

College of the Desert  
**TRIO SSS ACES**  
Academic Counseling & Educational Services

The TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) ACES Program at College of the Desert is a counseling program designed to assist students in meeting the challenges of graduating from COD and transferring to a four-year university of their choice. The ACES Program is a Student Support Services (SSS) Program under the U.S. Department of Education's TRIO Programs.

**ACES Students Benefit From:**

***Counseling:*** All ACES participants receive assistance from their assigned counselor in preparing a COD Student Educational Plan (SEP), selecting the appropriate major, associate degree, certificate and transfer courses, applying for financial aid, and developing career goals. These individualized counseling services are available until ACES students graduate and transfer from COD.

***Graduation & Transfer Assistance:*** ACES students are assisted with selecting the appropriate courses necessary to receive an associate degree or a certificate from COD and to transfer to a four-year university.

***Cultural Events & College Tours:*** ACES students are offered opportunities to attend various local and regional academic and cultural events, such as college tours and museum visits.

***Priority Registration:*** Eligible ACES students can register for classes on the 1st priority date assigned for class registration.

***Workshops:*** College Success, Study Skills and Student Development Workshops help students develop and enhance important skills allowing them to achieve and successfully accomplish their academic goals. Most workshops are held in the TRIO ACES computer lab.

***Free Tutoring:*** Free one-on-one tutoring assistance in most subjects is made available to the ACES students in the Tutoring & Academic Skills Center, and the Instructional Support Specialist in the ACES Program computer lab provides the students with academic support and technical assistance.

***Financial Literacy and Scholarship Assistance:*** All students will receive financial and economic literacy counseling services to include financial planning for postsecondary education. Students are provided information on Federal student financial aid programs and benefits and resources for locating public and private scholarships. In addition, participants are also assisted with completing the application (FAFSA) for financial aid and scholarships for their COD enrollment and for their transfer universities and or colleges.

## Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- **Financial Need:** Applicants must meet federally established income guidelines (see table below).
- **First Generation College Student:** Both applicants' parents do not have a bachelor's degree.
- **Academic Need:** An applicant's COD assessment scores are used for placement in the appropriate English or Math courses.
- **Academic Potential:** Applicants must have a minimum 2.5 grade point average and be enrolled full time at COD.
- **Plan to Graduate and Transfer:** Applicants must earn an associate degree or certificate AND declare a plan to transfer to a four year college or university.
- **Academic Standing:** Applicants who have completed 24-30 transferable course units will be given preference for admission into the program.
- **Full-Time Status:** Applicants must enroll at COD for at least 12 units per semester or 24 units per year.
- **Residency Status:** Applicants must be a US citizen or a permanent resident of the U.S.

## Minimum Federal Income requirements for ACES applicants

Your family income must fall at or below the following standards:

Size of Family Unit	Yearly Taxable Income
1	\$18,735
2	\$25,365
3	\$31,995
4	\$38,625
5	\$45,255
6	\$51,885
7	\$58,515
8	\$65,145

*U.S. Dept. of Human & Health Services,*

*January 2019 (Guideline changes annually)*

## How to Apply

Submit a completed application and supporting income verification documentation (i.e. parents and your IRS tax forms, disability and /or proof of independent status from the Financial Aid office) to the:

**ACES SSS Program**  
**TRIO ACES Office, South Annex 12**  
**College of the Desert, 43-500 Monterey Avenue, Palm Desert, CA 92260 (760) 776-7347**

