

SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

ASPIRE Program

The ASPIRE (Asian/Pacific Islander Resources for Excellence) Program is designed to enhance the academic and personal success of Asian/Pacific Islander students, utilizing the commitment and skills of faculty, staff, and mentors. **The program welcomes all students**, regardless of their age, gender, or ethnic background, who may benefit from the nurturing services this program offers.

The ASPIRE Program offers courses in Communication Studies, English, Ethnic Studies, History, Math, and Psychology. Success in these courses will provide the foundation for student achievement of academic and career goals. These courses employ culture-specific course materials and learning strategies.

The key support components of the ASPIRE Program are culturally sensitive tutoring, counseling, mentoring, book loan and scholarship opportunities. ASPIRE tutoring helps students succeed in their courses.

For office hours and additional information, please contact the ASPIRE Office at (408) 274-7900, ext. 6227 or visit our website at <https://www.evc.edu/programs-academics/academic-resources/aspire>.

Enlace Program

The Enlace Program is designed to help Chicanx/Latinx students succeed. It is a unique academic program established in 1983 and maintained under the EVC Language Arts Division celebrating 40 years of academic services. The goals of Enlace are:

- Enroll and provide culturally responsive academic services for Chicanx/Latinx students.
- Enable Chicanx/Latinx students to successful completion of the academic core (English, math, and science).
- Counsel Chicanx/Latinx students effectively through the mainstream of transfer and occupational courses in a timely manner.
- Encourage and support academic success with a highly dedicated team of faculty and staff supporting a positive academic experience to help students achieve their maximum potential.

Enlace is a community investment in education supported by Chicanx/Latinx community professionals who serve as mentors sharing their personal academic, and career experiences to motivate and encourage students with a *"si se puede"* determination.

Enlaces' Lending Library provides books and calculators while enrolled in Enlace courses. Enlaces exceptional free English and math summer academies prepare Enlace students with a significant educational advantage. Every spring we host a bilingual-bicultural event, the Enlace Excelencia in Education Celebration, where we honor Enlace students, their families, and award scholarships.

Enlace student organizations assist to retain students by contributing to the campus and community. They develop leadership and networking skills vital for success. The Enlace Student Association (ESA), the Enlace Honors Society (EHS), and SACNAS (Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in the Sciences) are the three student organizations.

The Enlace office is located on the 3rd floor in the new Language Arts building. There is no need for an application simply contact the Enlace Program Coordinator at (408) 274-7900, ext. 6598, or visit our website.

Honors Program

The Evergreen Valley College Honors Program serves high achieving students in all majors and interests on our campus by:

- Allowing Honors Credit by way of individual class contracts with the instructor, which must be approved by the coordinator.
- Awarding of yearly scholarships to active Honors students.
- Providing specialized counseling.
- Providing priority registration privileges which allow active, qualified Honors students to register early.
- Acknowledging Honors work both on student's transcripts and at Graduation.
- Inviting all Honors students to participate in campus events, and to use the Honors office for homework, meetings, and other gatherings.
- Encouraging Honors students to provide 5 hours of volunteer service to the campus each semester.

New and incoming students must accrue 12 units of college credit at Evergreen Valley College and achieve a GPA of at least 3.25 before they qualify for the Honors Program. Applications are processed by checking the student's GPA, then informing the student by mail or email of acceptance. Within one semester following admittance, each Honors student must submit to the Honors Program Office at least one signed contract from an Evergreen Valley College instructor. The contract must contain a minimum of two of the Honors course criteria, be approved as meeting program standards, be academic in nature and from a transfer level class, and be completed with a grade submitted by the end of the semester. The contract submitted to the Honors Program Office must stipulate the course, the number of units, the instructor, and the Honors project the student will complete in order to remain an Honors student in good standing and an active member of the Honors program, which allows the students to be eligible for priority registration. Students also need to complete 5 hours of community service each semester in order to retain priority registration.

Please consider this opportunity if you are a serious student who wants to stand out as exceptional; this continuous academic support during your undergraduate education can make a difference now and when you transfer.

