

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, including the assessment for placement. The placement information is important for the advisement process and for student selection of courses and programs in alignment with their educational goals. Placement 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

The CalWORKs (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids) Program is a specialized program for families with children who are receiving temporary cash assistance from the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). The purpose of the CalWORKs program at Rio Hondo College is to help students achieve their educational goals while preparing them for the workforce so that students can transition off of cash assistance and become self-sufficient.

The CalWORKs program provides services and resources to support the unique needs of students to further their educational success by providing:

- Personal counseling
- Academic and career advising
- Case management and progress monitoring to ensure compliance with DPSS guidelines
- Work study opportunities in various departments on campus
- Priority Registration
- No cost books and supplies
- Job development and preparation
- Free child care referrals for class and study time
- Transportation assistance
- Laptop loans
- Referrals to on and off campus resources

For more information, please come by our office located in the Student Services building, Room SS220, contact our



staff at (562) 463-7311, or visit our website at <http://www.riohondo.edu/calworks/>.

Career Counseling Center for Career & Re-entry Services

Career Services

The Center for Career & Re-Entry Services (CCRS) mission is to assist individuals in making confident career and life decisions and to help adult learners succeed through the provision of comprehensive educational, counseling, and the following support services:

- Individualized career counseling services including academic, career and personal counseling
- Job preparation skills including: resume writing, interview skills, interview tips, choosing a major/career and job search strategies
- Assistance in creating an educational plan, schedule, and registering for classes
- Use of computer lab and career library
- Located on the CCRS website, a monthly calendar of career-related workshops and an online jobs and internships database (College Central Network) can be found
- Assisting students to determine a major and choose a career based on interests, aptitudes, and abilities
- Utilizing validated career assessments including Myers-Briggs Test Inventory (MBTI) and Strong Interest Inventory (SII)
- Online career resources that offer information and assessments for career decision-making

Re-entry Services

The CCRS offers comprehensive support services to Adult Re-Entry students, identified as adult learners who are at least 25 years of age and are new to college or returning after at least a 5-year absence. Adult Re-Entry students receive the following additional support services:

- Counselors available to assist in navigating all Rio Hondo College resources
- Individualized career counseling services including career-related workshops and information sessions specifically designed for Adult Re-Entry students
- Online counseling services that allow Adult Re-Entry students to experience a face-to-face counseling session in an online environment utilizing Cranium Café
- Assistance in creating an educational plan based on schedule and registration assistance
- Use of computer lab and career library (with free printing)
- FREE career assessments and interpretations
- A monthly newsletter highlighting campus events
- Annual Adult Re-Entry Success Conference
- Access online job portal via College Central Network

For more information, visit the CCRS located in SS350, contact our staff at (562) 908-3407, or visit our website at <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)
- El Monte Educational Center
- First Year Success Center (LR101)
- Learning Assistance Center (LR114)
- Library (2nd Floor)
- Math and Science Center (S300)
- PASS Program (LR105)
- Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera
- Santa Fe Springs Regional Training Center
- South Whittier Educational Center

- Student Services Building (1st Floor)
- Transfer Center (SS250)

Continuing Education & Contract Education Classes

The mission of Continuing Education is to enrich the lives of non-traditional college students by providing empowering lifelong learning opportunities and the ability to function effectively within their community. The high-quality instructional programs are a combination of fee-based and non-credit courses directly reflecting the needs of the community. The courses provide students with an opportunity for language acquisition, career advancement, college preparedness, and life enrichment 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) 908-3469.

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, certificate, degree, 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 students 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
- Textbook Services
- Educational Supplies
- Laptop, Voice Recorder & Calculator Loans
- Cap & Gown for Graduates
- 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 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
- 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

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 or a California Dream Act Application at <https://dream.csac.ca.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 the Financial Aid 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 (FSEOG) –

A limited number of grants are available. Priority is given to students who apply by the priority deadline and have exceptional financial need.

Federal Work Study - Provides part-time jobs to students with financial need. Students generally work up to 20 hours per week and must be enrolled in at least 6 units.

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

are required for all students applying for a student loan. Students must be enrolled in at least 6 units. Federal student loans must be repaid with interest.

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/

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 or qualify for AB540 status. To be considered, students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov or California Dream Act Application at www.csac.ca.gov, and submit a GPA Verification form by the March 2 deadline. (September 2 is an additional deadline for FAFSA filers attending California Community Colleges only.)

