



PALOMAR PROMISE



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Palomar Promise?

The Palomar Promise is a comprehensive student success program that is designed to increase the college-going rate of local high school graduates. Through a package of free financial resources and academic support services, WE PROMISE to assist students to enroll in college, stay on track to complete their academic and career development goals, and upon graduation from Palomar College, either enter the workforce or transfer to the four-year college or university of their choice.

How do I apply for the Palomar Promise?

Eligible students must first apply to Palomar College by completing the Palomar College admissions application. Students will be required to join the First Year Experience (FYE) Program to receive Promise Program funding. Eligible students who choose to join the FYE/Promise Program by May 5, 2017 will receive first priority to receive financial support from the Promise.

Eligible students may continue to apply to the FYE and Promise Program throughout the summer, but will only receive financial support if funds are still available.

Who can apply for the Palomar Promise?

All 2017 high school graduates who attended an eligible high school within the Palomar College district service area. (Please see list on website)

Students must also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act application and the Board of Governors Fee Waiver (BOGFW) application; enroll full-time (a minimum of 12 units) at Palomar College within one year of high school graduation; and agree to participate in the FYE Program and follow the FYE/Promise Student Success Agreement.

Can undocumented students benefit from the Palomar Promise?

Yes. 2017 high school graduates from designated high schools who are eligible to file a California Dream Act application and meet the eligibility criteria for an AB540 waiver can apply for the Palomar Promise.

Palomar College is committed to protecting the privacy of all students and will not release any personal information to a third party without the permission of the student or unless mandated by court order.

What are the benefits of the Palomar Promise?

- One year of free course enrollment and related registration fees at Palomar College

- Up to \$1,000 in textbook assistance during the first year of enrollment
- Specialized academic and career planning with related support services provided through the First Year Experience (FYE) Program
- Priority enrollment while enrolled at Palomar College
- Guaranteed admission to CSU San Marcos if students meet transfer eligibility requirements

How does a student maintain eligibility for the Palomar Promise?

A student must agree to actively engage in the FYE/Promise Program by enrolling in a minimum of 12 units per semester, meet with a Student Success Counselor to establish a student education plan, maintain at least a 2.0 GPA while attending Palomar College, and adhere to the FYE/Promise Student Success Agreement.

What financial aid support does the Palomar Promise provide?

Upon acceptance to the Palomar Promise Program, participating students will receive the following financial support for up to two consecutive semesters:

Enrollment Fees	\$42 per unit (up to 18 units each semester)
Textbook Assistance	Up to \$500 per semester (\$1,000 for the year)
Health Fee	\$16 per semester
Parking Fee	\$45 per semester

What academic support does the Palomar Promise provide?

The two primary goals of the Palomar Promise Program are to increase access to higher education by removing the financial barriers to attend college and to increase college completion by providing a comprehensive set of academic support services from the FYE Program.

To be eligible to join the Palomar Promise, students will be required to participate in the FYE Program and to sign an FYE/Promise Student Success Agreement. Students also will be expected to meet with a Student Success Counselor to establish an education plan. Participating students will be expected to follow their education plan, meet with a Student Success Counselor as needed, and actively participate in specialized academic and career workshops, tutoring services, and financial literacy services.



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Why is participation in FYE important?

The year-long First Year Experience (FYE) Program focuses on providing first-year students with the academic resources and support needed to transition successfully to college. The program encourages academic achievement, social integration, and personal success with the assistance of a strong support network of peers, staff, and faculty. Students participate in an orientation and receive individual college planning and financial aid application assistance, referrals to college resources, mentoring, and tutoring support. FYE students also participate in academic enrichment, career, and social activities throughout the year to ensure long-term college engagement.

Will the Palomar Promise help me complete my degree and transfer?

Through their participation in the FYE/Promise Program, Promise students will be expected to establish a formal education plan that is streamlined to help them complete their degree requirements in a reasonable time frame. The FYE/Promise Program will also provide access to specialized workshops, tutorial services, and financial literacy workshops throughout the year.

Promise students who complete their degree and meet transfer eligibility requirements for CSU will be guaranteed admission to CSU San Marcos. Additionally, they will receive priority enrollment at CSUSM and be given a streamlined education plan to help them complete their bachelor's degree in a reasonable time frame.

Are there other Palomar Promise resources that students can access?

In the Spring of 2016, Palomar College entered into a partnership with the San Marcos Unified School District (SMUSD) and the San Marcos Promise to provide financial support to high school graduates of SMUSD. Through this partnership, called Palomar Promise+, SMUSD graduates who earned at least a 2.5 high school grade point average may be eligible for up to two years of financial support while attending Palomar College plus two additional years of financial support if students transfer to CSUSM. More information about the Palomar Promise+ Program can be found at www.thesanmarcospromise.org/programs/palomarpromise.

How is the Palomar Promise funded?

The Palomar Promise not only supports individual students, but contributes to the strength and vitality of our community by increasing the college-going rate of our youth, and providing quality academic and training programs for those who are entering the workforce. Through the efforts of Palomar College and the Palomar College Foundation, the Palomar Promise Program is working collaboratively with education, business, and government partners to raise funds to support the Promise for many generations to come.

Palomar College and the Palomar College Foundation have established a fundraising goal of \$15 million dollars to establish an endowment. Our inaugural donors are Follett Higher Education Group, Inc., that pledged \$1 million dollars, and the Palomar College Foundation that pledged \$500,000 dollars.

How do I donate to the Palomar Promise?

Individuals and organizations that are interested in supporting the Palomar Promise should contact the Palomar College Foundation at 760-744-1150 x2735.

For information about the Palomar Promise eligibility and admissions:

760-744-1150 x2164

For information about FYE/Promise services and activities:

First Year Experience (FYE)

760-744-1150 x3931

For Information about contributing to the Palomar Promise:

Debbie King, *Acting Executive Director*

Palomar College Foundation

760-744-1150 x2725



FREE FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE

www.palomar.edu/palomarpromise

