



Industrial Maintenance

\$51,584

A YEAR



Ag Business

\$60,320

A YEAR



Business/Entrepreneur

\$76,900

A YEAR



Registered Nurse

\$80,880

A YEAR



Information Systems

\$86,120

A YEAR

**I CAN
DO THAT!**



CAREER EDUCATION

Find it. Be it.

We can help.

A CLEAR CAREER PATH

How community college's partnership with high schools gives students a career head start

BY ANNE STOKES

Nurses are the backbone of any hospital, clinic or doctor's office. It's a difficult job ensuring patients get the treatment and care they need while at the same time providing compassion and comfort. But Alexandra Camacho is up to the task—thanks to her high school's career technical education program and its partnership with the Cerro Coso Community College medical assisting program.

"What I really liked ... is that I would be able to help a patient understand what's going on and the process of what health care options are best for them," says the recent high school graduate. "I really liked the part where I could really help patients ... to really understand and not feel as lost and scared."

Health care career programs are among the most popular at local colleges. For example, **Porterville College** offers programs for students who want to be a **Registered Nurse, Psychiatric Technician, or Emergency Medical Technician.**

While still a sophomore at Robert F. Kennedy High School, Camacho took college-level medical assisting courses in addition to her high school curriculum. By the time she graduated—and before her 18th birthday—she had already completed much of the coursework needed to earn her associate



"THAT PROGRAM
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FUTURE."

ALEXANDRA CAMACHO
NURSING STUDENT

degree. Today, she is taking pre-nursing classes at Bakersfield College and plans to become a registered nurse.

"When I took the medical assisting courses, I really felt like it helped me know this is what I want to do," she says. "That program acted as a stepping stone that is really going to set up my future."

Camacho credits the program with connecting her with the resources, support and hands-on experience that helped her understand what her future career might look like and get a valuable head start on her career path.

"I actually got to go out and work in a women's clinic and a nursing home, ... I think it's really good experience to have and it's such a great opportunity for high schools to offer that," she says. "It's such a huge opportunity and I'm excited that I have all this experience so I know what I'm getting myself into now."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, medical

assisting and nursing fields are growing at rates much faster than other occupations. Employment rates are expected to grow 12% and 23% respectively by 2028.

Influenced partly by the 2020 pandemic, more students are choosing health care as a career choice. Community colleges offer them low-cost options to reach that goal. For example, both Porterville and Cerro Coso community colleges offer certificate and degree nursing programs.

Camacho notes that other students who were in the program with her are already working in clinics. "You'll always find a job because for one doctor, you need so many more nurses," she says. "Health care is always needed; it's a job that's always going to be there."

► GET STARTED!

In California, high schools and colleges offer Career Academies, Pathways, and Programs in approximately 15 industry sectors. This special publication includes a pull-out program matrix, listing dozens of opportunities at local high schools. Also listed are corresponding college programs to continue that career path. Check out this matrix and find a program that interests you.

In the last decade, there has been an

increased emphasis on aligning high school and college programs, embedding work-based learning opportunities for all students, and including opportunities to earn college credit in high school through articulated, dual enrollment or concurrent enrollment courses.

All of these experiences and opportunities support students in making a decision about which industry and career path they are most interested in, and what it takes to get to that future career.

These career pathway programs allow

students to acquire skills for in-demand jobs. High schools and community colleges have designed career programs to match employers' local job needs.

These pathways make the road to a future career fast, convenient and affordable. You can earn a specialized industry-recognized certificate in two years or less. In addition, earn college credits while still in high school, and college classes taken in high school are tuition-free.

So, what are you waiting for?

FINDING THE RIGHT CAREER PATH

Porterville's Job, Entrepreneur and Career Center helps students discover direction

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

For high school students faced with choices and decisions after graduation, the notion of planning a career path and finding job opportunities can seem daunting.

But the Kern Community College District offers options and support to help lead students through the transition, custom-fitting their situations and aspirations with guided journeys to success. Those could range from a certificate in Career and Technical Education, or an associate's degree leading to a four-year university.

The best choice for Alonso Valle was Porterville College in Tulare County. He earned an Associate's Degree in biological and physical sciences and is now in the school's Nursing Program.

"I didn't have the best grades in high school and I didn't think I would do well in college," says Valle, 23. But his first semester at Porterville "woke me up and got my work ethic going. I went from barely graduating high school to getting straight A's and being on the President's Honor List. I never thought I would be here."