Handouts and information are always available in the office, and the hours of staffing are posted. For more information, contact the Program Coordinator at (408) 274-7900, ext. 6566, visit the office in A3-220A, or see our website at <https://www.evc.edu/programs-academics/academic-resources/honors>

Honors at Graduation

Graduation with "President's Honors" is granted to graduating students who earn a 4.00 grade point average in all units attempted, both transfer and District. "Graduation with Honors" is granted to graduating students who earn an overall grade point average of 3.5 to 3.99 for all transfer and District units attempted. Students with P/NP grades earned after the 04-05 academic year should be aware that they may not be able to convert P/NP to letter grades to determine honors eligibility at graduation (pending board policy revision and Title 5 regulations).

Service-Learning and Public Service Program

EVC Service-Learning & Public Service program prepares students for lifelong civic engagement in pursuit of a more equitable and sustainable world. The program partners with local, and national non-governmental organizations and campus programs to provide students with real life experiences that meets identified community and campus needs to enhance course learning objectives, major and career goals.

Student Benefits

- Gain greater understanding of their courses and major field
- Obtain real life experiences
- Develop critical and problem-solving skills
- Expand knowledge of social issues
- Develop cultural competence
- Enhance transfer and scholarship applications
- Gain employable skills
- Obtain service hours notation on EVC Official Transcript
- Apply for the Presidents Volunteer Award

To learn more about this exciting program, visit our website at <https://www.evc.edu/programs-academics/academic-resources/service-learning-public-service> or in the Acacia Building, Room A4-224, or give us a call at 408-223-6770.

Umoja-AFFIRM Program

Umoja-AFFIRM's philosophy is that the classroom experience must be rewarding to students and that they should be exposed to and/or involved in a variety of specialized learning strategies in supportive learning environments. Umoja is a Kiswahili word meaning *unity* and the acronym AFFIRM means Academic Force For Inspiration Retention and Matriculation.

The major focus of Umoja-AFFIRM is to assist students in developing positive self-images as successful college students while providing them with the opportunity to acquire a solid foundation of skills in a supportive environment. The overall goal of Umoja-AFFIRM is to provide academic and professional assistance that will significantly increase graduation and transfer rates. Although specifically designed for African American students, Umoja-AFFIRM serves all students who desire the nurturing services of the program, regardless of race.

As an academic support program, Umoja-AFFIRM offers both courses and services meant to enhance and challenge students to excel across multiple disciplines. Available Umoja-AFFIRM courses includes CHEM 015, ENGL 001A, ENG 001B, ENGL 001C, MATH 063, COUNS 014, ETH 010, ETH 011, ETH 020, HIST 021.. All courses offered will enhance success and progress towards the desired goal.

Support Services

1. Academic Counseling
A counselor is assigned to work specifically with all Umoja-AFFIRM students. Academic counseling makes it possible for each student to discuss and explore options about their future goals and to

develop an educational plan that maps the route by listing courses in sequence that will assist them to attain their goals.

2. Tutoring
Students receive one-on-one assistance with their course work with experienced tutors. This service provides students with the encouragement and support needed to succeed.
3. Scholarship and book loans
These are made available to assist as many students as possible. The Umoja-AFFIRM scholarship is awarded in the spring semester only. Book loans are offered for both the fall and spring semesters.

For more information, visit Umoja-AFFIRM in the Acacia building (AC-130), call us at (408) 274-7900 ext. 6853, or visit us online at <https://www.evc.edu/programs-academics/academic-resources/umoja-affirm>

Women & Gender Studies

Be The Reason For Social Change

To challenge all forms of oppression, both our AA-T Social Justice - Gender Studies and AA General Studies with Emphasis in Women and Gender Studies degrees, have been designed to create innovative teaching and learning environments and experiences where students study how to question the status quo, apply their knowledge to solving social problems and are empowered to become agents of social change for advancing equal right and opportunities for all.

Our program centers on an interdisciplinary, intersectional, transnational, and social justice approach to the study of women, gender, and sexuality. Students who complete our degrees go on to pursue careers in Advocacy, Business, Education, Health Care, Law, Public Policy, Non-government organization Social Work, and much more.

So, if you are looking for a degree that will help you follow your passion and make a difference in the world, then major in Women & Gender Studies at EVC.