


PUMA Center and  
First-Year Student Options  
at DVC



# College

## Don't do it alone!

Want to work with other students and friendly faculty?

Who share your interest and concerns and want to see you succeed?

Check out DVC's learning communities, housed in the PUMA (Puente, Umoja, MESA Alliance) Center.

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# Learning Communities

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In a learning community, you take a set of classes (two or more) together, which gives you a great opportunity to make friends. Even better, these shared classes are specifically designed to help you do your best as a college student. Classes in a learning community are linked by common themes or student interest.

- Linked or themed course
- Specialized counseling and transfer support
- Enrichment activities like field trips, guest speakers and mentoring
- Tutoring and academic support
- Opportunities for community involvement and internships
- Guidance on career planning, transfer, financial aid, and scholarship applications



# PUMA Learning Communities



## PUEENTE

If you're the first in your family to go to college and you're planning to transfer. Puente is an award-winning interdisciplinary program designed to help more of California's educationally underrepresented students transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The program includes English, Counseling Mentoring.



## UMOJA

Join a thriving community of African American and other students. The linked courses provide a structure for our community, with core courses in Counseling, African American focused social science, and community-lined choices for students in English and Mathematics.



## MESA

Are you the first in your family to go to college? Are you eligible for financial aid? Then MESA is the place for you! The program provides academic enrichment, major-specific advising, research experience, early exposure to four year schools, professional development.



## Mission

The mission of the Puente Project is to increase the number of educationally underrepresented students who enroll in four-year colleges and universities, earn college degrees and return to the community as mentors and leaders of future generations. The program is open to all students. Founded in 1981.

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# The Puente Program

- **English instruction**
    - Puente students take two consecutive writing classes, English 118 and English 122. These classes provide a supportive and stimulating environment for Puente students to build confidence in their writing skills through an exploration of the Mexican American/Latino experience.
  - **Counseling**
    - Puente students work closely with their Puente counselor , exploring career options, developing an academic educational plan and identifying lifetime goal. Students visit University of California and California State University campuses and attend an annual Puente student transfer conference.
  - **Mentors**
    - Each Puente student is matched with a mentor from the business or professional community. Mentors share with students their personal, academic and career experiences, and provide a window into "real-life" work environments. The network of trained Puente mentors provides many resources for the Puente students, their families, their colleges and the community.
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# Mission

The Umoja Community seeks to educate the whole student – body, mind and spirit. Informed by an ethic of love and its vital power, the Umoja Community will deliberately engage students as full participants in the construction of knowledge and critical thought. African and African American intellectual, cultural, and spiritual gifts inform Umoja Community values and practices. The Umoja Community seeks to nurture knowledge of and pride in these treasures. The learning experience within the Umoja Community will provide each individual the opportunity to add their voice and their story to the collective voices and stories of the African Diaspora.

The Umoja Community at Diablo Valley College joined with the statewide community in spring 2013.

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Umoja Learning  
Community Student  
Interest Form

Friend of Umoja Student  
Interest Form

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# Umoja Program Structure

Mandatory Umoja classes for Spring 2018

(both classes are required to be in the Learning Community)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>
● Socio 121 (6205)	3 units	MW	9:30-10:50 AM
● Career 110 (6360)	3 units	MW	11 AM-12:20 PM

## Mandatory orientation

- Thursday, January 25, 5-8 PM
- Students joining Umoja for Cohort 6 must attend the Orientation.

Optional courses with Umoja trained instructors offered as well.



MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) is a statewide program for full-time students majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics. The program provides academic enrichment, major-specific advising, research experience, early exposure to four year schools, professional development and addresses other important needs of science and engineering majors. The program is supported by industry, so students learn firsthand about career options and learn about scholarships, internships and special programs.

The MESA program at DVC started in the fall of 2014 with 47 students. The program currently serves over 100 MESA and 70 Friends of MESA (FOM) students.

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# MESA at DVC offers:

- Academic workshops. Support in math and science classes. Collaboration in tackling complex concepts
  - The PUMA Center is a space where MESA students can meet and study.
  - A D2L home site for communication and announcements.
  - Academic advising/counseling. Assistance in academic planning with the goal of transferring with a math, science or engineering major.
  - Professional development. Through workshops, improve resume writing and interviewing skills. Support in applying for internships related to your math, science or engineering major. Field trips.
  - MESA sections and Supplemental Instruction for select STEM classes.
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# Eligibility

- Be a US Citizen/Permanent resident/ AB 540,
  - Receive Financial Aid and/or be a First Generation College Student,
  - be a declared STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) major or be willing to declare STEM major by the end of the semester,
  - have completed intermediate algebra,
  - have taken (or be working towards) at least 2 consecutive courses of calculus,
  - be a full time student at DVC.
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# How to apply?

Each learning community has their own application

- Puente & Umoja is a paper application (soon online)
- MESA is online [www.dvc.edu/current/learning-community/mesa](http://www.dvc.edu/current/learning-community/mesa)
- FYE application is online at [dvc.edu/current/learning-community/first-year-experience](http://dvc.edu/current/learning-community/first-year-experience)
- Applications accepted for each fall semester; MESA each semester.
- Applications are available at the PUMA Center
- Information on all programs at: <http://www.dvc.edu/current/learning-community/>

# First Year Experience (FYE) at DVC is designed to help students:

- gain awareness of campus resources and support services,
- feel more connected, comfortable and at home in their college community,
- acquire academic and life skills to succeed in college, and
- reach their educational goals of earning a certificate or degree, and/or transferring
- to a university.

# FYE Program Elements

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## Welcome Day

An event that allows all first year students to explore their campus community, attend informational workshops, and connect with their instructors, counselors, staff, and peers. This event is offered at the San Ramon campus and the Pleasant Hill campus in mid August.

## College Success Workshops

Offered throughout the semester and available to all students, these workshops help students develop the emotional and academic skills they need to succeed in college. All workshops are free and no registration is required. FYE students will be required to attend some student success workshops.

## FYE Learning Community

Students enroll in an English course linked with a transferable general education course and a “New Student Success Strategies class” designed to introduce students to valuable campus resources and college success skills. Together, these courses provide students with valuable instruction, information, and guidance during their first semester at DVC with support from their peers and instructors in a collaborative and reflective environment.

# FYE Learning Community Eligibility

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To be eligible for an FYE learning community, students must be:

- new to college
- available for classes on MW
- interested in one of three tracks for the Fall 2018:
  - Eligible for English 118 or English 122 (through placement or DVC English assessment test) for Language and Communication track
  - Eligible for Math 120 for STEM Pathways track
  - Eligible for English 118 or English 122 for Business track



# CONTACTS

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