The right career path for Robert Sevilla and Jesus Meza turned out to be Porterville's Administration of Justice curriculum, which includes the Police Cadet Academy.

"After high school, I was going to hop into the military, but decided to go to college instead," says Sevilla, 21. He

joined the academy after earning an AA in public safety and a certificate in administrative justice.

Along the way, he has been a straight-A student and a regular on the President's Honor List, and named to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

"Porterville has made me more professional and mature, which is a big plus going into law enforcement," he says.

At first, Meza enrolled in Porterville's Fire Technology Program to become a firefighter, but switched to the Police Academy. After he graduates and gets a job as a police officer, he says, he plans to return to school to complete his AA.

"The academy is awesome and everyone is really professional," says Meza, 21. "It has opened a great path to my future."

Students who choose these paths often find jobs waiting for them upon graduation – or sooner.

"Typically, our nursing students such as Alonso get job offers before they graduate," says Ashley Land, program coordinator for Porterville's on-campus Job, Entrepreneur and

Career (JEC) Center. "Once Robert and Jesus graduate, they can apply to any police department and will be hired after interviews and background checks."

The JEC Center is Porterville's student support system, an invaluable resource that helps guide students along their

paths via a long menu of free services. Those include job coaching and search, resume development, interview coaching and resources discovery.

"We're always thinking how we can better connect our industry partners to our students, and better prepare our students for industry," Land says. To that end, the center places students in paid internships, hosts career and job fairs, and brings business owners to campus to host workshops.

Another major piece is career exploration. "Some students don't know what their career path will be, so we assess their situation and make suggestions," Land says. "You can make your future be whatever you want, and we're right here to guide you the whole way."

Valle, Sevilla and Meza are living what could be the next step for many high school graduates. What advice can they offer?

"Staying local for college has helped me focus and understand everything so much better," Valle says. "You get the extra time you thought you didn't need, but you needed."

Says Sevilla, "Don't be influenced by the negatives that may surround you. Stay focused."

Meza adds: "Things will get in your way, but you have to keep going. There might be struggles, but you can overcome them."



Pictured from top to bottom:
Jesus Meza, Alonso Valle,
Robert Sevilla

**"STAYING LOCAL
FOR COLLEGE HAS
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BETTER."**

**ALONSO VALLE
PORTERVILLE COLLEGE NURSING
STUDENT**

FROM FATHER AND SON TO BUSINESS PARTNERS

Learn how adult education enabled a family to chart a whole new course

BY ELISSA EINHORN

Three years ago, Humberto Balderrama was a cabinetmaker and his son, Nuri, was a high school student. Today, they are business partners in Balderrama Metal Works, all thanks to the Mojave Adult Education Welding Program.

Nuri found out about the program at his school, Mojave Junior/Senior High School, near his home in California City.

“The teacher wanted to implement a welding class for fathers of students because many of them were mechanics, fencemakers, or in the automotive field, and would benefit,” the younger Balderrama explains.

“I was trying to learn the basics of welding because I am a cabinet woodworker, but was never introduced to metal work,” Humberto says. “It complemented my work and I knew I could improve a lot. When I started going to class, it was a whole different universe.”

Programs in welding and other construction- or mechanical-related careers such as industrial maintenance mechanic are offered at **Porterville College** and **Fresno State University** as well as **Monache High School**.

Humberto admits that in the beginning, attending the



program was about getting Nuri excited and motivating him, but by the second session, he says he became completely enmeshed in the course.

While the duo thought they would walk into class and begin welding, what they actually found was classes about safety, chemistry, how to control heat and gas, and different machinery. Over the course of three years, they worked on more advanced equipment, honing their skills along the way toward earning a special certificate.

“It was overwhelming,” the elder Balderrama admits. “The more you learn, the more you know and you can see the bigger picture. It was really life-changing.”

For Nuri, the class was an extension of his childhood that included taking things apart and putting them back together, as well as his fascination with the mechanical hijinks in the “Fast and Furious” movies he enjoyed.

“I like the idea of creating things—sketching and drawing,” he says. “It’s like an artist, bringing things to life like a sculpture.”

