

Runway Fantasy

Inside the 2026 Fashion Showcase, pg. 10

Major Change?

It doesn't have to be a major pain, pg. 12

Murals of South City Campus

Reflecting community through art, pg. 5



A message to students from President Greg Peterson



Welcome to Salt Lake Community College!

Whether you're beginning college for the first time, returning after time away or preparing for the next step in your career, we're glad you're here.

SLCC starts where you are and builds from there. Throughout your time here, you'll be supported by more than 3,000 college employees who are deeply invested in your education and ready to guide you forward. You'll find instructors who care about your progress, advisors to help you navigate your options and staff members across the college working to support your success.

We also understand that many of you balance college with work, family responsibilities and the demands of daily life. SLCC offers resources to make that balancing act a little easier, including free transit passes, low-cost health care through our Center for Health and Counseling, discounted childcare, the Bruin Pantry and more. Talk with your advisor about the resources available to you or use the "Raise Your Hand" feature in the MySuccess portal when you need assistance or more information.

I also encourage you to make SLCC an important part of your community. Join one of our more than 60 student clubs, attend a college event or introduce yourself to someone in one of your classes. The relationships you build here can become an important part of your college experience and may remain valuable long after your time at SLCC.

On behalf of everyone at the college, welcome! We're proud that you chose to join us, and we look forward to seeing where your education takes you.

Go Bruins!

Greg Peterson, EdD

President

Salt Lake Community College



SLCC, President, Greg Peterson, EdD.



Letter from the editor



■ Photo courtesy of Amie Schaeffer

The Globe, Editor-in-Chief, Amie Schaeffer.

Dear Bruins,

I've had the unique opportunity to return as The Globe's editor-in-chief five years after graduating from Salt Lake Community College. During that time, I have continued to work in the space of higher education journalism through Amplify Utah, but my heart will always belong here.

Heading into fall, one of my goals is to strengthen the connection between the newsroom and the students who make up our campuses.

As a student-run publication, our responsibility is to represent the SLCC community and report on the stories that matter most to them. To do that, we need your engagement and invite you to share your perspectives, what you care about, your concerns and what you want to see covered.

Student media should reflect the pulse of the college, capturing the moments and conversations shaping student life.

We invite you to follow us online at globeslcc.com, check out our social platforms, and become an active participant by commenting, liking, sharing our posts, or reaching out to us.

We look forward to hearing from you this fall.

Sincerely,

Amie Schaeffer

Follow us at:



slcc.edu/smc



facebook.com/slccsmc



@GlobeSLCC



@slccsmc

GLOBE Student Staff

What the staff likes best about working for The Globe.



Amie Schaeffer

Editor-in-Chief

 @amiestar1



Anna Schaeffer

Assignment/Copy Editor

"I enjoy working at The Globe because it allows me to experience a lot of fun opportunities that I wouldn't have otherwise!"



Mansour Yarow

Assistant/Copy Editor and Staff Writer

 @mansour_yarow

"My favorite part about working on The Globe is working with other staff members who are as passionate as me about journalism and serving our SLCC community."



Violet Stocking

Staff Photographer

"I love attending SLCC events on assignments for The Globe. Meeting new people through this job has been my favorite part!"



Billie Martinez

Staff Photographer

 @billie.mphotography

"My favorite part of working at The Globe is the amount of creativity and passion we have as a staff."



Saria Harris

Staff Photographer/Writer

 @saria.harris

"One reason I like being part of The Globe is the flexibility with stories I can do. I can cover a big event, then do something small and fun. Working here lets me explore different interests in media and gain hands-on experience."



Ramona Davis

Staff Writer

"My favorite part about working for The Globe is being able to contribute to the student and SLC community with my writing."



Dayanna Alejandra Perez

Staff Writer

"Being part of the community and especially communicating stories that make people more empathetic with others."



GhostyKarma

Illustrator

 @ghosty_karma  @ghostykarma1

"My favorite part of being on The Globe staff is creating different illustrations and pushing my limits while also being up to date with things going on."

