GENERAL INFORMATION

ACADEMIC CALENDAR
MISSION STATEMENT
OVERVIEW
# Academic Calendar 2012-2013

**Legend:**
- Holiday - No Classes
- Instruction Begins/Ends
- Flex Day - No Classes
- Final Examinations

## Summer Session 2012: June 18 - July 26

- June 18: Instruction begins
- July 4: Independence Day Holiday
- July 26: Summer Session ends (6-week classes)

Summer Session final exams are held on the last day of class.

## Fall Semester 2012: August 20 - December 21

- August 15-17: Flex days
- August 20: Instruction begins
- September 3: Labor Day Holiday
- October 5, 8-9: Flex days
- November 12: Veterans Day Holiday
- November 22-24: Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 15-21: Final exams
- December 21: Semester ends

## Spring Session 2013: January 22 - May 24

- January 17-18: Flex days
- January 21: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- January 22: Instruction begins
- February 15: Lincoln's Birthday Holiday
- February 18: Washington's Birthday Holiday
- April 1: Board Holiday
- April 2-6: Spring break
- May 18-24: Final exams
- May 27: Memorial Day Holiday
- May 29: Semester ends

## Academic Calendar 2012-2013

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MISSION STATEMENT

VISION

Cuesta College is dedicated to accessible, high-quality education for the support and enhancement of student success, professional development, and the community we serve.

MISSION

At Cuesta, students acquire the tools to be academically successful, develop critical thinking skills and expertise, and learn to appreciate the contributions of all people in a diverse society.

At Cuesta, we work together with dignity and respect toward the common goal of serving our students.

At Cuesta, we respond effectively to the personal, academic, and professional needs of our community.

VALUES

Access - Success - Excellence

LOCATION

Cuesta College, the “home” college of the entire county of San Luis Obispo, operates two campuses within the San Luis Obispo County Community College District and offers an evening program of course work at the Arroyo Grande Center at Arroyo Grande High School.

The San Luis Obispo Campus is located in the Chorro Valley between the cities of San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay on California’s beautiful, coast-hugging Highway One. Here the college has a permanent campus on 150 district-owned acres, leased facilities on adjacent California National Guard property, and a 75-acre field campus.

The North County Campus sits on 105 acres among the rolling hills of Paso Robles on Buena Vista Drive near the junction of Highway 101 and Highway 46 East.

San Luis Obispo County is well known for its outstanding recreational features such as stream, lake, and ocean sports and an extensive park system.

OVERVIEW

HISTORY

The original junior or community college in San Luis Obispo County was initiated as a postgraduate division of San Luis Obispo High School in 1916 and remained in operation until the United States entered into World War I. In 1936, the San Luis Obispo High School District again formed a junior college, which remained in operation until June 1959.


During the 1964-65 college year, the San Luis Obispo County Junior College District offered a limited evening division program with 463 students registering for the fall semester and 696 enrolling for the spring semester. Temporary quarters were established at Camp San Luis Obispo, a California National Guard facility located halfway between San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. Classes and offices were situated in refurbished barracks, recreation rooms, and mess halls.

Despite the District’s modest beginnings, 917 day students and 991 evening students were enrolled in classes by the fall of 1965. Evening division classes also were conducted at three other locations in the county - Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, and Paso Robles. On October 4, 1965, the Board of Trustees of the San Luis Obispo County Junior College District named the new college “Cuesta College.” In 1971, the “junior” college district was renamed to “community college.”

In 1970, ground was broken for the college’s first permanent buildings, located on a 150-acre campus west of Camp San Luis Obispo. During the following 40 years, classroom buildings, a library, observatory, student center, art and music lab building, art gallery, high tech learning center, children’s center, performing arts center, and office spaces were constructed on the San Luis Obispo campus. By spring 2012, the student population on the San Luis Obispo Campus decreased to 8,000 students due to severe reduction in state funding.

Cuesta College has a long history, which dates back to the late 1960s. It is a history of teaching at off-campus instructional sites. Through the years, Cuesta has taught in Cambria, Morro Bay, Atascadero, Shandon, Paso Robles, Templeton, Arroyo Grande, and Nipomo.

