Thank you for the opportunity for more classes at SMC. Where can I find a list of classes?

From SMC’s home page (www.smc.edu), click on the yellow tab “Class Schedule” which is at the very top of the page. The Class Schedule page provides a searchable schedule of open classes updated every two hours as well as an electronic version of the printed schedule, which is updated daily. The state-funded and the self-funded classes are in separate schedules and both can be found on this page.

Are the self-funded classes the same as my regular State-funded classes?

Yes. These classes are the same classes found in the Santa Monica College catalog. All of these classes are taught by Santa Monica College faculty.

Will the self-funded classes appear on my SMC transcript?

Yes, the grades for self-funded classes will appear on your transcript in the same manner that your grades from regular classes at SMC are recorded.

How do I enroll in State-funded and/or self-funded classes?

Prior to enrolling, if you are a new student to Santa Monica College or have been away for two or more consecutive sessions, you must first file an application for admission online. There is no charge for filing this form. From SMC’s home page (www.smc.edu), click on the yellow tab “Admissions” which is towards the top of the page on the left hand side.

This web page will also take you through the steps to enroll in classes for Summer 2012. All students who have been admitted to SMC will be e-mailed an admissions letter, which will give you information on orientation, assessment, and your enrollment date and time.

Students enrolling in regular classes will not be able to enroll until their enrollment date and time. Enrollment will start in mid-May (the exact date is yet to be announced).

Students enrolling in the self-funded classes may enroll on a first-come, first-serve basis without waiting for an assigned enrollment date and time. Enrollment will start on the same day as enrollment in the regular State-funded classes.

When can I enroll in Summer 2012 classes?

Enrollment starts in mid-May 2012. The exact date is yet to be announced. All admitted students will be notified of the enrollment start date. If you are a new or returning student, you must submit an application in order to enroll.

Is SMC allowed to offer self-funded classes?
Yes. These self-funded classes are being offered pursuant to a contract education agreement between Santa Monica College and the Santa Monica Career and Transfer Alliance, a California nonprofit corporation. California Education Code section 78021 allows community colleges to provide contract education programs to nonprofit corporations.

Can you tell me more about contract education?

California’s community colleges have been offering education programs under contract arrangements for at least several decades. Currently, more than 50 of California’s 72 community college districts report revenue from contract education programs. A number of these programs offer courses for credit. Such courses must be developed in conformance with provisions of the California Education Code and Title 5 regulations governing community college credit courses. The courses being offered at Santa Monica College through the self-funded Advance Your Dreams program meet these provisions.

Is there more I can read about the background of this program?

Yes. Santa Monica College has provided a letter to the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office regarding SMC’s understanding of State statutes with regard to the College’s contract education initiative. Among other elements, the letter addresses the context of this initiative in promoting Access and Equity for Santa Monica College students. The letter and a 1986 statewide task force report on contract education in the community colleges can be found here.

How do I apply for the scholarships that are being offered to support my enrollment in these self-funded courses?

Scholarships for continuing students in good standing who meet certain qualifications will be available for self-funded courses to be offered in Summer 2012. The intent is for these scholarships to be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. The intent is also for the scholarships to be awarded immediately, as part of the online process for enrollment and payment of fees. The details of this process are under development and will be announced shortly.