

# About PCC

## Welcome to Pueblo Community College

### **You've made the right choice!**

For 72 years, Pueblo Community College (PCC) has provided the education and training that gives our students the skills they need to qualify for good jobs or to transfer to a four-year school. We are a two-year community college accredited by The Higher Learning Commission - a member of the North Central Association ([www.ncacihe.org](http://www.ncacihe.org), 312-263-0456), and we are a member of the Colorado Community College System, the fastest-growing educational system in Colorado.

We offer more than more than 50 certificate and Associate Degree programs, and we are a state leader in health care education. The job-placement rate for graduates of our Health Professions programs is virtually 100%, and many are hired before they even graduate. In January 2006, we launched a new Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. We also have new academic programs in Education, Social Work, and Latino/Latina Studies.

We have experienced dramatic enrollment growth over the past 15 years, and we now have two branch campuses. The Fremont Campus, located in Cañon City, serves Fremont and Custer counties. The Southwest Campus, with sites in Durango and Cortez, serves Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan counties. The branch campuses serve approximately 1,700 students per year and provide transfer, career, and technical programs.

The average age of our students is 29 years old, and about one-third are first-time college students. Approximately 80% receive some kind of financial assistance in the form of grants, scholarships, work-study jobs, and/or student loans. 64% of our students are female, and 40% represent a minority. The U.S. Department of Education has designated PCC as a Hispanic-Serving Institution based on the college's commitment to serve Hispanic and low-income students, and two Title V grants are helping PCC meet this commitment.

We offer a variety of scheduling alternatives to meet your needs. You can choose among day or evening classes, weekend classes, hybrid and telecourses, and online classes and degree programs. To support your education, we offer professional counseling and advising services, as well as a wide range of academic support services such as individual tutors, learning labs, workshops, and adaptive services for those with disabilities. If you have children, you can use, for a fee, our Pueblo campus child-care center.

PCC is a technologically advanced school that aims to provide a skilled and educated workforce to industry through its Gorsich Advanced Technology Center and Health Program Facilities. Our partnerships with business and industry help provide the state-of-the-art equipment that enables students to acquire the highly technical skills needed to step right into the workforce upon graduating.

PCC is also the home of a Small Business Development Center, providing free business services to new and prospective small business owners in Pueblo, Fremont, and Custer counties. Through our Community Education and Training Division, we offer non-credit courses, workshops, and seminars to the community and small business owners. We also offer a GED program for those who do not have a high school diploma.

## Our Vision

Pueblo Community College will develop and support learning that leads to positive change in the lives of individuals, families, and communities throughout the service areas of the Pueblo, Fremont, and Southwest campuses.

## Our Values

At Pueblo Community College, we value students, employees, and the communities we serve. Pueblo Community College affirms these values:

- Learning
- Service
- Integrity
- Diversity
- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Accessibility
- Creativity

## Our Mission

Pueblo Community College's mission is to create learning opportunities through excellence in teaching and service so that students may attain the knowledge and skills necessary for careers, transfer, and professional and personal growth.

## Our Purposes

- Prepare students for entry into the workforce, career advancement, or career change through certificate and associate degree programs.
- Prepare students for transfer to baccalaureate institutions by providing transfer degrees, courses, and services.
- Provide opportunities to develop and continually update job skills to meet the demands of a technological and global economy.
- Provide programs and experiences that foster individual and professional development.
- Prepare students for entry-level college courses.
- Provide comprehensive services to support the educational experience of a diverse student population.
- Deliver instruction through traditional, alternative, and distance learning methods.
- Provide a quality learning environment supported by teaching excellence and freedom of inquiry.
- Support the economic development of the community through business initiatives and partnerships.
- Contribute to the community by participating in civic and professional activities.

## Our General Education Philosophy

General education at Pueblo Community College is an integral and important part of the student's college experience. General education provides degree-seeking students with a core of basic knowledge, critical thinking skills, intellectual concepts, and attitudes that will enable them to function effectively in the community. General education also serves as a foundation to promote life-long learning.