In fall 1998, the college opened the North County Campus on its 105-acre site in Paso Robles. The campus, built almost exclusively with private gift support, has grown from 1,200 students the first semester to 3,000 day and evening students in spring 2012. The site began with modular buildings to be used until permanent buildings were approved by the state. In the summer of 2005, the first permanent building opened to students: The Fox Family Building. This building houses Allied Health, Math, and Science. The college broke ground for a second permanent building in spring 2010: The North County Campus Learning Resource Center. The Learning Center was completed in fall 2011 and began serving students in spring 2012. The building was named in honor of donors Dale and Mary Schwartz and dedicated May 24, 2012.

The South County Center is an off-campus evening instructional site at Arroyo Grande High School, provided in cooperation with the Lucia Mar Unified School District. During the spring 2012 semester, 600 evening students were served at this site.

Cuesta College now serves more than 11,000 students at all college locations. The college has become a center for community use by individuals, families, and community groups on an extended-day and year-round basis.

ACCREDITATION

San Luis Obispo County Community College District, Cuesta College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949 (415) 506-0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

The Licensed Vocational Nursing Program at Cuesta College is approved by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT, www.bvnpt.ca.gov) and by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.
The Associate Degree Registered Nursing program at Cuesta College is approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN, www.rn.ca.gov) and by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

The Psychiatric Technician program is approved by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT, www.bvnpt.ca.gov) and by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

The Central Coast Paramedic Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP, www.caahep.org) and approved by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professional (CoAEMSP, www.coaemsp.org) and by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

**EVENING CLASSES**

A varied schedule of college credit and non-credit classes is provided in the evening. In addition to classes housed in the regular facilities on the San Luis Obispo and North County campuses, evening classes are offered at Arroyo Grande High School, Paso Robles High School, Templeton High School and other common locations. These classes parallel all other Cuesta College classes in college credit value, prerequisites, standards, content, time devoted to preparation of assignment, and examination. Attendance and withdrawal rules, scholarship standards, and requirements for graduation with an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree are the same as for a regular semester.

**SUMMER SESSION**

The summer session offers a varied schedule of classes. Attendance and withdrawal rules, scholarship standards, and requirements for graduation with an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree are the same as for a regular semester but deadlines are based on the shorter summer schedule.

**NON-CREDIT**

Cuesta College offers a variety of non-credit classes in five areas:

1. Short-term vocational classes designed for upgrading job skills;
2. Wellness classes designed to enhance an individual’s physical fitness;
3. English as a Second Language classes designed for community members whose native language is not English;

**LIBRARIES**

The Cuesta College Libraries on the San Luis Obispo Campus and the North County Campus support the educational program of the college. Books, periodical subscriptions and audiovisual materials are closely coordinated with curriculum offerings. Holdings include general education and vocational education materials, and other resources for updating and increasing skills and knowledge.

Through an electronic information system, students can search the Cuesta College library catalog to determine what is owned and whether it is checked out. In addition, students can search indexes of periodicals, some of which include full text of the articles, and use the Internet to connect to catalogs of other libraries and other sources of information wherever they may be located. Remote searches of the Cuesta College Library catalog and databases can be performed over the Internet at http://library.cuesta.edu.

To assist students and community residents with their informational and research needs, librarians are available at the Reference desk on the San Luis Obispo Campus whenever the library is open and designated hours at the North County Campus. College librarians hold advanced degrees and as part of the college faculty teach research skills and help students locate the best resources for their educational needs.

Library facilities include areas for studying, photocopying, computer use, viewing audio/visual materials and library instruction. Comfortable surroundings invite leisurely browsing, reading and viewing, and provide a quiet place for contemplation and learning.

To borrow library materials, students must show photo identification. Community residents must show a current I.D. with local street address to use a courtesy library card.

Open computer labs on the San Luis Obispo and the North County campuses are provided for academic use only. Workstations are equipped with most software taught at Cuesta so that students can work on class projects outside scheduled lecture and lab times for their courses. One lab on each campus is adjacent to or in the Library. Smaller and more specialized labs are also available on the San Luis Campus on a more limited basis.