



Connections Degree Completion Pathway Student Information

1. What is the Connections Degree Completion Pathway?

The **Connections** Degree Completion Program is a multicultural program designed to prepare Hispanic and low-income SRJC students for transfer and/or completion of an Associate degree program in 3 years or less. The program provides help for students every step of the way, including getting ready for college, creating an educational plan, developing college-level writing skills, and taking the right courses to graduate. MI CASA (“my house”), a multicultural center, provides students with a place to study, relax, and find answers to your questions.

2. Who is eligible for the Connections Degree Completion Pathway?

The program is designed to serve the needs of Latino/Latina and low-income students who are coming to college for the first time or who are already enrolled at SRJC and need a pathway to successful degree completion.

3. How do I apply for the Connections program?

Contact Malena Hernandez

- Call at (707) 521-6906
- Email: mhernandezlegorreta@santarosa.edu

4. When does the program start?

The English (ENGL 307) class portion of Connections Summer Bridge Program begins **June 19, 2017** and lasts for 8 weeks.

5. Why should I choose Connections?

- Helps you become a successful college student who graduates in 3 years or less.
- Offers you a convenient 4-day a week schedule, and you can choose morning or afternoon.
- Provides you with a Counselor who will work closely with you every step of the way.
- Provides tutoring and support in the MI CASA multicultural center.
- Provides career exploration so that you can decide on a major or a viable career.

6. Can I get help with the cost of college?

Although the program itself does not give/provide students with a direct grant:

- Students who are low income may qualify for free tuition through the BOG fee waiver program. <https://financialaid.santarosa.edu/board-governors-fee-waiver>
- Based on financial needs, students may also be eligible for federal grants, such as the Pell grant that can provide up to \$5,775 per year. A grant is free money; you don't have to pay it back if you complete your college courses. <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/pell>
- Many students who meet the income and asset eligibility standards with a 2.0 GPA and submits a FAFSA or California Dream Act Application by 3/2/16 may also receive the Cal Grant. <http://www.fundyourfuture.org/>
- The College offers many scholarships, including the Doyle Scholarship of \$1,000 for every high school graduate with a 2.75 (C+) grade point average. <https://portal.santarosa.edu/SRWeb/ScholarshipAward.aspx?ScholarshipID=1626>
- The college costs \$46 per unit of attendance, or \$552 for each semester (12 units). Textbooks could cost \$50 to \$100 per class. Used books are available. <https://admissions.santarosa.edu/fees-refund-information>
- Note: Some types of financial aid are dependent on citizenship or status as a DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) or DREAM students. Our SRJC Financial Aid office can assist with those questions. <https://dream.santarosa.edu/>

Who can I contact for more information?

Hispanic Serving Institution office

Phone: (707) 521-6066

Email: hsi@santarosa.edu

Blanca Flores, Administrative Assistant

Phone: (707) 527-4570

Email: bflores@santarosa.edu

Malena Hernandez, MI CASA Coordinator

Phone: (707) 521-6906

Email: mhernandezlegorreta@santarosa.edu

Juan Arias, Project Director

Phone: (707) 521-7802

Email: jarias@santarosa.edu