- **Cal Grant B** - This grant helps students with living expenses, books, supplies, transportation and other non-direct educational expenses.
- **Cal Grant C** - Assists with the cost of a technical or career education. Provides assistance for books, tools and equipment.
- **Full Time Student Success Grant (FTSSG)** - This grant is awarded to eligible Cal Grant B and Cal Grant C students that are enrolled full-time (12 or more units). Limited grant funding is available. This grant is also awarded to eligible AB540 students who complete

the California Dream Act Application and meet the eligibility requirements.

- **Community College Completion Grant (CCCG)** - Students must be receiving a Cal Grant B or Cal Grant C, and the Full-Time Student Success Grant. Students must be attending 15 units per term or 12 or more units to receive the FTSSG and enrolled in 30 units per aid year. Students enrolled in 12 units may be eligible, only if 30 units or less are required to complete your educational goal. In order to determine eligibility, students must submit a Comprehensive Student Educational Plan to the Financial Aid Office.
- **California College Promise Grant** (formerly known as the Board of Governors Fee Waiver) - For eligible California residents and AB540 eligible students completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application. The California Community College Promise Grant permits enrollment fees to be waived.

Loss of Eligibility for California College Promise Grant

A student shall become ineligible for a California College Promise Grant if the student is placed on academic or progress probation, or any combination thereof, for two consecutive primary terms.

Loss of California College Promise Grant eligibility shall become effective at the first registration opportunity after such determination is made. Foster Youth shall not be subject to loss of eligibility 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 California College Promise Grant

A student may appeal the loss of a California College Promise Grant 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 California College Promise Grant 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.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy (SAP)

The federal government mandates aid recipients to make satisfactory academic progress (SAP) towards a degree or certificate to maintain financial aid eligibility. To determine continued eligibility, the Financial Aid Office reviews each student's academic progress at the end of every semester, including summer.

Satisfactory Academic Progress is evaluated in three areas:

1. Grade Point Average Requirement - Student's pursuing a course of study leading to an A.A degree, A.S degree, Baccalaureate degree, certificate, or transfer program must maintain at least a 2.00 cumulative GPA average.
2. Unit Requirement/Pace of Progression - Students are required to successfully complete a minimum of 67% of

units attempted each semester. Classes with grades of A, B, C, D, or P are considered units successfully completed. Classes with grades of F, I, NP, IP, or W will count as attempted units, but not as successfully completed units.

3. Maximum Time Frame Requirement - Students enrolled in a degree or certificate program may receive financial aid for a maximum of 150% of the length of that program. Degree programs at Rio Hondo College typically require a 60 unit length for completion. Thus, students may receive financial aid for up to 90 attempted units (60 units x 150% = 90 units). Students pursuing a Baccalaureate degree from Rio Hondo College may receive financial aid for up to 180 attempted units. Once unit maximum is reached, students are ineligible to receive further financial aid. Grades of F, I, NP, IP or W are considered attempted units and included in Maximum Time Frame unit calculation.

Students not meeting any of the minimum SAP requirements outlined above will be placed on financial aid warning for one academic semester (students exceeding maximum time frame are not placed on financial aid warning). Students on financial aid warning may continue to receive financial aid during this period.

Students not meeting minimum SAP requirements for two consecutive semesters will be suspended from receiving financial aid (federal and state, with the exception of the California College Promise Grant). Any financial aid awarded when a student becomes ineligible will be withdrawn.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals

Students suspended from receiving financial aid can regain financial aid eligibility by meeting minimum SAP requirements (2.0 GPA, complete 67% of attempted units, not exceed 90 units) for two consecutive semesters, without financial aid and enrolling in a least 6 units each semester. Once a student has completed two consecutive semesters, meeting the minimum SAP requirements, he or she must submit a SAP Appeal Request form to the Financial Aid Office. Students ineligible for financial aid due to maximum time frame units must submit a SAP Appeal Request Form, along with a full educational plan and typed statement indicating why he or she attempted 90 units or more (180 units for Baccalaureate degree).

For extenuating circumstances, a student may be eligible to appeal for reinstatement of financial aid, without completing two consecutive semesters and meeting minimum SAP requirements. Reasons a student may be eligible for an Extenuating Circumstances SAP Appeal include: serious illness, injury or medical condition requiring doctor's care, death of an immediate family member, victim of a crime or unexpected disaster or other extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control.

