



THIS COULD BE YOU

No matter how much you know or what language you speak, Southern Alameda County Consortium for Adult Education can get you on a pathway to a well-paid career.

FOLLOW THE PATH TO SUCCESS:

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AN EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE

BY THEA MARIE ROOD

It's no secret that an education typically translates into better jobs and bigger salaries. But what happens when there are barriers to getting that education, like cost, distance or language? Students with challenges like these are why the Southern Alameda County Consortium (SACC) for Adult Education offers education and training that's close to home, extremely affordable and accessible.

With four schools throughout the region, SACC offers students the opportunity to create an education or career pathway that is specifically tailored to their needs or goals, and is also easy to reach. When students reach their goals, SACC finds that they often keep climbing — taking on new pathways or programs, like those offered at a college level.

"Some adult school students transfer to Ohlone," said Mark Lieu, dean at Ohlone Community College, an SACC member. "But they are all able to see what's possible."

Student pathways can start at an SACC adult school, transition to community college and end in a well-paid career. For instance, in the Early Childhood Studies (ECS) program, students start with a class at Fremont Adult

and Continuing Education that prepares them for introductory community college courses. After transferring, students only need to complete six college units in ECS before they can be hired at a licensed daycare or preschool. After finishing further ECS curriculum, students are able to open their

*"[Students]
are all able
to see what's
possible."*

Mark Lieu
Dean, Ohlone Community College

own facility. Streamlined pathways like this one are available to students in many fields of interest.

SACC also offers targeted support to students as they transition from one campus to another, which is particularly helpful for students attending community college for the first time.

"We are trying to make the whole process less scary," said Lieu, "so we have a Pre-College Bridge program at the adult schools that is taught by Ohlone and adult school teachers."

Bridge program teachers expose students to assignments, apps and computer programs they will encounter at college. They also visit campus with students to familiarize them with college counselors and teachers before classes start.

Lieu said the majority of SACC students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and experience. No matter a student's reason for attending SACC, they can find useful tools just right for them.

"We recognize that for some students, it's just in and out," he said. "Others we'll train and they will go out and come back. You don't have to go to college, but it's a viable pathway. We want to give students the vision of what's possible while also serving their immediate needs."

MEET THE CONSORTIUM



FOLLOW YOUR OWN PATH

BY THEA MARIE ROOD

WHERE TO START

What's your interest? Decide on a career path or goal to know where to start taking your classes.

ADULT SCHOOLS

Fremont Adult and Continuing Education (FACE), New Haven Adult School and Newark Adult Education all offer **free** classes to students in the tri-city area of Fremont, Union City and Newark, including:

ABE/ASE

Adult Basic Education or Adult Secondary Education programs, which include classes required for a high school diploma or equivalency certificate

ESL

Classes which include English as a Second Language, citizenship and basic workforce preparation

AWD

Adults with Disabilities programs aim to help empower and employ adults with disabilities

CTE

Short-term Career and Training Education programs offer pre-apprenticeship programs and have high income potential

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ONLY

Ohlone College offers 197 degrees and certificates, and can also prepare students for a four-year university — like the 751 students who transferred to one in 2016-17.

AA

Associate in Arts degree

ADT

Associate Degree for Transfer (to a CSU)

AS

Associate in Science degree

COA

Certificate of Achievement

COAcc

Certificate of Accomplishment

POSSIBILITIES

Online Courses

Perfect for students who need a flexible schedule

Pre-College Bridge and College Prep programs

Helps students apply for college and financial aid, and get a leg up in community college

Residential and In-Home Care

Prepares students for jobs caring for patients in home or residential care settings (note: Speaking multiple languages is an advantage here!)

Early Childhood Studies Pathway

Offers language support and prepares students for community college courses that will lead to jobs in a licensed child care facility (note: Speaking multiple languages is an advantage!)

A HIGHER SALARY OR NEW CAREER!

HIGHER EDUCATION, LOW COST

Higher education doesn't have to break the bank. In fact, coursework and educational pathways through Southern Alameda County Consortium (SACC) for Adult Education are surprisingly affordable.

NO COST CLASSES

Most classes at the three adult schools — Fremont Adult and Continuing Education (FACE), New Haven Adult School and Newark Adult Education — are *free* to students.

