

History of the College



Citrus College is a public community college serving the Los Angeles County communities of Azusa, Bradbury, Claremont, Duarte, Glendora and Monrovia. Approximately 200,000 people reside in these communities, which include five K-12 school districts.

Citrus College is the oldest community college in Los Angeles County and the fifth oldest in California. Founded in 1915, the college opened with an estimated 35 students, 11 faculty members and a curriculum that emphasized advanced college preparatory studies. The student body grew slowly, reaching 150 students in 1952. Enrollment climbed to 5,810 students by fall 1966. Since that time, the college has experienced consistent growth, increasing from 9,083 students in 1985 to over 14,000 students per semester today. In addition, basic skills and English as a second language courses have increased substantially in recent years, as has student enrollment in online classes. Citrus College offered more than 110 online sections serving approximately 3,000 students in fall 2008.

Today the college grants eight associate degrees in 48 subject areas, provides coursework for transfer to four-year colleges and universities, offers basic skills and an intensive English as a Second Language

Program, and career preparation through its economic workforce development programs. There is an active student government on campus, numerous social clubs and events, student organizations, and college-wide activities. Citrus College offers many free student support services, including personal and academic counseling, transfer information and assistance, academic tutoring, veterans support, and career planning. The college also conducts community education programs that encourage learning at every stage of life.

For several years, the college was located on the same campus as Citrus Union High School. When the high school and college outgrew the existing building, voters passed a \$300,000 bond measure to relocate the campus to a 17-acre site, subsequently expanded to its current 104 acres. In 1961, the Citrus Union High School District disbanded and Citrus Junior College became an independent entity serving the communities of Azusa and Glendora. In 1967, voters approved the Citrus Junior College District, adding Bradbury, Claremont, Duarte and Monrovia to the newly created district and elected a board of trustees to represent each of those cities. The district became the Citrus Community College District in 1970 to better describe the role of two-year institutions in the community. In 1983, the col-

lege was annexed to the city of Glendora. During the 1990s, college administrators aggressively sought state funds for capital projects, leading to more than \$60 million in new buildings, renovations and additions to the campus facilities. These projects enhanced the learning environment, increased access for the disabled, improved safety and added technological capabilities to classrooms. With the addition of the adapted physical education facility and the high-tech lab, campus accessibility was greatly improved.

With the passage of Measure G in March 2004, Citrus College began experiencing many exciting facility improvements to the campus. Since bond-funded construction began in 2006, Citrus College has witnessed the construction and completion of the Louis E. Zellers Center for Innovation (CFI). The CFI fosters and develops collaborative, innovative instructional activities for Citrus College students and faculty. Another important step for Citrus College students is the design of a new Student Services Building, which will consolidate student support services into a single, efficient facility. The Central Plant is another significant project that was completed in 2007. Twelve months of working with Southern California Edison's Savings by Design Incentive and Peak Management Program resulted in a state-of-the-art facility that is capable of serving the heating and air conditioning needs of the entire campus.

Over the past decade, the ethnic composition of the student body has changed dramatically from approximately 70 percent white Non-Hispanic students to an ethnic plurality of 34 percent white Non-Hispanic and 40 percent Hispanic students. As a result, Citrus College is now a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), which is defined by the U.S. Department of Education as a college or university whose Hispanic students comprise 25 percent or more of the total student body.

The HSI designation enabled the college to receive several major grants to assist Hispanic and other students who can benefit from enhanced services and programs. Two new programs are funded through HSI grants: the College Success Program, which offers resources to students who perform at the pre-collegiate level in math, English or reading; and the



Louis E. Zellers Center for Innovation (CFI)

Center for Teacher Excellence, a teacher preparation partnership with the University of La Verne. In fall 2008, Citrus College also received a U.S. Department of Education grant to increase the number and success rate of first-generation, low-income and underrepresented college students in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields (STEM). The grant provides resources to equip students with the skills they need for the emerging professions of the 21st century.

Citrus College is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and is a member of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Community College League of California (CCLC).

The district is governed by a board of trustees elected from five trustee areas. The geographic boundaries of the Citrus Community College District and each trustee area are depicted in Figure 1.