



Overview

Surrounded by abundant agricultural lands, Allan Hancock College (AHC) is a vital educational and economic engine for Northern Santa Barbara County. As the only community college serving the region, AHC empowers a largely low-income, first-generation, and rural population with accessible pathways to opportunity. The college serves more than 300,000 residents across 18 cities and communities, 11 of which are rural census-designated places.

The region includes major employers like Vandenberg Space Force Base—one of the world’s busiest spaceports—along with fast-growing industries such as aerospace, agriculture, education, and healthcare. These dynamic sectors rely on the college to provide a skilled, prepared workforce.



Characteristics	Santa Maria	Lompoc	Guadalupe
Population	109,987	43,045	8,622
Educational Attainment			
• High School	63.3%	71.7%	57.1%
• Bachelor's	15.1%	12.8%	11.1%
Poverty	15.5%	16.8%	28.3%

Mission Statement

AHC fosters an educational culture that values equity and diversity while engaging students in an inclusive learning environment. The college offers pathways that encourage our student population to achieve personal, career, and academic goals through coursework leading to skills building, certificates, associate degrees, and transfer.



AHC Serves a Diverse and Resilient Student Population

- **11,452** credit students
 - **70%** of students are Hispanic
 - **69%** of students are low-income
 - **40%** of students are first-generation
 - **4%** of students are justice-impacted (currently and formerly incarcerated)
- **8%** of students have a disability
- **2%** of students are veterans
- **3%** of students are homeless and housing insecure
- **2%** of students are former foster youth

Academic Programs

AHC is the lifeline of higher education on the Central Coast—an area considered an “educational desert” due to the lack of nearby four-year universities. With Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (CPSLO) and UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) each more than an hour away, and AHC fills a critical gap by offering accessible associate degrees, transfer pathways, and career training for over 300,000 residents.

In a bold step to increase access to bachelor’s degrees, AHC recently entered into partnerships with Cal Poly SLO and California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) to offer at least five baccalaureate degrees on the Hancock campus by 2030 in areas such as sociology, business, and nursing.

AHC also currently offers a wide range of two-year programs leading to:

- Associate in Arts (AA)
- Associate in Science (AS)
- Associate Degrees for Transfer (AD-T)

These programs are designed not only to prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions but also to provide technical and vocational training aligned with the needs of local industries.

Needs

Student Support Services

AHC has recently lost key federal grants (TRIO, Title V, NSF) that previously supported low-income, Hispanic, and disabled student populations. The college seeks new partnerships and funding to continue and expand this vital work.

Facilities

To meet student and ongoing program demands, the college urgently needs to expand academic learning spaces including classrooms, lab space, and office space for tutoring/faculty, and modernize athletic facilities including a gymnasium, training center, and stadium.

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