LOW COST COLLEGE

For students of SACC's community college, financial aid and fee waivers are widely available to the majority of students. But even if paying full tuition, the cost savings are huge when comparing two years of full-time coursework at Ohlone College against four-year universities:

[Ohlone College](#): \$2,876

[San Jose State](#): \$14,756

[University of California, Berkeley](#): \$27,020



Yan Chen needed a new set of skills after immigrating to the U.S. She found them easily through the Southern Alameda County Consortium for Adult Education.
PHOTO BY GEORGE E. BAKER JR.



NEW HOME, NEW LANGUAGE, NO PROBLEM

English as a Second Language programs empower students to continue rising up

BY COREY RODDA

Yan Chen immigrated to Fremont from Guangzhou, the sprawling capital city of Guangdong province in southeastern China. In China, she completed a bachelor's degree in business administration and spent 15 years as a technical and operational manager for an insurance company.

However, in her new home in California, Chen struggled to communicate.

"My English was very poor," she said.

So in her 40s, she went back to school — determined to grasp the intricacies of a language with intonations and an alphabet radically different from her native tongue.

It wasn't until a friend from her local church helped her enroll in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Fremont Adult and Continuing Education that she made real progress.

The school's ESL teachers assessed Chen's current level of English proficiency and worked with her to develop a set of goals specific to her needs.

In addition to learning English, Chen was also taught how to write a resume, use an English computer and understand important documents like leases and

work contracts. These are important skills necessary to any individual building a new career, but especially tricky for immigrants who don't speak English.

After her teachers encouraged her to look at the Southern Alameda County Consortium for Adult Education's other adult schools for possible career paths, Chen enrolled in New Haven Adult School's Residential and In-Home Care Training program where she discovered a new calling in health care.

"It is a totally new field for me," she said. "I learned about the common diseases, infections and chronic illnesses found in residential care settings. I also learned how to prevent accidents, disease and injury, and how to promote healthy lifestyles through stress management, sports, crafts and hobbies. From this class, I built a lot of medical words into my vocabulary."

This new field inspired Chen to continue studying nursing and work with the aging population, a career she is still pursuing through education.

"I want to help vulnerable people who are sick and help enhance the quality of their lives," she said.

"I have built up a lot of confidence."

Yan Chen
Student

Chen is also still taking English classes. She recently enrolled in the Advanced ESL Grammar and Writing for College and Work class at Fremont Adult and Continuing Education.

"Right now, I can express myself easily in English," she said. "I have built up a lot of confidence to speak directly to native speakers and can read my medical textbook."

Speaking English and setting new goals has also helped Chen embrace her new and diverse home. She said that one day she wants to find a job where she can work with people from different countries and cultural backgrounds.

WHAT TO KNOW: ESL PROGRAM

How long does it take to complete?

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program's length depends on a student's initial proficiency in English, and also the time and work they put into the program. Students can enter at any stage of speaking English, whether they are just beginning or are already proficient but want to become more fluent.

How is placement determined?

Placement tests are held at each adult school several times a year, typically at the beginning of each quarter. Some adult schools encourage students to bring a friend or family member to act as a translator. After the test, ESL teachers meet with the student to discuss their language goals, classes they should enroll in and the next steps they should take to become oriented to the program.

THE FUTURE IS HERS

A single mother finds new hope after receiving high school diploma

BY THEA MARIE ROOD



Angela Byrd wanted a better life for her and her son. Now they have one thanks to the Southern Alameda County Consortium for Adult Education.

PHOTO BY GEORGE E. BAKER JR.

Following the tragic death of her son's father, Angela Byrd didn't know where to turn when she found herself on government assistance as a single mother. She wanted to improve the lives of her and her son but was unsure how to do so. She found a future through the Southern Alameda County Consortium (SACC) for Adult Education.

"A career counselor at the Hayward welfare office looked at my file and saw I didn't have a high school diploma," she recalled. "She asked me if that was something I wanted to look into because a lot of jobs would require it. That's when I learned about the adult school in Newark."

As luck would have it, Byrd and her son were living in Newark. She enrolled in Newark Adult Education almost immediately.

"It was very easy to get to, the enrollment process was simple, it was inexpensive, and the program times fit into my schedule even though I was busy," she said.

