

LAVC's Transfer Alliance Program
(TAP/Honors)
March 2023 Newsletter

To: TAP Students and Faculty
From: TAP Director, Dr. Yih-Mei Hu, Music Department
TAP Counselor, Chris Petrini, Counseling Department

Dear TAP Students and Community,

We know for students transferring to their four-year institutions in Fall 2023, these next two months can be a stressful time waiting for acceptance letters. So...breathe in...and, just perform your best this final term of community college! But, make sure to also enjoy these final 3 to 4 months of LAVC wherever you can, as you will soon be transitioning along your higher education pathway. If on campus, take a moment to discover a new green space you've been meaning to.

Nearly all of our TAP students are balancing academically rigorous schedules with Honors units, while also working, being involved with campus clubs or programs, competing on Monarch Athletics teams, caring for family members, or researching careers and professional opportunities. You may look back at this point of your life and recognize it as one of the most challenging times—yet perhaps some of the most rewarding—as you make meaningful contributions to our campus and surrounding communities in whatever ways you are.

We are also aware of the many things happening in the world right now and recognize that many of us are affected, sometimes personally, by the events we witness or learn about. Thus, we want to affirm your future goals, whatever you aspire to be! Your plans have significance and credibility as you each seek to become change agents, despite facing many challenges.

Finally, we want to remind you of the personal and academic resources Los Angeles Valley College has to support all students, whether you are in your first year or your last at LAVC. Please visit the [Student Health Center](#) for wellness resources, the [Career/Transfer Center](#) for wide-ranging workshops, [chat with a librarian 24/7](#) or visit [ARC](#) for tutoring support, and find community in the [Mosaic Village](#).

Best,
Dr. Hu and Mr. Petrini

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I. TAP CERTIFICATION & TAP COMPLETION

By now, we have TAP Certified those LAVC students whom applied to UCLA and are hoping to take advantage of their Transfer Alliance Program benefits. If you believe you qualify but did not complete the [UCLA TAP Applicant Agreement](#), please contact Mr. Petrini, immediately. It may be too late, but please reach out to him directly for more information.

All LAVC TAP students fulfilling their 15 or 18 Honors units, whether they applied to UCLA or not, and whether they are earning an associate degree or not, are considered program completers. As such, they will receive this notation on their LACCD/LAVC transcript: "Transfer Alliance / Honors (TAP) Completed – Spring 2023." Please [make an appointment with Mr. Petrini](#) with "TAP COMPLETION" as the Appointment Reason to be sure.

II. CLASS OF 2023 COMMENCEMENT – JUNE 6, 2023

Any student completing associate degree requirements by the end of Spring 2023 are eligible to participate in LAVC's Graduation Ceremony held on Tuesday, June 6, at 9:00AM in Monarch Stadium. Please fully read and understand the below points and visit [LAVC Commencement](#).

1. **How do I petition to graduate?** You are strongly encouraged to meet with a counselor to Petition to Graduate **no later than March 10, 2023, if you want your name to appear in the Commencement Program**. If you are unable to schedule an appointment with a counselor on or before that date, please submit a Petition to Graduate through the [Student Portal](#) under the **Academic Records** tile. Your petition will then be reviewed by a counselor and approved if you are eligible for graduation. See the [Catalog](#) or [Program Map](#) to check.
2. **Who is invited to the 2023 Commencement ceremony?** Students who have completed an associate degree during Summer 2022, Fall 2022, and Winter 2023 are invited to participate in Commencement. Students who will be completing an associate degree at the end of Spring 2023 may also take part in the Commencement Ceremony as candidates for graduation.
3. **How do I get invited to Commencement?** The Office of Student Life will send invitations to students who completed their associate degree requirements in Summer 2022, Fall 2022, and Winter 2023. If you are completing your degree requirements in Spring 2023 and you have submitted your Petition to Graduate **no later than March 10, 2023**, you will also be invited to take part in the graduation ceremony. Invitations will be sent out via email by April 30, 2023. If you do not receive your invitation by that date, please contact the Office of Student Life at (818)-778-5516. Seat reservations for Commencement must be made by **May 12, 2023**.
4. **LAVC Honors:** Information regarding honor regalia can be found at the [LAVC Bookstore](#) or [Office of Student Life](#).

5. Diplomas: Students who graduated in Summer 2022, Fall 2022, and Winter 2023 should have already received their diplomas. Diplomas are not distributed during Commencement. Your diploma will be sent to the Mailing Address on record. Please make sure this address is current. You may update your Mailing Address in your Student Portal. Please be aware diplomas are not a legal document. Your degree will be posted on your official transcript. If you need to provide proof of degree, an [official transcript may be ordered](#) online.

III. LAVC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS – Application Closes March 15

The Valley College Foundation has over 250 Scholarships with over \$160,000 available for students! **The online application is only open until Wednesday, March 15**. To apply, log in to your [LACCD Student Portal](#). Click on the “Scholarship Tile”, and then click on “Login Here” next to the Student Log In to start the application process. Visit the [LAVC Foundation website](#) or contact the Foundation Executive Director, Matt Durkan, at durkanmm@lavc.edu or call 818-947-2619 with questions. A flyer is also included at the end of this newsletter.