Nuri never thought he would be a business owner, but as he began doing projects for friends—fixing broken tools or making

“I LIKE THE IDEA OF CREATING THINGS—SKETCHING AND DRAWING. IT’S LIKE AN ARTIST, BRINGING THINGS TO LIFE LIKE A SCULPTURE.”

NURI BALDERRAMA
GRADUATE, MOJAVE ADULT EDUCATION
WELDING PROGRAM

truck repairs—he was hooked. As part of their business, they create their own hardware, metal fencing and doors completely from scratch.

“It’s an incredible experience to teach Nuri lifeskills and that you can have a feeling of freedom and create your own designs, not like a factory,” Humberto says.

About working alongside his dad, Nuri adds, “Sometimes we have our hiccups, but I am thankful to have him with me to get through the good and bad.”

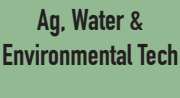
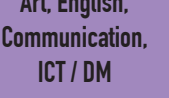
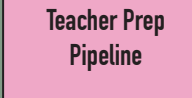
California Department of Education Industry Sectors

Due to COVID-19, some classes may not be available.

KEY: COLLEGE DEPT./DIV TITLE JSC = Job Skills Certificate CoA = Certificate of Achievement AA = Associate of Arts; AS = Associate of Sciences ADT = Associate Degree for Transfer							
	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Arts, Media & Entertainment	Building & Construction Trades	Business & Finance	Education, Child Development & Family Services	Energy, Environment & Utilities	Engineering & Architecture
PORTERVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT							
GRANITE HILLS HS For more info see: https://granite.guhsd.net/Academics/CTE/index.html					Careers in Education (ACE)		
HARMONY MAGNET ACADEMY For more info see Academic Departments page at https://harmony.portervilleschools.org/		Academy of Performing Arts (APA)					Academy of Engineering (AOE)
LINDSAY HS For more info see: www.cardinalacademies.com	Agriculture Pathway	Multimedia Productions Academy, Performing Arts Pathway	Construction Pathway	Business Pathway	Education Pathway		Engineering Academy
MONACHE HS For more info see Academics page at https://monache.portervilleschools.org/		Multimedia & Technology (MTA)	Manufacturing & Construction Technology Academy (MCTA)			Environmental Science (ESA)	
PORTERVILLE HS For more info see Academics page at: https://porterville.portervilleschools.org/						Alternative Energy Resource Occupations (AERO)	
PORTERVILLE MILITARY ACADEMY For more info see: https://pma.portervilleschools.org/				Academy of Business and Finance (PABF)			
STRATHMORE HS For more info see Academics page at: https://strathmore.portervilleschools.org/	Emerging Agricultural Technology (EAT)						
SUMMIT CHARTER ACADEMY For more info see https://www.burtonschoools.org/		Academy of Digital Design & Innovation (ADDI)		Academy of Leadership in Business			
PORTERVILLE ADULT SCHOOL For more info see: https://adultschool.portervilleschools.org/			Custodial Maintenance			Solar Technician	