Due to a series of family hardships, Byrd never received her high school diploma. Newark Adult Education made it easy for her to earn her diploma and complete a medical assistant program at the same time. After graduation, Byrd was pleasantly surprised to find there were better paying jobs available to her than just the medical assistant work she had planned for.

"I have a good job now," Byrd said proudly. "I was looking at medical

assistant work for \$13 or \$14 an hour, and my current job in a medical setting pays twice that."

Her new job has allowed Byrd and her son to move to a metropolitan area. She describes her life since losing her partner as a "journey," but one that is now looking up. It is also not anywhere near over yet.

"I'm still going to school," she said. Byrd is currently enrolled in college courses, studying communications and computer science. "My goal now is to get a Ph.D. — that's what's at the end of the tunnel for me."

"My goal now is to get a Ph.D."

Angela Byrd
Student

Most importantly, Byrd wants to spread the message that affordable education is out there — and goals can be reached even as you parent and work. She also believes it is possible to change your life, no matter how much it may have seemed to spiral away from you.

"I tell patients at the hospital about my experience," she said. "And I want to help other single mothers who may not know how easy this process is or how to go about starting through SACC."

WHAT TO KNOW: HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/GED

How long do these programs take?

Coursework and study materials are specifically tailored to what a student needs to complete or study in order to earn their GED or high school diploma. Because teachers work closely with each student to create individual plans, they also take into account any scheduling difficulties students may have.

How many credits are needed?

Students are required to complete between 140-190 credit hours of core and elective classes at SACC adult school sites in order to graduate with a high school diploma. At a traditional high school, students typically need 220 credit hours to graduate, which include electives, and GED testing is not offered.

Huina Guan found motivation and support through the Southern Alameda County Consortium for Adult Education. She now feels she has a better life.

PHOTO BY GEORGE E. BAKER JR.



PREPARED FOR WHAT'S NEXT

Student feels ready for college classes after receiving support

BY THEA MARIE ROOD
AND LAURA HILLEN

College can be daunting and seem confusing. This makes it hard for students to stay motivated, especially if they don't have a specific career in mind right away.

This was the case for Huina Guan.

Not a native English speaker, Guan found it difficult to know where to start her new future and instead found herself spending a lot of time just browsing the internet. That is until a friend who was taking an English as a Second Language (ESL) course at one of Southern Alameda County Consortium (SACC) for Adult Education's schools told her about its College Prep programs.

"After taking classes in this program, I did improve a lot in English which helped me get into the college smoothly. I had learned how to write an essay and I strengthened my grammar," Guan said. "I read faster and speak better English."

Because of these College Prep classes, Guan was able to get into a higher level college class with more solid skills. This is exactly the kind of outcome SACC is aiming for with its students.

"We want our students to go and test at the community college into college-level English that counts toward their degrees — not non-credit remedial English or ESL," said Michelle Walker-Wade, program manager for Career and College Prep Education at New Haven Adult School. "We don't promote one pathway over another, but if getting to

"My life is fulfilling and I work more efficiently."

Huina Guan
Student

college is what your goal is, we want you to not waste time and money taking remedial courses."

Students of SACC's adult schools can become better prepared for classes they will take at Ohlone College by taking College Prep and Pre-College Bridge classes. For instance, New

Haven Adult School offers College Prep classes in writing and technology, science and math — in addition to a workshop series that covers applying for college, applying for financial aid and understanding residency requirements.

Rather than putting a student straight into a higher-level course, SACC teachers and counselors look at the student's end goal. Together, students and faculty understand which classes are needed to reach that goal.

This support and attention has improved not only Guan's academic life as she prepares for college, but has shown her returns in her personal life as well.

"My life is fulfilling and I work more efficiently," she said, noting that taking classes part time has allowed her to balance work, school and family.

"My goal is to finish my college class with grade A and talk with native English speakers without any confusion," Guan said.

WHAT TO KNOW: COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM

Do students have to take all College Prep classes?

Students may choose to take the College Prep classes they believe are needed after discussing their goals with an adult school Transition Specialist. As sometimes college classes can be more challenging than originally expected, students are always welcome to dual-enroll and continue receiving the type of support provided at the adult schools to make their college transition easier.

What kind of class flexibility is there?

Some classes, like the College Prep writing and technology class, have two components: a traditional class lesson and an independent lab assignment. Students must attend the traditional classes, but may complete lab assignments on their own schedule. Regardless, students may not miss assignment deadlines. Students should also not skip other essential parts of the program, like tours at the college campus which can help them understand how colleges are structured.



