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Citrus Students Transfer To Berkeley

Students seeking the absolute best in public higher education need to look no further. The academic programs of the University of California, Berkeley have been considered among the best in the world. The school offers over 7,000 courses in nearly 300 degree programs and awards over 5,500 bachelor's degrees, 2,000 master's degrees, and 900 doctorates each year.

“Applicants had to have a minimum 3.0 GPA and an interest in public policy,” she said. “I had to submit a personal statement describing my career goals in relationship to public service, a resume, transcripts, and the letter of recommendation.”

The purpose of the conference is to help prepare future leaders, particularly those from historically under-served communities and people of color, for study in public policy, Mercado said. “I wanted to find out what programs were available for me in public policy and public service. But most of all, I wanted to see Harvard with my own eyes,” she said.

With plans of becoming a Harvard student one day, Mercado has come a long way from the young woman who first enrolled at Citrus College. “Attending Citrus College was the best decision I made,” she added.

“The main challenge is to motivate the students to think out of the box and to consider a campus that is out of their comfort zone,” she said. “I also know that students are intimidated by the prestige of the University and do not necessarily see themselves as competitive applicants, even though they are.”

However, once a student overcomes their fears, submits an application, and is ultimately accepted into the prestigious school, the benefits are limitless. “The Berkeley campus represents an amazing academic and life opportunity,” Rafferty said. “Students are challenged to stretch both academically and socially. It is a great place for a student who wants to see what they can be capable of if given the opportunity.”

If you are interested in transferring to the University of California at Berkeley, please schedule an appointment in the Career/Transfer Center at (626) 914-8639 or with the Counseling Department at (626) 914-8530.

Citrus Students Transfer To Berkeley

Transferring to UC Berkeley from the 2005-2006 academic year. We are all proud of our students' accomplishments.

Tom Brokaw, television journalist
"You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world."

Ana Fimbres Rafferty, UC Berkeley's southern regional representative, takes such an active presence on our campus, helps train our faculty, managers and staff for the UC reader project, conducts class visits, and is not in finding qualified Berkeley prospects at Citrus College, but in encouraging these prospects to actually apply.

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Lisa Villegas, Career/Transfer Center Coordinator. "With this road map, students are more inclined to do well in their academic programs which will afford them an opportunity to compete for admission."

Villegas not only credits the hard work of the Citrus College counselors and academic advisors for the increase in transfers, but she also points to Berkeley's Southern California Transfer Specialist/Recruiter. "We are fortunate to have Ana Fimbres Rafferty, UC Berkeley's southern regional representative, take such an active presence on our campus," Villegas said. "She attends all of the annual college fairs, helps train our faculty, managers and staff for the UC reader project, conducts class visits and is not in finding qualified Berkeley prospects at Citrus College, but in encouraging these prospects to actually apply."

"Transfer Student Success Continued for first and second year under-graduate students who are inter-ested in pursuing professional careers in public service," she said. "Many students from UCLA applied and I was the only one chosen to participate. Although the conference received over 600 applications, fewer than 10 percent were accepted."

According to Mercado, the application process was quite detailed. It included writing a letter of intent for the program and obtaining a letter of recommenda-

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Tiffany Armstrong, Cal State Fullerton

After graduating from Nogales High School, Tiffany Armstrong chose to enroll at Citrus College because she felt that it was the best place to start her higher education. “The classes were easy, and I had a friend who recommended some great teachers,” the Chino resident says. “Well, that’s bunk.”

In fact, he points to himself as an example that these common stereotypes are untrue. “I’m a success story,” he said. “I am going from community college to Ivy League.”

The Citrus College graduate was recently accepted into Columbia University, where he will be majoring in philosophy and political science in the fall.

“Getting into Columbia has shown me that community college shouldn’t be thought of as a setback. Now I know that anything is possible,” he said.

Klein credits his time at Citrus College for preparing him to transfer to the prestigious school. “Citrus is whatever you make of it. You can come here and be mediocre or take advantage of all that the school has to offer and excel,” he said. “My personal experience has been very meaningful. From my classes and professors to my extracurricular activities, Citrus College has provided me with many outstanding opportunities.”

Klein has not always been the dedicated student that he is today. After a lackluster start as a Cal Poly Pomona computer science major, he dropped out and got a job.

“When I decided to return to college after three years of full-time work, I initially looked into community colleges near my home. However, none offered either the classes or times I needed,” he said. “Citrus was the only one that fit in with my schedule, so I enrolled in a single summer class and had a great experience. I decided to stay and finish up my general education.”

When it was time to think about transferring, Klein applied to the University of California at Berkeley, the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of California at Irvine, New York University, the University of Michigan, Stanford, Georgetown University, George Washington University, and Columbia. He got into all of them and went on to enroll in Columbia University.

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Rocio Mercado isn’t your typical college student. The fact that she is a single mother who is juggling school and raising her daughters isn’t what sets her apart from other students at UCLA. Her roots as a Citrus College graduate do not make her unique, either.

The reason Ms. Mercado is different from other college students is that she has a passion for education and a strong commitment to her personal future. Proof of this determination can be seen in her most recent accomplishment: participation in Harvard University’s annual spring Public Policy and Leadership Conference.

“Participating in this conference is something that I never thought I would be able to do,” Mercado said. “It was a great experience that opened my eyes to the possibilities that are out there.”

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Student PROFILE

Citrus Student Goes Ivy League

Michael Klein doesn’t appreciate the way community colleges are viewed by society. “There are still a lot of people who feel that they are places where people who lack direction and motivation go,” the Corona resident says. “Well, that’s bunk.”

In fact, he points to himself as an example that these common stereotypes are untrue. “I’m a success story,” he said. “I am going from community college to Ivy League.”

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Raul Sanchez is an Educational Advisor in the Career/Transfer Center who regularly visits Gladstone High School in Covina.