Community College Industry Sectors

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	Ag, Water & Environmental Tech	Art, English, Communication, ICT / DM	Energy, Construction & Utilities: Construction	Business & Entrepreneurship & Global Trade	Teacher Prep Pipeline	Energy, Construction & Utilities: Energy & Utilities	Advanced Manufacturing Architecture & Engineering
PORTERVILLE COLLEGE LOW UNIT CERTIFICATES Updated Career Technical Education (CTE) information at: https://www.portervillecollege.edu/cte/career-technical-education JSC: Job Skills Certificate (Less than 18 units) CoA: Certificate of Achievement (more than 12 units) CoC: Certificate of Competency		ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: Adv. ESL CoC (180 hrs), High Intermediate ESL CoC (360 hrs), High Beginning ESL CoC (450 hrs)		Accounting JSC (11 units), Entrepreneurship JSC (11 units), Human Resources JSC (11 units), Leadership JSC (6 units)		Solar Sales JSC (6 units)	
PORTERVILLE COLLEGE HIGH UNIT CERTIFICATES Updated Career Technical Education (CTE) information at: https://www.portervillecollege.edu/cte/career-technical-education JSC: Job Skills Certificate (Less than 18 units) CoA: Certificate of Achievement (More than 12 units)		Communication Studies CoA (16 units), Music CoA (15 units)		Accounting CoA (17 units), Entrepreneurship CoA (17 units), Human Resource Mgmt CoA (17 units)	Child Dev Associate CoA (18 units), Child Dev Teacher Permit CoA (24 units)	Power Tech Utility Worker CoA (15 units)	
PORTERVILLE COLLEGE DEGREES Updated information at: https://www.portervillecollege.edu/general-education/certificates-degrees-offered	Agribusiness AS-T, Ag Production AA			Business Admin. AS-T, Business Information Systems AS-T, Business Management AS	Child Dev AA, Early Childhood Ed AS-T, Elementary Teacher Education AA-T		Engineering AS
FRESNO STATE (CSU FRESNO) DEGREES	BS Ag Business, BS Ag Education, BS Animal Science, BS Viticulture	BA Art - Graphic Design, BA Art History, BA Communication, BA Communicative Disorders, BA Dance, BA English, BA French, BA Linguistics, BA Mass Communication, BA Journalism, BA Music, BA Spanish, BA Theatre Arts	BS Civil Engineering, BS Construction Management, BS Electrical Engineering, BS Environmental Sciences	BS Business Admin	BS Child & Family Science, BA Family & Consumer Sciences		BS Civil Engineering, BS Electrical Engineering, BS Industrial Technology, BS Mechanical Engineering
CSU BAKERSFIELD DEGREES	BS Agricultural Business, BS Environmental, Resource Management	BA Arts, BA Communications, BA English, BA History, BA Music, BA Philosophy, BA Religious Studies, BA Spanish, BA Theatre		Ag Business, BS Business Administration: (Accounting, Ag, Finance, General Business, Healthcare Mgmt, HR Mgmt, Marketing, Public Admin, Small Business, Supply Chain), BS Economics, BS Environmental Resource Management, BA Public Administration	BA Child, Adolescent & Family Studies, BA Liberal Studies: (Traditional, multiple and single subjects teaching credentials)	(See STEM)	BS Engineering Sciences, BS Natural Science: (Foundational Sciences)

▶ START COLLEGE EARLY

High school students can get a head start on college through a variety of college credit-bearing classes:

ARTICULATED CLASSES

These are high school classes “articulated” (or flexibly connected) for college credit by exam. An articulated class covers the same topics and exams as the regular college class on the same subject. The articulation agreement qualifies students to receive articulated college credit by exam. Teachers will coach students to apply for

admission to the college, provide required forms, and create a CATEMA account. Students who received a B or above in the course overall and a C or above on the final exam will earn a credit recommendation and will have their letter grade transcribed on their college transcript after the end of the school year.

DUAL ENROLLMENT CLASSES

These are college classes taught at the high school and taken for both high school and college credit. Students have to apply for college admission, submit required forms, and pay any

materials or other fees applicable to the class. Students’ grades are transcribed to their college records at the end of the semester.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT CLASSES

These are college classes taught at the high school for college credit. The class may be offered during or after the high school day, or may be taken at the college campus. Students have to apply for college admission, submit required forms, and pay any materials or other fees applicable to the class. Students’ grades are transcribed at the end of the semester.

For more information, visit <https://www.portervillecollege.edu/fast-track-college/students-and-parents>.

▶ THE JOB, ENTREPRENEUR AND CAREER CENTER AT PORTERVILLE COLLEGE

For many, college is the first step in building a new career. After graduation, those first steps into the workforce can be intimidating, but there is help. At the Job, Entrepreneur and Career (JEC) Center at Porterville College, students and alumni can find help navigating a variety of resources, career counseling and other services that can help them find the right career path to success.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER ADVISING:

- Identify interest and career goals.
- Explore majors and in-demand career options with a career coach.
- Resumé development and job interview coaching.

JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE:

- Connections with industry employers, including on-campus recruitment opportunities.
- Internship placements aligned with students’ career paths and areas of study.
- Students can search open positions, create a professional profile and network with employers online through Jobseeker at porterville.jobseeker.com/#/hire.

ENTREPRENEURIAL ASSISTANCE:

- Small business development advice.
- Funding information.
- Workshops with local business professionals.
- Posting open positions on Jobseeker.
- Internship opportunities.

For more information, visit www.portervillecollege.edu/jec/career-center or call 559-791-2216.

While many offices and staff are working remotely, JEC Center hours are Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon.



California Department of Education Industry Sectors

Due to COVID-19, some classes may not be available.

