

# CSUN | CONNECTIONS

## “Re-Route to Success” Partnership

CSUN Connections is a collaborative effort between California State University, Northridge (CSUN), L.A. Mission College, L.A. Pierce College and L.A. Valley College to streamline student transfer across these four partnering institutions in order to help students reach a degree more efficiently. CSUN Connections targets students who may have gotten off-track through two distinct pathways - “Claim What You’ve Earned” and “Re-Route to Success.”

Like many successful reverse transfer partnerships across the country, Claim What You’ve Earned will help eligible CSUN transfer students obtain an associate degree from a participating CSUN Connections community college. To learn more about this pathway, visit [www.csunconnections.org](http://www.csunconnections.org).

Re-Route to Success will re-engage CSUN first-time freshmen who have been academically disqualified, with the goal of enrolling them at a participating CSUN Connections community college, and creating a clear path back to CSUN. This document contains more information on the Re-Route to Success pathway.

### **Why was the Re-Route to Success pathway developed?**

Nearly one in three first-time college freshmen do not continue on to their sophomore year. Students can get off-track for a variety of reasons; they may experience challenges with financing college, managing competing familial and/or work responsibilities, adjusting to campus life, or adjusting to the rigors of college-level academics. For students experiencing academic difficulty, the consequences can compound quickly – from being placed on academic probation, to losing financial aid eligibility, to being dismissed from their institution altogether.

In order to address these challenges locally, Re-Route to Success was developed to re-engage first-time freshmen who have gotten off-track during their first year in college, leading to their academic disqualification from CSUN. Through Re-Route to Success, disqualified students will be able to enroll at a participating CSUN Connections community college, earn transferable credit, and—with completion of an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT)—receive guaranteed admissions back to CSUN as an upper-division transfer student.

**These students set out to earn a bachelor’s degree. Why are we encouraging them to enroll in community college?**

Unfortunately for students, things do not always go as planned. But experiencing academic difficulty during the first year of college should not be the end of their academic careers. Disqualified CSUN students can benefit from enrolling at a community college and completing an associate degree on their way to a bachelor's degree.

CSUN Connections partner community colleges are committed to evaluating disqualified students' previously completed CSUN coursework and advising them on the most efficient path to regain admissions to CSUN. For most disqualified students, the Associate Degree for Transfer can provide that efficient path by streamlining lower and upper division requirements across the two institutions, capping the number of units required for both the associate and bachelor's degrees, and by guaranteeing their admissions into the California State University system.

### **How are students being contacted regarding their eligibility for Re-Route to Success?**

The CSUN Admissions Office has sent all disqualified students an email communication to notify them of their academic standing. In late July, students will receive another communication detailing their options for reinstating their status at CSUN, including the Re-Route to Success pathway. The email communication will list the primary points of contact at CSUN and at the three CSUN Connections partner community colleges; students will be directed to contact the CSUN Connections representative at their nearest community college for additional information.

Students can also find additional information on the project website, [www.csunconnections.org](http://www.csunconnections.org), which was developed by The Center for Visual Communication (VISCOM), a student-run creative agency at CSUN.

### **How is each community college implementing Re-Route to Success?**

Each community college has designated a primary point of contact for CSUN Connections. This contact person will work closely with Re-Route to Success students to help them understand their options for enrolling in community college.

Understanding that disqualified students have had negative experiences while trying to navigate college, CSUN Connections advisors should provide proactive and individualized support with administrative processes (i.e. admissions, applying for financial aid, completing an educational/transfer plan, registering for courses, etc.) and work to anticipate and remove any potential barriers. The CSUN Connections advisor should serve as a "one-stop" point of contact who can assist the student from start to finish so that the student does

not have to bounce between numerous individuals working across multiple offices or departments within the community college.

The designated CSUN Connections counselors are as follows:

<b>CSUN</b>	Geraldine E. Sare Undergraduate Studies	dean.sare@csun.edu (818) 677-6968
<b>L.A. Mission College</b>	Diana Bonilla Student Success Center	bonilladi@lamission.edu (818) 364-7655
<b>L.A. Pierce College</b>	Career & Transfer Center  <b><i>Student Last Name Starting with the Letters A-K:</i></b> Akadina Amrekhasadeh  <b><i>Student Last Name Starting with the Letters L-Z:</i></b> Judy Lam	amrekha@piercecollege.edu (818) 710- 2907  Lamj2@piercecollege.edu (818) 710-2907
<b>L.A. Valley College</b>	Reggie Reed Counseling Department	reedrk@lavc.edu (818) 947-2643

**What are the benefits associated with completing an associate degree?**

Completing an associate degree on the way to a bachelor’s degree offers students real benefits. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that associate degree holders enjoy median earnings that are 8% higher than that of individuals with “some college” but no degree. For the millions of nontraditional students who balance school with work, family, and other life responsibilities, this immediate labor market return can be significant.

Beyond a bump in earnings, associate degree attainment also provides students important motivation to continue on the path to a bachelor’s degree. The Community College Research Center at Columbia University Teachers College reports that students who earn an associate degree have higher probabilities of completing a bachelor’s degree.

Lastly, earning an associate degree may help the student advance in their career trajectory by qualifying them for jobs that have higher education entrance requirements or making them eligible for promotion within their current places of employment.