The GLOBE

ADVISER

Rachel Aubrey

rachel.aubrey@slcc.edu

 @justthefactsRA

ADVERTISING

Alison Arndt-Wild

alison.arndt@slcc.edu

801-957-3471

STUDENT MEDIA CENTER DIRECTOR

Alison Arndt-Wild

alison.arndt@slcc.edu

LOCATION

Center for Arts and Media

1575 S. State St.

Room 1-054

Salt Lake City, Utah 84115

Email: globe@slcc.edu

The Globe Online

www.globeslcc.com

COVER PHOTO

Billie Martinez

The Globe is an open campus forum student newspaper published regularly online at globeslcc.com during each semester (excluding holidays) and printed once a year. The Globe editors and staff are solely responsible for the newspaper's content. Funding comes from advertising revenue and some tuition. For questions, comments or complaints email us at globeslcc@slcc.edu or visit globeslcc.com.

To read and see more by our student staff go to
globeslcc.com.



Follow us at:



slcc.edu/smc



facebook.com/slccsmc



@GlobeSLCC



@slccsmc

The perks of having a OneCard

Amie Schaeffer

Editor-in-Chief  @amiestar1

The Salt Lake Community College OneCard, which doubles as a college ID, gives students, faculty and staff access to campus services and UTA transit. However, some of the card's benefits are often overlooked.

Discounted attractions

Carson Kohler, specialist II at Student Services, said the OneCard gets students discounts at places like the Natural History Museum of Utah, Red Butte Garden and the Utah Symphony.

"A lot of these educational places are really fun ... so bring your OneCard, your student ID, [and] you can get into those places for a lot cheaper," said Kohler.

The Grand Theatre, housed at the South City Campus, offers one free ticket and three additional half-price tickets with the OneCard.

Campus and transportation perks

The OneCard includes free access to all UTA services, helping students get to campus or anywhere they use public transit. To use this benefit, students must be enrolled in at least one class.

Additionally, cardholders get access to the college fitness centers at Jordan and South City Campuses and the Lifetime Activities Center at Taylorsville Redwood Campus. Students can take advantage of drop-in fitness classes, pickleball and tennis courts or general fitness equipment. The card also gives students access to athletic and SLCCSSA-sponsored events.

Another benefit is a \$3.50 Uniprint credit per semester, which covers about 50 printed pages in campus computer labs. The OneCard acts as a library card, allowing students to check out materials from campus libraries.

Getting a OneCard

Students can grab their card at the Information Desks at South



A UTA bus driving route 39 waiting at a bus stop on the Taylorsville Redwood Campus. SLCC students ride for free with their OneCard.

City or Jordan Campus or at the Student Center at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus. Show a government-issued ID, and the staff will snap a photo and issue your card on the spot.

"If anyone ever has an issue with their card, they can swing by," said Kohler, who works at the South City Campus. "We're always here, open 8 [a.m.] till 6 [p.m.]."

To request a card online, or learn about other benefits, visit slcc.edu/onecard.



OneCard
Salt Lake
Community
College



ISO# 1233 4567 8910 1112
UID# 804C 9442 193B 04

Firstname Lastname

S12345678
FT STAFF



In photos: South City Campus murals showcase local artists

Violet Stocking

Staff Photographer

Salt Lake Community College's South City Campus houses multiple murals created by local artists.

From artwork inspired by Latinx heritage, to a community project celebrating women's contributions to culture, these murals offer a look at the people and histories represented across campus and throughout Utah. Together, these pieces help define the character of South City — a campus centered on arts, media and student engagement.



Above: An outdoor mural located at the South City Campus Peace and Justice Garden was created by SLCC alumni, Luis Novoa, Alan Ochoa and Miguel Galaz.



Above: A 1,000-square-foot mural titled "Utah Women 2020" fills the South City Campus atrium at SLCC. The project, led by artists Jann Haworth and Liberty Blake, brought together nearly 300 contributors and features more than 350 life-size portraits.



Above: The "Six Stories, One Future" mural hangs inside the PACE Scholarship headquarters at SLCC's South City Campus. The mural celebrates 15 years of the PACE Scholarship Program and shows work from students at six Salt Lake County high schools.



Left: The graffiti-style mural covers a wall in the SLCC dance studio at South City Campus. The mural was created by Alex Martinez, a graphic designer with SLCC Institutional Marketing, and SLCC Dance Company director Whitney Harris-Gutierrez in 2020.