SAP appeals are reviewed by the SAP Appeals Committee, for approval or denial, based upon the student's individual circumstances. All decisions are final and there is no higher appeal.

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 unique personal and academic needs of students to successfully transition to adulthood, obtain a degree/certificate, and/or transfer to a four-year university. The Guardian Scholars Program provides the following services to eligible students:

- Priority Registration
- Counseling Services/Educational Planning
- Case Management & Advocacy
- Textbook & Emergency Assistance
- Educational Supplies
- Laptop & Calculator Loans
- Academic/Life Skills Workshops and Events/Field Trips
- On Campus Meal Vouchers
- Cap & Gown with Stole for Graduates
- Partnerships with County ILP Services/Transitional Coordinators
- Referrals to on and off campus resources
- Access to Computer & Printer on Campus

For more information, please visit the Guardian Scholars office located in the Student Services Building, room SS307 or call (562) 463-7472.

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, San Diego State, Cal State Fullerton, Chapman University, Pomona College, Pitzer College, Occidental College, La Sierra University, Loyola Marymount, Whittier College, Pacific University (Oregon), Whitman College (Washington), and many other private colleges.

To complete the Honors Transfer Program, students must take five 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, ASL, or foreign language classes that require a lab.

Mathematics & Sciences Center (MSC)

The Mathematics & Sciences Center located in the Science Building, room S300, provides 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: www.riohondo.edu/mathematics-and-sciences/mathematics-and-sciences-homepage/tutoring.

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 temporarily located in HS-11 near parking lot 3. 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 Skills Lab is located on the first floor of the Learning Resource Center in LR118. While the lab is used primarily for READ 021L and READ 022L students to supplement their lectures in READ 021 and 022, it is open to any student who might need help with a reading assignment from another class.

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, and 201 courses. Students must attend a Writing Center Orientation that takes place the first week of each semester. Students should check their class schedule for their registered lab 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 requests assistance with writing for any subject. The student receives one-on-one or small group assistance from an English teacher. Schedule an appointment online at www.riohondo.edu/wrc 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, e-books, and streaming videos in support of the college curriculum, as well as for general enrichment. Computer workstations, ADA-compliant

computers, wireless access, charging stations for mobile devices, 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.

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, laptops and a limited number of high-demand course textbooks; students can also check out headphones and charging cables for library use only.
- 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 literacy skills required to optimize the use of research resources. Librarian faculty 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 on campus and at the educational centers
- 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.

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 in S205.
- 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
- MESA Counselor

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. 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 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 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
- Tutoring services
- Priority registration
- Student success workshops
- College Success and Transfer Preparation
- Financial / Economic Literacy and Resources

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 entry 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 eight 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 Project

The Puente Project is a national-award winning program that has helped tens of thousands of educationally disadvantaged students who enroll in four-year colleges and universities, earn degrees, and return to the community as leaders and mentors to future generations. Puente is a one-year program that combines accelerated instruction in English, intensive academic counseling, and mentoring. The Puente Project office is located in the Administration Building, Room A203. For more information, visit the Puente web page <http://www.riohondo.edu/puente/>.

Student Health 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 a physician, a psychologist, psychology interns, nurses, EMTs, 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 for accidents and other emergencies
- Appointments with a Registered Nurse
- TB Tests
- Flu Shots
- Pregnancy Tests
- Vision Test
- Hearing Tests
- Sick room available if needed
- Over-the-counter medications for minor illnesses available in the vending machine for a nominal fee. Located on the 2nd floor, SS bldg.
- Blood pressure checks, height and weight measurement
- Blood Tests
- HIV Testing
- Resources, assessments, and referrals to low cost services in the community

Psychological Services include:

Short-term counseling for students who are struggling with issues such as family and social relationships, romantic relationships, life transitions, identity, 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

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 at www.riohondo.edu/student-health-services.

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, during the spring, in 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/.

Learning Assistance Center (LAC)

The Learning Assistance Center provides one-to-one tutoring, organized study groups, and workshops 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, online 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. The Veterans Service Center (VSC) is a one-stop center that offers veteran's counseling, certifications, financial aid advising, tutoring, and other valuable resources. 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. Monthly attendance reporting is required of veterans and dependents. Additions, drops, withdrawals and last day of attendance MUST BE REPORTED AT ONCE.

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.