



**Mission**

Downtown College Prep (DCP) prepares underachieving students who are the first in their families to go to college to thrive at four-year universities.

**Who We Are**

DCP is a small charter high school in the San Jose Unified School District serving urban minority students who have experienced minimal success in large public schools, lack the basic skills necessary to handle a college preparatory curriculum, and need a specialized program to be successful.

**Why We Exist**

Statistics show that minority groups have the highest dropout rate and of those who do graduate, only 30% have completed courses required for University of California and/or California State University admission. As first generation college-bound students, DCP graduates have an opportunity to become pioneers in their own education.

**How We Are Different**

DCP's promise to its students and families is to provide not only a rigorous and challenging curriculum but also a small, intimate community where students receive personalized attention. In this environment, students learn to think and compute while developing a sense of how they fit in the world and connect to others.

- 95% are Latino
- 65% qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch
- 33% classified as English Language Learners

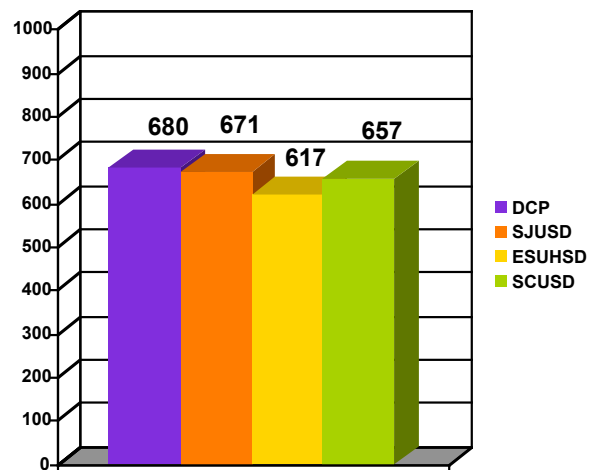
**Vision Becomes Reality**

DCP's philosophy that change is possible through academic rigor for even the lowest achieving students in our community is now a reality.

**Performance results include:**

- Four graduating classes, 100% accepted to four-year colleges.
- DCP students score over 20 percentage points higher than their peers on the High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) with 95% of juniors passing both the English and Math test (see graph).
- DCP is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
- DCP courses are approved for UC and CSU admission requirements.

**Downtown College Preparatory  
Academic Performance Index (API)  
Latino Subgroup**



## The DCP Model

**Personal Attention:** DCP is a small public charter school where all students get the help they need to succeed. The teacher student ratio is 20:1. All students are enrolled in a college prep curriculum.

**Learning Environment:** DCP's school day is from 8:45 am to 5:00 pm. Every afternoon, students work on their homework with teachers and classmates. One-on-one tutoring is available through community volunteers and local college students. Students with low reading and math skills take extra courses to ensure they are prepared for college prep classes. Each student's academic progress is monitored closely.

**Culture of Achievement:** All students are expected to live up to the school's values of *ganas* (desire), *comunidad* (community), and *orgullo* (pride). Students are required to wear a uniform and act with dignity and mutual respect both on and off campus.

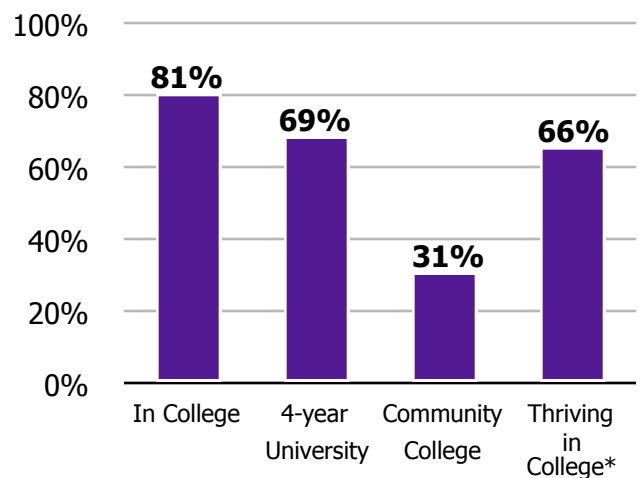
**College-Ready:** DCP students take three years of college prep Math and English, and at least two years of college prep History, Spanish, Science and Art. DCP also offers Advance Placement (AP) classes in Spanish Literature, English Language, U.S. History, Spanish Language and Calculus. There is a College Guidance Lab on campus staffed by a counselor who works individually with all students by advising them about the college application process, financial aid, and aspects of college life. DCP also maintains a need-based scholarship fund that is made available to DCP graduates.

**Family Involvement:** Collaboration and communication with DCP families about grades and classroom performance is a key part to each student's success. DCP families are involved in every part of the school from teacher conferences to parent groups to activities and events. Families also take part in classes to help them prepare for their students' transition to college.

**"I was not a good student. I was always causing trouble and not doing my work. DCP never gave up on me and helped me get into college. When I started at Monterey Bay, a light went on. I now have over a 3.0 GPA."**

Gabriel Hernandez, '04  
 CSU Monterey Bay, Class of '08

## DCP Alumni "Report Card"



\*DCP measures whether students are thriving in college based on the following criteria: advancing in credits, establishing a life on campus, assuming financial responsibility.