

Section 1 - Welcome to Bakersfield College!

Bakersfield College (BC) first opened its doors on the Bakersfield High School campus in 1913, serving 13 enrolled students. In 1956, the college moved to its present location, serving 1,400 students. In 2009, the college serves over 15,000 students, has expanded its efforts in the community, and is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution. Over the years, BC's open door policy and thus its primary mission has been a commitment to excellence as it works to meet the basic skills, work force development, and general education needs of its students. More specific details about BC's history are available through documents found on the campus website.

The most recent Accreditation Self Study and the annually updated Educational Master Plan are available at the following sites:

- <http://www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/accreditation/>
- http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/irp/Institutional_Effectiveness/Ed_master_Plan_/Ed_MasterPlan_Index.asp

Bakersfield College Mission

With its heritage as a foundation and eye toward the future, Bakersfield College provides the high quality education necessary for our socially and ethnically diverse students—whether they be vocational, transfer-oriented, developmental, or some combination of these—to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

We will accomplish our mission by:

- Establishing strong connections with our student and business communities
- Understanding the needs of our diverse student population
- Responding to student and community needs with efficiency and flexibility
- Honoring our long heritage of community involvement
- Remaining vigilant in scanning our present and future environment within which we operate
- Promoting tolerance and patience with all of our stakeholders

Meeting the Needs of College Students

As faculty members, however, your greatest concern would be the changes in the student population being served. Specific BC demographics are routinely updated on the Institutional Research and Planning website (http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/irp/IRP_Home.asp). In general, however, the typical Bakersfield College student is a Hispanic woman in her early twenties attending classes part-time during the day. Like her fellow students across the campus and across the country, this typical student undoubtedly works at least part-time, juggles a myriad of other life obligations, and probably lacks sufficient academic preparation.