



Start-of-Semester Information

Spring 2026

Know Your Rights Resources

As we start the spring term, and in light of heightened Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in the LA and OC regions, we understand that there may be added anxiety among our campus community. Cypress College and the North Orange County Community College District are committed to supporting and protecting all members of our community while ensuring you are in a community that is committed to you and your success.

We are taking this moment to share some information about our support programs available to Cypress College students. These programs provide crucial resources and services that help our students overcome barriers, succeed academically, and thrive personally.

Our [campus resource page](#) includes essential tools to help you feel ready. This includes links to the [District's protocol for immigration-related requests](#).

More information is available in Dr. Thayer's January 29 email with the subject line "Know Your Rights Resources."

UndocuAdvocate Training

We invite you to join us for an **UndocuAdvocate Training**, a professional development opportunity designed to deepen our collective understanding of the lived experiences of undocumented and mixed-status students in higher education. In today's complex educational landscape, undocumented students navigate unique institutional and pedagogical challenges. This training centers their experiences and explores the critical role we all play in fostering inclusive and affirming environment.

The training will be held on Tuesday, February 24, from 10 a.m.-noon. We strongly encourage faculty, staff, administrators, and student-facing professionals to attend and be part of this important conversation.



Additional information will be distributed next week or please contact AnneMarie Ruelas.

ChAT

The Charger Assessment Team, known as ChAT, has four referral branches designed to support students and our campus community. These branches are:

1. ChAT Cares — submit a ChAT Cares referral if you notice a student who may be struggling or facing challenges that could affect their well-being or engagement.
2. ChAT Conduct — submit a ChAT Conduct report for potential violations of BP 5500: Standards of Student Conduct.
3. ChAT Title IX — submit a ChAT Title IX report for concerns related to discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct.
4. ChAT Threat Assessment — submit a ChAT Threat Assessment report if a student may pose a risk to themselves or others.

Submit a report on the [ChAT webpage](#). For emergency situations, call Campus Safety at (714) 484-7387 and 911.

More information is available in a January 26 email from Celeste Phelps with the subject line of “The Charger Assessment Team (ChAT) is here for you!”

Information from Disability Support Services

In preparation for the start of the semester, below is some important information to assist in supporting DSS students in your courses.

- Accommodation Letters — Students who are eligible and wish to receive disability accommodations will request their accommodation letters through the DSS student portal. Faculty may access these letters for their students through the DSS Instructor Portal. Additional guidance is available on the How to Access Your Students’ Accommodations web page.
Please note: All accommodations must be requested and approved through DSS. Faculty are not required to implement any accommodation unless it is documented in the official accommodation letter or, in limited cases, approved by the college ADA compliance officer, Dean Celeste Phelps.
- Testing Accommodations — To request assistance with testing accommodations, please upload exams and provide relevant details through the DSS Instructor Portal. Additional guidance is available on the How to Submit Exam Information.



- Note-Taking Technology — DSS offers note-taking tools such as Otter and Genio, which students may use on their own devices. If a student experiences difficulty using these tools due to a disability, DSS may contact you to explore alternative note-taking options.
- DSS Classroom Presentation — To request a brief presentation for your class about DSS services, please complete the DSS Information Session Request Form.

For any questions or support, please contact DSS at (714) 484-7104 or email DSS@cypresscollege.edu.

Syllabus Statements

Please include the syllabus statements for Title IX, the Charger Assessment Team (ChAT), and accessibility in your completed syllabi. These statements are essential to ensuring students are well informed and supported, and they can also help you plan proactively for the semester ahead.

The full statements are available in a January 27 email from Celeste Phelps with the subject line of "Important Syllabus Statements -- Title IX; ChAT; Accessibility."

Lifeguard Stations

Two lifeguard stations are up and running to support our students this week and the first week of classes. The stations operate from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. daily through February 5. The first is located in Gateway Plaza between the flag pole and the Student Center. The other is located adjacent to the pond, between the L/LRC and Gym 1.

The ambassadors will provide students with directions and [campus maps](#), along with other information to facilitate a successful start to the semester.

Parking Information

Enforcement of parking permits for student spaces begins Wednesday, February 18. A visible and valid staff permit is required to park in staff spaces at all times during the week.

Students have been informed of the following:

Cypress College uses [an online parking permit vehicle registration management system](#) to activate your semester parking permit and add or remove vehicles you may park on campus.



Please register your vehicles using the instructions below. All vehicles that may be parked on campus must be registered in the parking permit vehicle registration management system.

Failure to register your vehicle or properly display a parking permit will result in a parking citation and fine of \$37.

If you activate your permit and add your vehicles in the system by Friday, February 6, your spring parking permit will be sent to you via mail. Permits registered on or after Saturday, February 7, will need to be picked up at the Campus Safety Office with valid ID and proof of parking permit payment.

Construction/VAPA Building Timeline

The major renovation of the former Fine Arts Building is continuing to progress on a timeline for an opening in Fall 2026. When the building re-opens, it will be re-named to align with the division name — Visual and Performing Arts.

Campus Technology

The Academic Computing Technologies helpdesk has returned to normal operating hours with staff available to help you from 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Also, to help ensure a smooth start to the semester, here are some web links and contact information for key technology resources.

- Argos Access & Training: For all questions related to Argos, please contact District Information Services Help Desk at: ISHelpdesk@noccoed.edu or by phone (714) 808-4849
- Banner Access & Training: For all questions related to Banner, please contact District Information Services Help Desk at: ISHelpdesk@noccoed.edu or by phone (714) 808-4849
- Office365: Microsoft has a number of online resources to familiarize you with the host of Office365 applications available – <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/training>
- Teams: We have assembled a number of [Teams resources](#) to familiarize you with the platform and learn how to use its features.
- Zoom: All campus staff are automatically setup with a Zoom account. You can [login using your Cypress email and password](#) as your credentials.



- Cypress Academic Computing Technologies Intranet: Here is a [SharePoint link to the ACT intranet site](#) where we maintain a library of guides with helpful information about technology use at Cypress College.
- Production Center: Our production center team is always ready to accept your submissions and will process them as quickly as possible. You can [submit jobs with the ServiceDesk ticket link in the portal](#).

Support Cypress College Students Through the Foundation

When you support the Employee Giving Program through the Cypress College Foundation at the start of this semester, your gift will be matched by the current Foundation Board president.

Every gift is matched. Every dollar donated goes to support students.

Begin giving or increase your current gift to double your impact in support of our students. You will also be entered for a chance to attend the Americana Awards or the Golf Classic.

[Start today.](#)

Stay Connected to Important Cypress College News

Each full week during the semester, the Office of Campus Communications publishes the @Cypress newsletter. Look for @Cypress in your inbox on Mondays.

In addition, keep up to date by visiting our social media sites, such as [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).

The office also shares Dr. Thayer's [Report to the Board of Trustees](#) following each meeting.

Semester Leadup Series

Each semester, the Office of Campus Communications also produces and distributes a series of emails to students in advance of the semester. This semester's lead-up series (so far) includes:

- 1/26 — [Spring 2026 Financial Aid Kickoff](#)
- 1/27 — [Academic Resources](#)
- 1/28 — [A&R Reminders](#)
- 1/29 — [Student Services & Support Programs](#)



- 1/30 — Dates and Deadlines
- 1/31 — President's Welcome Video

Updated: January 29, 2026