believe that the health of a student may be a factor affecting progress, or that an individual’s health might endanger that of other students, the administration may require that the student obtain a physical examination by a district-selected doctor. In such cases, the college pays for the examination.

Student Health and Psychological Services is located in the Student Services Building, room SS230. For more information, visit the Student Health and Psychological Services web page.

## Study Abroad

Rio Hondo College is a member of the Southern California Foothill Consortium that currently offers two study abroad experiences each year that provide students with a unique opportunity to enrich their education. In fall, students study in London, England and in spring Spain. Students enroll in classes, receive transferable general education units and can apply for financial aid and scholarships to help with the costs. Program courses and activities are geared toward taking advantage of the international location, and students gain invaluable multi-cultural experience by living and learning outside of the United States. For more information, visit the Study Abroad web page at <http://www.riohondo.edu/study-abroad/>.

## Transfer Center

The primary responsibility of the Transfer Center is to ensure a transfer culture by providing comprehensive support services and resources as well as counseling services to empower students seeking to transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

The Transfer Center provides up-to-date information about transferring to four-year colleges or universities and public, private and out-of-state institutions. The Transfer Center assists students, counseling faculty and staff, with the transfer process of as well as coordinates various activities, resources, and services that support the transfer process. For more information visit the Transfer Center in the Student Services Building, room SS250, call (562) 463-4619 or visit the Transfer Center web page.

## Tutoring Support

Tutoring services are available free to Rio Hondo College students at two locations on campus, the Learning Assistance Center and the Mathematics & Science Center. Tutoring is also available to students enrolled in specialized programs. For more information, visit the Tutoring web page [www.riohondo.edu/tutoring/](http://www.riohondo.edu/tutoring/).

## Learning Assistance Center (LAC)

The Learning Assistance Center provides one-to-one tutoring and organized study groups to assist students in reviewing and reinforcing course-related concepts through a variety of instructional aids and materials. LAC services are available to all Rio Hondo College students at no charge. Students may schedule tutoring appointments or study group sessions at the LAC desk on the first floor of the Learning Resource Center. Hours are listed on the LAC web page: <http://www.riohondo.edu/communications-and-languages/labs/learning-assistance-center-lac/>.

## Mathematics & Sciences Center (MSC)

The Mathematics & Science Center located in the Science Building, room S300, provides free math tutoring for all Rio Hondo College students. In addition, four math courses are offered through the MSC. Other resources available to MSC students include computers, mathematics interactive software, and multi-media study aids. An assigned instructor, instructional assistants and tutors are available to assist students. Hours are listed for each semester on the MSC web page: <http://www.riohondo.edu/mathematics-and-sciences/mathematics-and-sciences-homepage/tutoring/>.

## Veterans Services

Veterans and Veteran Dependents are encouraged to take advantage of the counseling services and educational programs offered by Rio Hondo College. Rio Hondo College cooperates with the Veterans Administration and with the California State Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation in helping veterans and their dependents to obtain the education necessary to realize their academic and vocational goals. Rio Hondo College has been approved for the training of veterans and eligible dependents. Veterans and dependents are required to comply with Veteran Regulations Sections 21.4135, 21.4235 and 21.4277 in regards to required attendance and progress that the student-veteran or dependent must meet in order to receive educational benefits under Title 38, United States Code.

The Veterans Administration requires all entering students to be formally evaluated in writing for possible award of credit for previous training and experience. This applies to all students, full-time and part-time, degree and non-degree candidates. To prevent possible future interruption of educational benefits, it is essential that an official copy of all previous course work (college or service) be on file at Rio Hondo College Admissions & Records office and in the Rio Hondo College Veterans Service Center located on the first floor of the Student Services Building.

Satisfactory academic progress of veterans or eligible dependents is measured by the successful completion of the number of units enrolled. Non-punitive grades (W NP or NC) are not considered making satisfactory progress. Benefits will be retroactively terminated effective the first day of the semester for any non-punitive grade received. If the veteran submits to the VA mitigating circumstances, overpayments may or may not be waived. Should a veteran fail to make satisfactory progress for two semesters, cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better, benefits will be terminated. The veteran must contact the RHC Veterans Service Center to set up an appointment for his/her case to be reviewed by a Veterans counselor. The Veterans counselor will recommend a suitable course of study. Upon satisfactory completion of one semester of approved courses, where the cumulative GPA reaches a minimum of a 2.0, benefits will be reinstated.

The veteran or dependent has the responsibility to adhere to these standards of attendance and progress and to notify the Rio Hondo College Veterans Service Center of any change in status that would affect the collecting of veteran's benefits. Additions, drops, withdrawals and last day of attendance MUST BE REPORTED AT ONCE.

Monthly attendance reporting is required of veterans and dependents. The Department of Defense is now giving educational benefits for the National Guard and all of the Reserves, except for National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service.

Please visit the Rio Hondo College Veterans Service Center, in the Student Services Building, Rm SS150 for details and application forms. Information is also available on the Rio Hondo College Veterans Service Center web page.

## Weekend College

The Weekend College is designed for working adults who wish to take classes towards a degree, transfer, or personal enrichment and improvement. Friday, Saturday, and occasional Sunday classes are scheduled each semester. Refer to the online Class Schedule for further information.