# Introduction

## History of the Institution

Modesto Junior College (MJC) is one of the oldest community colleges in California. It was founded in 1921 to serve as the first junior college district created under the State Legislature Enabling Act. Modesto Junior College was established to meet the needs of the community. Today the college strives to maintain the same objective: dedication and service to the community.

MJC began with a charter enrollment of 61 students. Through the years, registration has increased until today more than 24,000 day and evening students are enrolled. In addition, more than 9,000 community participants take advantage of an ever-growing Community Education program.

To complement student growth, the campus has grown as well. The college holds the distinction of having erected the first junior college classroom building in the state. From this modest beginning, MJC has grown until it now provides an outstanding learning environment on two sites: the original MJC East Campus on College Avenue and MJC West Campus on Blue Gum Avenue in northwest Modesto. In addition to the main campuses, more than twenty community sites are used to meet particular educational needs.

The college and district boundaries have also changed. In 1964, by action of the electorate, the boundaries were enlarged to include over 4,500 square miles, encompassing high school districts in Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties, the Ripon High School District in San Joaquin County, Gustine and Hilmar High School Districts in Merced County and the Harney Elementary School District in Santa Clara County. The district also includes the Bret Harte Union High School District, the former Copperopolis Elementary School District and the former Salt Springs Valley Elementary School District in Calaveras County.

A Board of Trustees was elected in 1964 to govern the affairs of the expanded district. In 1965 the name Yosemite Junior College District (YJCD) was selected. In 1967, the YJCD Board of Trustees acquired land in Tuolumne County and established a new college named Columbia Junior College. Modesto Junior College added its West Campus in 1970 when the State of California quitclaimed 116.5 acres of the former Modesto State Hospital to the Yosemite Junior College District. In 1978, the State of California deeded over an additional 30 acres to the district. Initially this extra portion was used for District Central Services offices and the Criminal Justice Training Center (CJTC). When the CJTC moved to a new facility (the college discontinued the training center in 2006), all of the unused hospital barracks were burned down in fire training exercises.

Today, Central Services offices are still located on the west edge of MJC’s West Campus. In 1977, under state promptings, the district’s name was changed to Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) and in 1978, Columbia Junior College followed suit and became Columbia College. Today, the YCCD includes two comprehensive two-year colleges, Columbia College and Modesto Junior College, as well as a Central Services unit. The district includes all of two counties, Stanislaus and Tuolumne, and parts of four others: Calaveras, Merced, San Joaquin, and Santa Clara. The district stretches 170 miles across central California from the coast range on the west to the Sierra Nevada mountains on the east.



### Facilities

In 2004 voters approved a district-wide bond measure funding construction and renovation projects throughout the YCCD. Since that time more than twenty projects at Modesto Junior College have been completed. These projects focused on adding and improving instructional facilities. On the West Campus several new buildings were constructed, including Glacier Hall and the Science Community Center/Great Valley Museum. These state-of-the-art facilities are now the primary location for allied health and science instruction, and have helped balance the division of students between the two main campuses. The new Agricultural Pavilion, also on West Campus, serves as the region’s premier all-weather demonstration and agricultural event center. On East Campus, major renovations modernized numerous instruction spaces, including Founders Hall, North Hall and the Library. In addition, the new Student Services Center building on East Campus consolidated many student services into a single location.

## Educational Programs

Modesto Junior College offers courses designed to meet the many diverse interests, educational needs, and vocational requirements of its students. College programs are designed to meet these same needs and may consist of one course or a series of courses leading to a certificate, an associate’s degree, or apply towards the first two years of a bachelor’s degree. In addition, in 2015 MJC was selected as one of fifteen California community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees as part of a statewide pilot project. In fall 2017 MJC will admit an inaugural cohort of 40 students into its new Respiratory Care baccalaureate degree program.

Courses in art, literature, humanities, foreign languages, music, drama and speech provide cultural enrichment for MJC students and the community. Music instruction, for example, is offered for beginners as well as for those who already have a high level of proficiency. Cultural events are regularly offered to the community and hosted by a variety of college groups, including the Civic Engagement Project, numerous student clubs and the Modesto Area Partners in Science. All students are encouraged to participate in college activities such as student government, athletics, forensics, art shows and music programs.

Those who wish to broaden their horizons and to become more aware of themselves and the world about them will be drawn to offerings in health education, consumer education, psychology, child development, sociology, speech, conservation, valley plant life, science, art appreciation, and physical activities. Agricultural offerings include technician training courses as well as courses designed for persons anticipating employment or already employed in the agriculture industry. Business courses that meet occupational requirements of the community are offered in office administration, clerical training, accounting, computer science, computer graphics applications, and business operations. Administration of Justice, emergency service instruction, and fire science courses are also offered and can lead to an associate’s degree.