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	Health Science & Medical Technology	Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation	Information & Communication Technologies	Manufacturing & Product Development	Public Services	Transportation	Social & Behavioral Sciences
PORTERVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT							
GRANITE HILLS HS For more info see: https://granite.guhsd.net/Academics/CTE/index.html			Computer Operations & Development in Education (CODE)		Law, Justice & Ethics (LJE)		
HARMONY MAGNET ACADEMY For more info see Academic Departments page at https://harmony.portervilleschools.org/							
LINDSAY HS For more info see: www.cardinalacademies.com	Health Science Academy	Food Service Pathway	Computer Science Academy, Computer Systems Pathway	Engineering Academy		Automotive Tech Pathway	
MONACHE HS For more info see Academics page at https://monache.portervilleschools.org/		Academy of Hospitality (AHI)		Manufacturing & Construction Technology Academy (MCTA)			
PORTERVILLE HS For more info see Academics page at: https://porterville.portervilleschools.org/	Academy of Health Science (PAHS)						
PORTERVILLE MILITARY ACADEMY For more info see: https://pma.portervilleschools.org/						Leadership Development & Aviation (PMA)	
STRATHMORE HS For more info see Academics page at: https://strathmore.portervilleschools.org/							
SUMMIT CHARTER ACADEMY For more info see https://www.burtonschools.org/		Academy of Culinary & Hospitality					Summit Charter Collegiate Academy AS in Social Science by Sr. Yr.
PORTERVILLE ADULT SCHOOL For more info see: https://adulthoodschool.portervilleschools.org/	Medical Assistant, Nurse Assistant, Surgery Tech	Food Preparation & Service Training					

Community College Industry Sectors

Due to COVID-19, some classes may not be available.

KEY: COLLEGE DEPT/DIV TITLE JSC = Job Skills Certificate CoA = Certificate of Achievement AA = Associate of Arts; AS = Associate of Sciences ADT = Associate Degree for Transfer	Fashion & Interior Design	Health, and Life Sciences / Biotech	Retail, Hospitality & Tourism	Information & Communication Technologies	Advanced Manufacturing & Welding	Business & Entrepreneurship Marketing, Sales & Service	Public Safety	Advanced Transportation & Logistics	Social & Behavioral Sciences	Science, Technology, Engineering & Math STEM
PORTERVILLE COLLEGE LOW UNIT CERTIFICATES Updated Career Technical Education (CTE) information at: https://www.portervillecollege.edu/cte/career-technical-education JSC: Job Skills Certificate (Less than 18 units) CoA: Certificate of Achievement (more than 12 units) CoC: Certificate of Competency		EMT Basic JSC (8.5 units)		Basic Computing JSC (10 units), Adv Computing JSC (10 units), Customer Service Academy JSC (5 units)	Industrial Technology JSC (9.5 units), Welding Tech JSC (6 units)	Customer Service Academy JSC (5 units)	EMT Basic JSC (8.5 units), Wildland Firefighter JSC (6.5 units)	Logistics JSC (11 units)		
PORTERVILLE COLLEGE HIGH UNIT CERTIFICATES Updated Career Technical Education (CTE) information at: https://www.portervillecollege.edu/cte/career-technical-education JSC: Job Skills Certificate (Less than 18 units) CoA: Certificate of Achievement (More than 12 units)		LVN to RN (30 units), Psych Tech CoA (34.5 units)			Industrial Maintenance CoA (16.5 units)		Admin of Justice CoA (24-25.5 units), Fire Tech CoA (24.5 units)	Logistics CoA (20 units)		
PORTERVILLE COLLEGE DEGREES Updated information at: https://www.portervillecollege.edu/general-education/certificates-degrees-offered		Biological & Physical Science AA, AS, Biology AST, Kinesiology AA-T, LVN to Nursing AS (A.D.N.)		Adv. Information Systems AS, Business Info. Systems AS, Computer Info. Systems AS			Admin of Justice AST, Public Safety AS		Anthropology AA-T, History AA-T, Liberal Arts AA, Philosophy AA-T, Political Sci AA-T, Social Science AA, Sociology AA-T	Engineering AS, Mathematics AST
FRESNO STATE (CSU FRESNO) DEGREES	BA Interior Design	BS Athletic Training, BS Biochemistry, BS Biology, BS Health Science, BS Kinesiology, BS Nursing, BS Recreation Admin	BS Food & Nutritional Sciences, BS Recreation Admin Adventure Recreation & Tourism	BS Computer Engineering, BS Computer Science	BS Electrical Engineering, BS Industrial Technology, BS Mechanical Engineering	BS Business Admin: Entrepreneurship, Marketing & Sports Marketing	BS Criminology: Corrections, Law Enforcement, Victimology	BS Business Admin Logistics & Supply Chain	BA Africana Studies, BA Chicana Studies, BA Latin American Studies, BA Liberal Studies, BA Philosophy, BA Political Science, BA Psychology, BA Social Work, BA Sociology, BA Women's Studies	BA, BS Chemistry, BS Civil Engineering, BA Economics, BS Geology, BS Mathematics, BS Mechanical Engineering, BS Natural Sciences, BS Physics
CSU BAKERSFIELD DEGREES		BS Biology, BA Human Biological Sciences, BS Nursing	(See Business)	BS Computer Engineering, BS Computer Science	(See STEM)	(See Business)	BA Criminal Justice	BS Business Administration, Supply Chain Logistics	BA Anthropology, BA Child, Adolescent & Family Studies, BA Criminal Justice, BA Interdisciplinary: General Studies; Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies; Ethnic & Area Studies, BS Kinesiology, BA Liberal Studies: (traditional, multiple and single subjects teaching credentials), BA Political Science, BA Psychology, BA Sociology	BS Biology, BS Biochemistry, BS Chemistry, BS Electrical Engineering, BS Engineering Sciences, BA / BS Geology, BS Mathematics, BS Natural Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Foundational Science, Geology, Physics), BS Nursing, BS Physics