Vanessa Fines found her passion in life. The Southern Alameda County Consortium for Adult Education helped her turn it into a career.
PHOTO BY GEORGE E. BAKER JR.

A PASSION FOR CARE

Students can receive special training for vocational jobs

BY COREY RODDA

Vanessa Fines' job isn't always easy, but she is always there for her clients because of her passion for her job — sometimes even as they breathe their last breaths.

"Caregiving is emotional, but you get to see them smile," she said.

Fines initially wanted to become a professional caregiver so she could care for the people who were important to her: her best friend who had developed Alzheimer's disease, her 82-year-old father who moved in with her and aging members of her church.

However, she needed help in order to help them.

Fines enrolled in a vocational program through the Southern Alameda County Consortium for Adult Education at New Haven Adult School. The school's Residential &

In-Home Care Training program was a 10-week program that only cost her \$250. In this program, she learned how to help individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia. She also learned other fundamentals of care, like

"It is my passion to care for the elderly."

Vanessa Fines
Student

administering medication, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, taking blood pressure and using certain types of health care machinery, such as a Hoyer Lift.

Most importantly, she learned methods of communication and empathetic care to improve her bedside manner.

"I learned how to let my clients know that no hurt, harm or danger will come to them

while they are in my care," Fines said.

When Fines saw her father gain a renewed sense of purpose after she suggested he look after her home garden, she realized her care was helping the emotional needs of her patients, not just their physical needs.

"It is my passion to care for the elderly," she said. "I want to tell them that it is not time to give up. I want to encourage and instill into them that they still have a lot of life to live."

Fines has also been nominated twice as "caregiver of the month" because of the care she gives her patients.

"I spend time with them," she said. "Getting people who don't have many loved ones left in their lives motivated to get out of the house is challenging, but rewarding."

Eighty-four percent of students who complete the Caregiver training program at New Haven Adult School immediately find jobs with caregiving agencies, and typically start earning \$15-\$17 an hour. Fines found her first job one week before she even finished the program.

Fines now works for Kindred Healthcare and hopes to start her own assisted living facility one day. The New Haven Adult School health education teacher still meets with her regularly to make sure she is on track to reach that goal.

WHAT TO KNOW: VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Do students need a high school diploma to enroll?

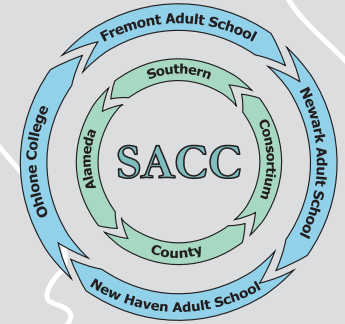
Most of the vocational programs at the adult schools are designed for students without a high school diploma or GED, although all students are encouraged to obtain one. In fact, completing some vocational programs can count toward elective credits. Vocational programs are available in accounting, information technology preparation, pharmacy technician preparation, education, early childhood education and banking careers.

Are diplomas or degrees from other countries accepted?

High school degrees from other countries are typically viewed as equivalent to U.S. high school degrees to employers, colleges and universities — although they may impact a student's ability to receive financial aid. Most college degrees do not need to be re-completed in the U.S., but certain vocations may require an equivalency exam or a student's past transcripts.