Vocational programs prepare students for entry employment in such fields as animal husbandry, crop production, agricultural mechanics, office administration, child development, computer graphics applications (desktop publishing and microcomputer graphics), automotive technology, electronics, nursing, machine shop, vocational accounting, and human services. Advisory committees serve the college in the development of vocational programs by helping to determine the relevancy and the content of occupationally-oriented courses. Industrial technology programs are available in apprenticeship and technical fields. Courses are geared to the needs of industry and are modified as community needs change.

Other courses are designed to assist students in skills development. These include, among others, reading improvement, effective study skills, career awareness, job employment skills, introduction to mathematics, and prealgebra. English as a Second Language is offered for non-native speakers of English who desire to learn English or to improve their proficiency.

Each year, approximately 1,500 students transfer to four year colleges and universities to continue their education. Modesto Junior College has earned a strong reputation statewide for its lower division preparation. Students who properly plan courses of study and general education requirements in many majors are able to continue into their junior years at transfer institutions with no loss of time or credit.

## Service Area Profile

California’s Central Valley runs approximately 450 miles along the center of the state and is roughly 40-60 miles wide. The current population of the Central Valley is estimated at over seven million people. Population growth in the region has slowed in recent years and is now estimated to be 4.85%, similar to the statewide average. Throughout the Central Valley unemployment rates remain substantially higher than the rest of the state and the nation.

Stanislaus County, which forms the core of the college’s service area, covers 1,515 square miles. The county is mostly farmland yet has nine incorporated cities. The region has a diverse economy. Leading industries include health care and social assistance, government, retail trade, manufacturing, accommodation and food services, and crop and animal production. Yet unemployment remains a problem, with the unemployment rate substantially higher (9.6% in early 2016) than the state as a whole (5.7%).

Stanislaus County is one of the top ten agricultural counties in California. The area’s leading commodities are milk, almonds, chickens and eggs, cattle and calves, tomatoes, walnuts, silage, and peaches. Currently top manufacturing employers in Stanislaus County are E. & J. Gallo Winery, Del Monte Foods (fruit products), Seneca (vegetable processing), Stanislaus Food Products (fruit and vegetable processor), Silgan Containers (metal food containers), Frito-Lay (snack food products), Racor (filtration products), Pacific Southwest Container and Foster Farms Dairy (dairy operations).

The top nonmanufacturing employers are Stanislaus County (county government), Modesto City Schools, Memorial Medical Center, Doctors Medical Center, Save Mart, Modesto Junior College, Wal-Mart, City of Modesto, and Sutter Gould Medical Foundation.

The region’s ten fastest growing industries through 2020 are projected to be:

* HMO Medical Centers (+39%)
* Services for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities (+36%)
* Warehouse Clubs and Supercenters (+31%)
* Home Health Care Services (+29%)
* General Warehousing and Storage (+27%)
* Postharvest Crop Activities (+25%)
* Discount Department Stores (+21%)
* Temporary Help Services (+20%)
* Wineries (+18%)
* Limited-Service Restaurants (+12%)

## Demographics

As of 2015, the population of Stanislaus County was estimated to be 535,483. Currently Hispanics make up 44.58% of the population, which is a slight plurality. By 2020 the share of Hispanics is expected to increase to roughly 46.5% while other minority groups are expected to see smaller increases and the number of white, non-Hispanics is expected to decrease. As of spring 2016, 48% of MJC students are Hispanic, an increase of eight percentage points since 2013.

In terms of age cohorts, the number of area residents between the ages of 15 to 19 years is expected to decline by 1,200 by the year 2020, a decrease of 3% from 2015 numbers. Similarly, the number of residents between the ages of 20 to 24 years is projected to decline by 2,697 over the same timeframe, a change of -7%. In the 2014-15 academic year the number of MJC students between the ages of 18 to 24 was 15,539 (64% of the total student population).

77% of the adult population in Stanislaus County does not possess a college degree, which is significantly higher than the state of California or the nation as a whole. The percentage is even higher for Hispanic adults in the county as fully 87% do not possess a college degree. In addition, nearly one-third of Stanislaus residents have not progressed academically past a high school diploma and an additional 15% have less than a 9th grade education.

The three counties that provide the most students for Modesto Junior College are Stanislaus County (almost 84%), San Joaquin County (over 9%), and Merced County (over 1%). Their population is expected to increase 5-6 percent in the next five years (2010-2015).

## Accreditation

MJC has been continuously accredited by ACCJC since 1952, with the most recent comprehensive review in 2011. In addition, the following programs are accredited separately by external organizations:

* The Medical Assisting Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.
* The Nursing Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and the California Board of Registered Nursing
* Respiratory Care, CoARC
* Paramedic, ?
* Fire science?
* Nursing assistant & home health aide
* Vet tech?

## Student Achievement and Institution-set Standards