

Case Study – Entry into PCC

Mariana has wanted to earn a college degree for as long as she can remember. Neither of her parents were able to go to college. Even though they had secure jobs that ensured Mariana and her younger brother, Diego, had everything they needed, it has always been a struggle. Mariana hopes that by getting a college degree, she will be able to improve life for her whole family.

With this goal firmly in mind, and with a whole lot of enthusiasm, Mariana enrolled at Citrus College in the Fall semester following her high school graduation. She chose Citrus partially because it was a smaller college and not too far from where she lives in Pasadena. With her younger brother still in school, and her parents unable to speak English, Mariana was often needed to help at home. Attending Citrus meant that Mariana would be able to attend parent conferences at Diego's school and accompany her parents to the bank, doctor's office, and such. Citrus also seemed a good choice because her high school counselor had indicated that "anyone can attend Citrus community college," and to her this seemed to mean that enrolling would be super easy.

Mariana got off to a rocky start at Citrus. The summer prior to starting, she worked two jobs to try and save up money for the extra costs she knew would accompany being a college student. As a result of working so much, and also because she was unaware of all the necessary steps to enroll in college, Mariana did not visit Citrus until the week before classes started. Consequently, she missed out on the chance to apply for financial aid and also wound up completing her assessment feeling a little frazzled and without doing any review. When things were said and done, Mariana was placed in a two-levels-below Math class and one-level-below English class. Because she was interested in STEM, she also enrolled in Geology and Biology classes.

Three weeks into the first semester at Citrus, Mariana felt like her dream of getting a college degree was starting to fall apart. Her father had injured himself at work, and she had to miss some of her classes to escort him to the doctor's office. While she was enjoying some aspects of her classes, she was also struggling with the amount of material being introduced and was feeling like perhaps she was not smart enough for college. Without any friends at Citrus, and also nobody at home to talk with about her struggles, Mariana felt isolated. At the end of the semester, she decided to drop out.

Two years have now passed, and Mariana has not been able to forget about her dream of earning a college degree. Things at home have gotten easier. Her younger brother is now a sophomore in high school and able to take care of himself. Her father's health has also improved significantly. The other day, she saw a flyer advertising the PCC Promise, and after reading a bit more online about the program and speaking with her family, Mariana has decided to take another run at her dream. This time, at PCC.

Although she is still not 100% sure, Mariana's current educational goal is to complete one of the STEM transfer programs, with a major in Computer Science.

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Having learned from her previous experience, and her brief review of online information, Mariana is aware that before starting classes in the Fall of 2018, she will need to: *apply to PCC*, *apply for financial aid*, *matriculate*, and *register for classes*. Put yourself into Mariana’s shoes and work with a partner to find out the steps and deadlines associated with each of these four actions. Also note any questions that pop up for you and do not get answered. Use the graphic organizer below to document your work.

Required Action	Steps & Deadlines	Questions You Still Have
<i>Apply to PCC</i>		
<i>Apply for financial aid</i>		
<i>Matriculate</i>		
<i>Register for classes</i>		