HIGHER EDUCATION, LOW COST

Higher education doesn't have to break the bank. In fact, coursework and educational pathways at the high school, Regional Occupational Center (ROC), adult school, and community college are surprisingly affordable and offer significant advantages for graduates looking for work.

NO COST CLASSES

High schools and ROC/ROP campuses offer no cost career technical education programs. Many of these high school programs include industry-recognized certificates, work based learning, opportunities to earn college credit, and are aligned with college certificate and degree programs. Adult schools also offer no cost and low cost career technical education programs.

LOW COST COLLEGE

A majority of local college students are eligible for financial aid and fee waivers. Even if paying full tuition, the cost savings are huge when comparing two years of full-time coursework at the local community college against a four-year university.

Bakersfield College, Cerro Coso Community College, Porterville College and Taft College:

Tuition and fees: **\$1,380 per year**
(\$46 PER UNIT AND 15 UNITS PER SEMESTER)

Books and supplies (estimate): **\$1,854 per year**

California State University Undergraduate Programs:

Tuition and fees: **\$7,422 per year**
(SIX OR MORE UNITS PER SEMESTER)

Books and supplies (estimate): **\$2,058 per year**

University of California:

Tuition and fees: **\$14,000 per year**

Books and supplies (estimate): **\$1,200 per year**



ANSWERS TO CAREER EDUCATION QUESTIONS

Your Way. You Can Do It. We Can Help.

HOW DO I CHOOSE MY CAREER?

Ideally, your career will match your interests and natural skills with jobs currently available in your community. It starts with knowing yourself. Do you love working outside? Would you rather work on a computer? You can explore careers at: <https://careered.cccco.edu/> or <https://www.careerzone.org>. You can take an interest survey at: <https://www.cccco.edu/> or <https://finditbeitkerncounty.org>. Salary information is available at: <https://salarysurfer.cccco.edu>.

HOW DO I FIND SCHOOLS WITH THE PROGRAMS I NEED?

Find community colleges in your area at either <https://www.cccco.edu/> or <https://finditbeitkerncounty.org> and use the community college locator tool. Visit your local community college website to look for certificate and degree programs in an industry or career area that interests you. Many of the programs listed here will appear under the Career Technical Education or Career Education pages of the college website.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Visit CCCApply.org to complete a college application. If you have taken college credit courses while in high school (articulated, dual enrollment, or concurrent enrollment), you may have already done this step. You will need personal information such as your Social Security number, an email address and previous education information readily available to complete the application. You will want to complete your financial aid (FAFSA) application. You may also need to attend an orientation and schedule an appointment with a counselor. Check your college application requirements to complete the process.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

California community college students currently pay \$46 per unit for classes. A full-time student taking 15 units each semester (fall and spring) will complete an Associate's Degree in two years and will pay \$1,104 each year in tuition. There may be additional fees, such as health fees, as well as costs for books, supplies and parking.