IV. HONORS CONTRACTS – Deadline Reminders

In addition to the All-Honors and Mixed-Sections courses offered each Fall and Spring semester, TAP students may also earn Honors credit for any LAVC course listed under [Current TAP Approved Courses](#) through an Honors Contract in order to satisfy their 15- or 18-Honors unit requirement.

TAP/Honors Contracts are not permitted for courses offered as dedicated “All-Honors” sections during that same term (see first table above), and contracts should be used to bridge any gaps throughout the program, so please plan your courses carefully. In addition, contracts may only be used for courses offered at LAVC.

The deadlines to submit page one of the contract form (with all blanks completed and all signatures) to Dr. Hu are as follows:

- Regular session courses (02/06/23--06/05/23) - **Friday, March 10, 2023**
- 8 Week A classes (02/06/23--03/29/23) - **Friday, February 10, 2023**
- 8 Week B classes (04/10/23--06/05/23) - **Friday, April 14, 2023**

Due to past issues and grievances, exceptions to the above deadlines cannot be made. If you or your professor has questions about contracts, please contact Dr. Hu.

V. HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE HOURS – Spring 2023

The TAP Director and Counselor are available every week to answer questions and provide assistance. Please stop by ACA 1414 or hop into our Zoom!

- Dr. Yih-Mei Hu, TAP Director: Thursdays, 12:00– 2:00pm, via [Zoom](#) and in person
- Mr. Chris Petrini, TAP Counselor: Mondays, 11:30AM– 1:30pm (via Zoom) and Wednesdays, 1:30– 3:30pm in ACA 1414 and via Zoom

VI. SUBMIT FAFSA FOR 2023-2024 | UC FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES

The priority deadline for many California financial aid programs is **March 2, 2023**.

If you haven't yet applied for financial aid, complete your [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or the [California Dream Act Application \(CADAA\)](#). LAVC's School Code is 001228.

If you need further assistance, please contact LAVC's [Financial Aid Office](#).

The [UC Tuition and Financial Aid website](#) suggests students should apply for financial aid, as it's the only way to guarantee you'll be considered for every type of aid possible, regardless of income level. More than half of UC undergraduates pay no tuition and *70 percent receive grants and scholarships*, and it all starts with submitting the FAFSA or CADAA.

Students and families may have questions about the cost of attendance. UC's [Tuition Stability Plan](#) helps students and families budget for a UC education by keeping systemwide tuition and fees stable and predictable and providing new resources for financial aid.

UC's [Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan](#) fully covers systemwide tuition and fees for California residents whose total family income is less than \$80,000 a year. The [Middle Class Scholarship Program](#) will cover up to 40 percent of systemwide tuition and fees for California residents whose total family income is less than \$217,000 per year. The maximum scholarship amount will vary depending on family income, assets and other financial aid awards.

Each campus provides [net price calculators](#) to help students and families estimate the amounts and types of financial aid they might receive. While the values produced in these calculators are not the actual amount students may receive, they are helpful.

VII. CCCP SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2023-2024: APPLICATION OPENS IN MARCH

For those continuing TAP students planning on being at LAVC for 2023-24 and wanting to transfer "to a selective Top Tier Research institution such as UCLA" for Fall 2024 are strongly encouraged to visit UCLA's [Center for Community College Partnerships \(CCCP\)](#) or their [Linktree](#). The Scholars Program application will open in March, so best to connect with LAVC's CCCP Team of advisors in the General Counseling Department next to Mr. Petrini's office, or else [follow them on Instagram](#) for most current information.

Students in CCCP have access to summer and year-long academic preparatory transfer programs which guide students through the community college experience, the UC application and admissions process, research and pre-graduate opportunities and career exploration. Critical Race Theory is used as a framework to address issues from a social justice perspective, academic excellence and educational equity.

VIII. DO YOU IDENTIFY AS A PRE-MEDICAL STUDENT?

If so, please check out the [FREE events in March and April](#) from [PreMedCC](#) to hear from leaders and professionals in the medical field offer advice on how they were able to launch into their careers **starting at a community college!** Here is a partial listing of workshops being offered:

- Friday, March 3: How to be a competitive applicant to UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine
- Friday, March 10: UCSD Medical Student Panel
- Saturday, March 11: How to be a competitive applicant to Keck USC School of Medicine
- Friday, March 17: UC Davis Medical Student Panel
- Saturday, March 18: How to study for the MCAT without an expensive prep course
- Friday, March 24: How to be a competitive applicant to Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine
- Friday, March 31: How to be a competitive applicant to Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago
- Saturday, April 1: A step-by-step guide from community college to medical school
- Saturday, April 1: Black men in white coats
- Friday, April 7: From community college to PhD at Stanford
- Saturday, April 15: Everything I wish I knew as a PreMed student
- Friday, April 28: How to prepare for medical school admissions

IX. CULTIVATING INTEREST IN RESEARCH CAREERS (CIRC) PROGRAM

If you are interested in a university level, hands-on summer research program at UCLA in partnership with the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, please [complete an application](#) by **Wednesday, March 15**. A flyer is included below.

To be [eligible](#), students must qualify as a student from an underrepresented group, or have a disadvantaged family background. Selected students will work with UCLA researchers and have the opportunity to attend national research conferences. If you have questions, please email: circprogram@cdrewu.edu.