

San Diego Miramar College (SDMC) Spring 2018 Graduation Survey: Research Brief

Prepared by the *Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness*

What was the purpose of the study?

- (1) Learn about graduates' experiences at SDMC to inform institutional planning and reform
- (2) Learn more about students' post-graduation plans

What was our research method?

We distributed individualized links to an online survey to all students who were candidates for a SDMC certificate and/or degree in Spring 2018. 200 students responded, for a response rate of 16.5%.

What did we find?

SDMC plays an important role in shaping students' goals.

While a majority of respondents began their education in the San Diego Community College District with the intention of receiving either a degree or certificate at SDMC, others shared how their experience at SDMC shaped their desire to achieve these goals. However, a few students shared that institutional barriers had delayed or prevented them from achieving their initial goals.

We are doing well in supporting the “six factors of student success,” with the majority of respondents reporting that they felt directed, focused, engaged, nurtured, valued, and connected. From the student perspective, key strengths of SDMC include:

- Caring, supportive, and knowledgeable classroom instructional faculty and classified professionals who center students in their work
- High quality wrap-around services to support student success
- Flexibility and support for working professionals and students with complex needs
- Strong preparation for the next step of students' educational and personal journeys

Here's what SDMC could do better:

- Develop a stronger system for connecting struggling students to available support services
- Provide more opportunities for students to engage in career exploration and network with employers
- Ensure students feel like they are part of a greater community, for example, by connecting students to meaningful extracurricular activities
- Provide clearer directions about the courses that students need to take and the institutional requirements they need to meet in order to achieve their goals

Our alumni want to remain connected to SDMC.

SDMC alumni would like to participate in career fairs and other career-related events held on campus (56%), attend alumni networking events (53%), and receive an alumni newsletter (31%).