IS FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE?

Financial aid is available to help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, and sometimes even rent. All students, even if they think they do not qualify, should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); that application opens the door to most types of financial aid. Go to: <https://studentaid.gov>.

HOW DO I KNOW WHICH CLASSES TO TAKE?

Your community college course catalog lists all of the courses that must be completed in order to earn a certificate or degree. Most college catalogs are available electronically on the college website. Some college websites offer a program or pathways mapper that provides additional help picking classes that are most relevant to your certificate or degree of interest. Or meet with a college counselor.



GOOD FOR BUSINESS

Community colleges give owners and employees a solid business foundation

BY ANNE STOKES

Robert Verduzco has always had a head for numbers, a skill that will certainly serve the future certified public accountant well. Combined with a business degree, he's on his way to building the foundation for a successful career.

"I really like numbers and I'm also very detail-oriented," he explains. "My aunt is an accountant, and she tells me stories about her work and it's always interested me. My family would say, 'That's so boring! You're just looking at numbers all day,' but I find that interesting."

A current business student at Fresno State University, Verduzco first earned his associate degree from Porterville College in May 2020. He says attending community college was a great experience for him as well as an affordable one.

"I'm happy I did because I saved a lot of money doing so," he says. "Classes were easy to enroll in, very flexible schedules as well, and mostly all of the professors are there for you. I really liked how the classes were not so large so you could have more one-on-one time with the professor, and they could help you instead of having a large class like at other universities where it's harder to keep in contact with the professor."

Despite current economic conditions across the country, the long-term outlook will see businesses back in the black again, according to Stephanie Cortez, associate professor of business at Porterville College. When that happens, having a business



Robert Verduzco got the business foundation he needed with the help of Porterville College.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT VERDUZCO

degree can provide both new business owners and job seekers a versatile skill set that would benefit any company or industry.

"The way to (rebuild the economy) is to bring in small businesses and large businesses and generate revenue," she says. "Having a business degree touches on all those different elements that are in a business ... (and) provides that strong foundation of knowing how to help small or large businesses be successful."

While Verduzco is currently earning his bachelor's degree, he is already reaping the benefits of his Porterville College education. In addition to being a student, he also owns and operates the Charcuterie Dude, a small catering company.

"I learned the fundamentals of business and how to really operate it with my business courses and accounting courses. I know how

profit and loss works, how to use Microsoft Excel to make spreadsheets for my business," he says. "It was pretty helpful."

"I LEARNED THE FUNDAMENTALS OF BUSINESS AND HOW TO REALLY OPERATE IT WITH MY BUSINESS COURSES AND ACCOUNTING COURSES."

**ROBERT VERDUZCO
PORTERVILLE COLLEGE GRADUATE
AND SMALL BUSINESS OWNER**

► BUSINESS CAREER PATHWAY OPTIONS

A business degree opens a multitude of career pathways in myriad industries and companies. Whether you're running your own company or working for a larger corporation, a degree gives you a solid foundation in what it takes to make a business or nonprofit successful.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Who doesn't want to be their own boss? Even with those who have a specific skill, product or service to offer, knowing how to manage, market and make a profit are key to ensuring a business stays afloat.

FINANCE

Not everyone wants to go into business on their own. For those interested in how a business operates, finance positions include:

- Accounting
- Financial analysis
- Controllers

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

While profit is a driver for many businesses, nonprofit organizations also need managers and employees to ensure they stay solvent and are able to continue to serve others in need.

EARLY COLLEGE: SAVE TIME, MONEY

High school students can earn credits toward future degrees, certificates

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

There's a golden educational opportunity for high school students in Kern and Tulare counties, a proven pathway to success that offers them a head start on college while saving time and money. It's called the "early college" program, a way to earn college credits while attending high school.

The early-college model is offered at the three two-year colleges in the Kern Community College District – Porterville College, Bakersfield College and Cerro Coso Community College. These colleges align with their respective feeder high school districts to offer students in grades 9-12 the chance to take college courses via distance learning and online instruction, with some hands-on exceptions.

Porterville's "Fast Track to College Program" provides high school students with the opportunity to:

- Earn college credit while still in high school.
- Get a head-start on college education and career readiness.
- Provide a seamless transition into college and career options.
- Save on tuition costs and related expenses. Tuition is typically waived for high school students taking college courses.