GET STARTED ON YOUR TOMORROW

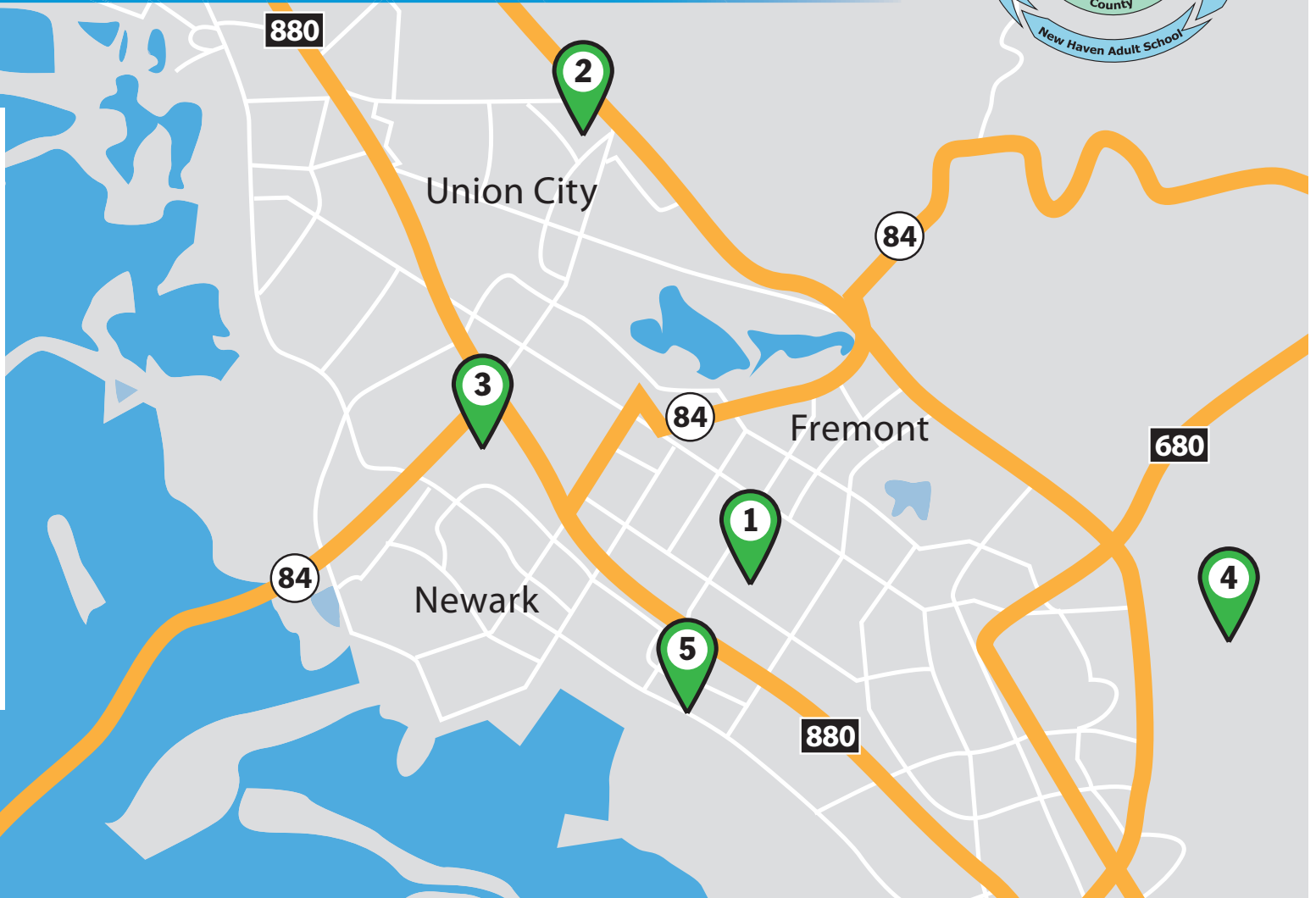
and enroll with the Southern Alameda County Consortium for Adult Education



Getting an education doesn't have to be expensive or time consuming — not with help from the Southern Alameda County Consortium (SACC) for Adult Education!

Whether a student needs to learn English, complete their high school education, prepare for college or graduate with a degree, SACC can get them on a pathway to a better future. Adult schools offer many free classes to residents of Alameda County, and the community college offers financial aid to keep costs low.

Getting an education through SACC is the first step to a well-paid career and better life for any student and their family — enroll today!



A CAMPUS NEAR YOU

Fremont Adult and Continuing Education

1 4700 Calaveras Ave.
Fremont, CA 94538
510-793-6465
www.fremont.k12.ca.us/face

New Haven Adult School

2 600 G St.
Union City, CA 94587
510-489-2185
www.mynhas.org

Newark Adult Education

3 35777 Cedar Blvd.
Newark, CA 94560
510-818-3700
macgregor.newarkunified.org/adult-education

Ohlone Community College

4 **Fremont Campus**
43600 Mission Blvd.
Fremont, CA 94539
510-659-6000
www.ohlone.edu

5 **Newark Campus**
39399 Cherry St.
Newark, CA 94560
510-742-2300
www.ohlone.edu