## Our General Education Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of general education requirements, our students will be able to do the following:

- Read, write, and speak effectively.
- Interpret, evaluate, and synthesize information.
- Use technology to achieve educational objectives.
- Use interpersonal skills essential for their chosen fields.
- Apply global and cultural perspectives.

## History of the College

### Origins

Pueblo Community College traces its origin to 1933, when Southern Colorado Junior College (SCJC) was incorporated. SCJC classes were held on the top floor of the Pueblo County Courthouse and graduated the first class of 17 students in 1935. In 1936, the first building on the current Orman Avenue campus was built on land donated by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Corporation. One year later, local citizens made a commitment to support the institution with county taxes and organized the Pueblo County Junior College District, and the institution was renamed Pueblo Junior College.

Pueblo County voters approved \$210,000 for building facilities in 1938 and, over the next two years, work was completed on an Arts Building and a gymnasium. In 1946, the institution gained approval for vocational rehabilitation training and a new vocational-technical building opened four years later. The school was renamed simply as Pueblo College.

### Establishment of Southern Colorado State College

The Pueblo Junior College District was dissolved in 1961 when Colorado's General Assembly enacted legislation to change the status of Pueblo Junior College to a four-year, degree-granting institution governed by the Board of Trustees for State Colleges. The college was named Southern Colorado State College (SCSC). It grew rapidly and offered educational programs both at the Orman Avenue campus and at a newly developing campus north of Pueblo's Belmont residential district.

### Development of the College for Community Services and Career Education

The need for additional secondary, post secondary, and adult vocational training in southern Colorado was recognized not only by the college administration but also by the community and many state agencies. Most of the Orman campus buildings had a vocational orientation, and the decision to revitalize the campus as a vocational-technical training center was based on both past programs and functional accommodations. In 1974, Southern Colorado State College gave the name "College for Community Services and Career Education" to the vocational activities located on the Orman Campus. These vocational programs provided training to secondary, post secondary, adult, and special students.

In 1975, the Colorado General Assembly passed legislation that would allow Southern Colorado State College to operate the College for Community Services and Career Education as a technical community college. This change was made to enable the programs to be eligible for state and federal vocational funds within the state's Community College and Vocational System.

### **We Become Pueblo Community College**

In 1978, the Colorado General Assembly passed a bill that changed the status of the College for Community Services and Career Education from a component of the University of Southern Colorado to a separate and free-standing educational entity. On July 1, 1979, Pueblo Vocational Community College became a State System Community College; and on July 1, 1982, the name was officially changed to Pueblo Community College (PCC).

By 1987, PCC had become a comprehensive community college, offering a broad range of general, personal, vocational, and technical education programs as well as providing two-year transfer programs to qualify students for admission to the junior year at other colleges and universities. Today, we place equal emphasis on both vocational and transfer degree programs.

PCC's history of offering courses in Cañon City blossomed into a more permanent presence in 1986, when we leased facilities on the grounds of the Holy Cross Abbey. A community fund drive that raised more than one million dollars allowed us to secure \$8.2 million in state funding for a stand-alone campus. Ground was broken on March 11, 2000 for a new 33,000 square foot multi-functional building. Classes were first held in the new Fremont Campus facility in fall of 2001.

Through a 1988 agreement with San Juan Basin Vocational Technical School (now San Juan Technical College), PCC established a presence in Cortez. Because of demand, the College also began to offer degree programs in Durango, thus forming the Southwest Campus.

Today, PCC is one of the most dynamic and progressive community colleges in Colorado. We continually strive to provide modern facilities, state-of-the-art equipment, and comprehensive technical and transfer programs that prepare students to enter the job market or transfer to a four-year school. Our faculty and staff are committed to student success, offering quality classroom instruction and academic support.