Simply put, there are two early college models: Dual enrollment and concurrent enrollment.



Dual enrollment courses are college courses taught by master's degree-prepared high school teachers who have been approved by the college. Dual enrollment courses can be taught either during or after the high school day.

Concurrent enrollment courses are college courses taught by college faculty after the high school day.

For many students (and parents), early college offers a huge benefit: College-level learning without college-level fees. Many of these courses are available with no fees or fees much lower than those charged by four-year universities.

In addition, Porterville College offers students the opportunity for "articulation" or credit by exam. Offered for articulated Career Technical Education (CTE) courses, that exam may or may not be a written test or paper, but can include projects or other demonstrations of skill applicable to that career path.

According to Porterville's "Fast Track" guidelines, "The college faculty can determine what the 'exam' may be for the purpose of assessing knowledge for the identified class. This can include but is not limited to a combination of: tests, papers, projects, essays, etc., or it can be only one of these elements."

There are other advantages as well: Many courses are

CAREER EXPLORATION

Not sure what job you want? Explore careers!

Some high schools offer a semester- or year-long career exploration course where you get to think about what you're interested in, what types of jobs there may be, and what training and education is needed and available to help you land your dream job!

Even if your school doesn't offer a career exploration course, there are plenty of resources for you to start thinking about what you're passionate about or what kind of a job you'd like to do, what training or education is needed, and how to go about making it happen for you.

Start by taking a career interest survey. As you're considering where to start, you might also consider taking short-term training in the industry you're interested in as a way to support yourself while you continue education or training.

TAKE AN INTEREST SURVEY

California CareerZone

<https://www.careerzone.org>

Career Quiz

<https://finditbeit.org/career-quiz/>

FIND A PROGRAM

Tulare County Employment Connect

www.employmentconnect.org

Local Community College

www.portervillecollege.edu

Find It. Be It.

<https://finditbeit.org>

<https://finditbeit.org/where-can-i-go/>

Check with your local high school advisor.

transferable to other colleges and universities; fast tracking allows students to reach their goals quicker; and, even if a student does not go on to college, they're more "career ready" when they graduate from high school.

For more information, visit <https://www.portervillecollege.edu/fast-track-college/students-and-parents>.

GET A HEAD-START
ON COLLEGE
EDUCATION AND
CAREER READINESS.

YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

The Central Valley Mother Lode Region of California Community Colleges
and its partner high schools have the tools you need to succeed



Agriculture & Natural Resources
Agricultural Business • Agricultural Mechanics
Agriscience • Animal Science
Forestry and Natural Resources
Ornamental Horticulture • Plant and Soil Science



Health Science & Medical Technology
Biotechnology • Patient Care
Health Care Administrative Services
Health Care Operational Support Services
Public and Community Health • Mental and Behavioral Health



Business & Finance
Business Management
Financial Services
International Business



Arts, Media & Entertainment
Design, Visual and Media Arts
Performing Arts
Production and Managerial Arts
Game Design and Integration



Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation
Food Science, Dietetics, and Nutrition
Food Services and Hospitality
Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation



Education, Child Development & Family Services
Child Development • Consumer Services
Education
Family and Human Services



Building & Construction Trades
Cabinetry, Millwork and Woodworking
Engineering and Heavy Construction
Mechanical Systems Installation and Repair
Residential and Commercial Construction



Information & Communication Technologies
Information Support and Services • Networking
Software and Systems Development
Games and Simulation



Energy, Environment & Utilities
Environmental Resources
Energy and Power Technology
Telecommunications



Engineering & Architecture
Architectural Design
Engineering Technology
Engineering Design
Environmental Engineering



Manufacturing & Product Development
Graphic Production Technologies
Machining and Forming Technologies
Welding and Materials Joining
Product Innovation and Design



Public Services
Public Safety
Emergency Response
Legal Practices



Fashion & Interior Design
Fashion Design and Merchandising
Interior Design
Personal Services



Marketing, Sales & Services
Marketing
Professional Sales
Entrepreneurship/Self-Employment



Transportation
Operations
Structural Repair and Refinishing
Systems Diagnostics and Service



Kern County



Central Valley



General Information



General Information



TAFT COLLEGE



General Information



General Information

