

## **NOCCCD COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM AGREEMENT**

### **EFFECTIVE FALL 2026**

Beginning Fall 2020, the North Orange Promise Program expanded to include a **two-year tuition-free** college experience (four consecutive semesters, excluding winter and summer sessions) for all first-time, full-time college students including students who transfer into Cypress or Fullerton Colleges within their first year of college.

Under the Promise program, students who meet eligibility requirements will receive their first two years of education completely free of tuition & health fees (fall and spring terms only).

#### **Incoming students must be:**

- A First-time college student, who has never attended college.
  - Students who participated in dual enrollment, special admit are eligible to participate in Promise
- High school graduates or accepted equivalency
- A California resident, AB540 or DREAM approved applicant

#### **To join the North Orange Promise Program, students must complete all of the following steps by November 1st of the Fall term:**

- Submit a Promise Agreement
  - Any agreements signed beyond the first term will be considered by appeal but not guaranteed approval
- Complete a current year financial aid (FAFSA/CADAA) application annually
- Complete New Student College Orientation
- Develop a Student Educational Plan with a Counselor
  - Students should have a comprehensive educational plan as soon as possible, but no later than the end of their first academic year
- Enroll continuously full-time for at least 12 units in fall and spring terms.
  - Students with verified disabilities that affect their ability to meet this 12-unit requirement may still be eligible. Eligibility for students registered with Disabled Support Services (DSS) is determined individually in accordance with California College Promise state guidelines.
- Promise Students are highly encouraged to enroll in Math and English within their first year (exceptions will be made for students pursuing certificates)

### **Maintaining Eligibility:**

To maintain North Orange Promise eligibility, continuing Promise Program students must meet the following eligibility requirements to receive subsequent semesters of free tuition & health fees (Fall and Spring terms only).

- Remain enrolled in at least 12 units for fall and spring semesters (unit exception for DSS students with verified accommodations)
- Complete a current financial aid (FAFSA/CADAA) application annually
- Maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average each term to ensure status for the subsequent semester and successfully complete at least 67% of attempted coursework
- Meet with a Promise Program staff or Counselor at least once per semester to verify eligibility

### **First Time College Students Transferring from Other Community Colleges:**

Promise Program students attending Cypress or Fullerton College after transferring from another community college, must meet the following eligibility requirements to receive their second year of education completely free of tuition

- Maintain full-time enrollment status by enrolling in at least 12 units in the fall and spring semester (unit exception for DSS students with verified accommodations)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and completing successfully complete at least 67% of attempted coursework units
- A California resident, AB540 or DREAM approved applicant

### **Disclaimer**

The North Orange Promise Program is a last-dollar scholarship program, which means it fulfills unmet funding needs after federal and state aid programs and private scholarships have been applied. The program will cover students' credit fees, comparable to tuition, which are paid on every unit for which the student registers. Funding will be provided to each individual student for up to four consecutive semesters (fall and spring terms only). Promise students who meet all the qualifications and steps required will have fees covered no later than November 1st. Students expected to be covered by the North Orange Promise Program do not need to pay for enrollment and health fees

- Students who fail to meet program requirements any semester will no longer qualify for subsequent semesters.
- Additional requirements for continued program eligibility may vary by campus

### **Background:**

The North Orange Promise pilot program was launched with nearly 1,800 students in the fall of 2018, serving graduates of the Anaheim Union High School District. The success of this pilot program created the demand and a model for the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD) to expand the number of incoming eligible students in 2019. NOCCCD, which includes Cypress College, Fullerton College, and North Orange Continuing Education, serves over 85,000 students from 12 local cities. Over 70%

of our students cannot afford college and must apply for some form of financial aid. The North Orange Promise Program intends to lower income barriers to ensure that the benefits of college attendance remain available to students of all backgrounds.

For more information, please visit:

- Cypress College: <https://www.cypresscollege.edu/charger-experience/>
- Fullerton College: <https://promise.fullcoll.edu/>