## **Branch Campuses**

### **Fremont Campus**

The Fremont Campus, located in Cañon City, Colorado, provides educational programs and services to the citizens of Fremont and Custer Counties. We offer modern facilities, up-to-date technology, a learning resource center, a full service bookstore, comprehensive nursing and science labs, and many student activities. We serve students who are preparing to transfer to four-year colleges as well as those preparing for careers in business and industry.

We offer the following degrees and programs:

- Associate of Arts and Associate of Science transfer programs
- Associate of Applied Science and Associate of General Studies in Accounting, Business Management, Computer Information Systems, Criminal Justice, and Early Childhood Education
- Associate of Applied Science in Visual Communications and Business Technology
- Associate Degree of Nursing - RN
- Licensed Practical Nurse Certificate

- Certified Nurses Assistant Program
- Emergency Medical Service Programs

Fremont Campus students can also enroll in general education courses and other courses that support PCC degrees and certificates to be completed at the Pueblo Campus.

### **Southwest Campus**

The Southwest Campus provides educational programs and services to the citizens of Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan Counties in the Southwest corner of Colorado. Students are served by classroom and administrative facilities in Durango and Cortez. In addition, area high schools partner with the Southwest Campus sites to offer courses to students and community members at the high school facilities.

The Southwest Campus offers a wide range of courses in Durango and Cortez and offers courses on a limited basis in Pagosa Springs. We offer the following degrees:

- Associate of Arts
- Associate of Science
- Associate of General Studies (Generalist)
- Associate of General Studies in Accounting, Business Management, Criminal Justice, and Early Childhood Education
- Associate of Applied Science in Applied Technology, Early Childhood Education, Nursing (second year of the ADN program), and Respiratory Therapy

We offer the following certificates:

- Emergency Medical Services Advanced Paramedic Certificate
- Southwest Regional Law Enforcement Academy Certificate

We have developed several transfer articulation agreements with Fort Lewis College and can assist you with transferring there or to other four-year colleges.

## **Academic Quality Improvement Program**

At PCC, we strive constantly to improve the quality of our services to students and the community. To foster this improvement, we have adopted the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP), sponsored by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association ([www.hcacihe.org](http://www.hcacihe.org), 312-263-0456). Under this process, PCC is committed to continuous, systematic, and measurable quality improvement.

### **Improvement Initiatives**

PCC has adopted the following initiatives, in the form of AQIP Action Projects, to guide our improvement processes over the next 2-3 years.

1. **Strategic Planning:** We are committed to developing an effective and repeatable strategic planning process and to crafting a new strategic plan for our institution by December 2007.
2. **Employing Student Assessment Results in Annual Planning:** To support improvements in instruction, we are focusing on ways to tie the results of our student assessment program to the annual planning and budgeting process.
3. **Developmental Skills:** We are undertaking a three-year study of problems and solutions related to developmental education. During the third year, we will fully implement tested improvements in this area.

4. Freshman Seminar: We are conducting a freshman seminar pilot project to determine the feasibility of requiring a freshman seminar to improve student retention.
5. Quality Assurance of Online Courses: We are developing peer review and assessment processes to assure the quality of PCC online courses.

Along with these formal initiatives, PCC is also engaged in ongoing improvement projects in the areas of advising, new student orientation, and diversity in the curriculum.

### **Assessment of Student Achievement**

PCC believes that the systematic assessment of student learning provides the most meaningful basis for decisions about program improvement and institutional change, which should always be evaluated in light of their effects on student achievement. In addition to formally assessing learning outcomes in each discipline, the Assessment of Student Learning program uses our general education learning objectives as “core competencies” and assesses them across a broad range of courses for both degree and non-degree seeking students. We are now moving from course to program level assessment to broaden the impact of our assessment efforts. Each year, we publish an Annual Report on the Assessment of Student Learning to inform students and other PCC constituents of our results and recommended improvements.

