

MATH, ENGINEERING, SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT (MESA)

WHAT IS MESA?

MESA is an academic support program dedicated to helping first generation, low-income college students achieve success in STEM. By providing additional resources, community, and support, MESA prepares students for their transition to a four-year institution. Each year students from this program successfully transfer to four-year institutions to further pursue their future careers in STEM.

Our Mission: Empower first-generation students from diverse backgrounds to excel in STEM fields through equitable access to resources, targeted programming, professional growth opportunities, and community building.

WHO CAN BECOME A MESA STUDENT?

Students who meet the following criteria are eligible for MESA :

- First-generation college student (neither parents/guardians have earned a bachelor's degree)
- Receives financial aid at Orange Coast College (FAFSA/Dream Act application on file)
- Pursuing a calculus-based STEM major
- Working towards first bachelor's degree with intention to transfer to a 4-year institution

THE MESA CENTER

The Orange Coast College MESA Center is a space where MESA students can work independently, engage with study groups, and access study aids and workshops. The hub of the program, the MESA Center is where the majority of opportunities and resources available to MESA students can be found. The MESA Center is a space for MESA students to build a supportive community with peers, while accessing the tools needed to succeed in rigorous coursework.

Resources located at the MESA Center include:

- Study and lounge space
- Computer access (with STEM Software)
- Information regarding internship and research opportunities
- Tutoring services and guided review sessions
- Loaner equipment (calculators, etc)
- Molecular models, microscopes, anatomy models, and other study aids
- Counseling
- Skills workshops
- STEM Guest Speakers
- Printers (with free printing)
- Community building events