Resource roundup: A guide to SLCC's free student services

Globe Staff

Staff Writers and Editors

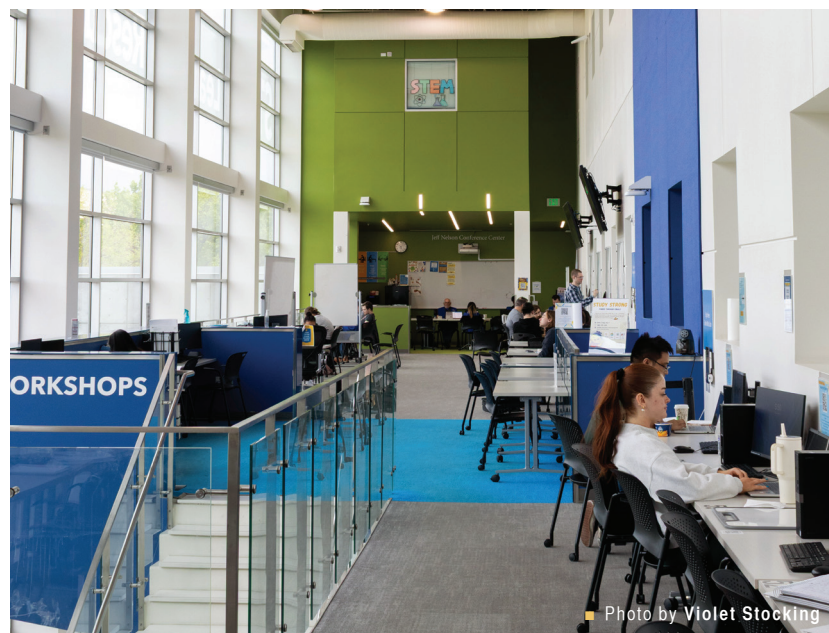


Photo by Violet Stocking

STEM Learning at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus is open Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Students can receive free in-person tutoring for all STEM classes.

From tutoring to free transit, Salt Lake Community College offers a wide range of academic and basic needs services across its campuses. Listed below are some of the services and resources accessible to students.

STEM Learning

STEM Learning offers services and resources for students taking courses in science, technology, engineering and math.

STEM Tutoring provides drop-in services where students can work with trained staff to help with coursework. Students should come prepared with study materials and questions they have.

"We're just a chill place to study," said tutor Jaxon Wilde. "We sometimes have snacks [and] coffee. We're more than happy to have you around."

STEMSuccess supports students with study skills, goal setting, networking, time management, problem solving and resource referrals. The STEM Success managers are available to answer questions and offer additional support.

Workshops offered through STEM Learning Extras help students build skills and boost confidence

in their courses and prepare for exams with expert guidance and more.

The STEM Learning centers are located at Taylorsville Redwood, South City, Herriman and Jordan campuses, with an option for online tutoring.

UTA Transit Pass

The SLCC OneCard also works as a UTA Transit Pass, used to ride UTA buses, TRAX, S-Line streetcar and FrontRunner.

Students can get a OneCard from any campus ID center. Staff and faculty must opt in but can access the same public transportation benefits as students.

Using public transportation can also benefit the environment. According to a United Nations report, taking public transport instead of driving can reduce up to two tons of carbon emissions annually per person.

The SLCC OneCard can also be used with UTA's On Demand app, which provides transportation solutions in areas with less bus and train service. Riders can use UTA On Demand to get to bus stops, TRAX and FrontRunner stations.

"It's like a UTA ridesharing app," said UTA TRAX operator Derek Mull. "It is really



Photo by Violet Stocking

Bruin Closet pictured at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus. The closet is full of clothing pieces and accessories for all sizes.

convenient for areas like Daybreak, Provo and North Salt Lake where there are fewer public transportation options."

Bruin Closet

The Bruin Closet helps students make a strong first impression by providing free, gently used professional clothing. Whether students are heading to a job interview, internship or need scrubs for work, the closet tries to have items on hand to meet those needs.

Career Services Peer Mentor Whitney Smith says the closet is open year-round and available to students, staff and community members. Visitors are allowed up to 10 free items per month.

The Bruin Closet runs on donations, so inventory and sizes can vary. However, Smith said some clothing is consistently in higher demand.

"We always need more men's items," Smith said. "It's hard to watch guys come in who need clothes but can't find anything. We also need more specific work clothes, like scrubs."

Anyone wanting to help stock the closet can drop off donations during office hours on weekdays.

The Bruin Closet is located at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus in the Student Center.

Visit their website for hours and a list of accepted donation items.



Students and faculty working at the Student Writing and Reading Center at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus. Students can receive free tutoring at any of SLCC's locations including online.

Student Writing and Reading Center

The Student Writing and Reading Center helps students improve essential skills for success in college. The staff can assist with brainstorming, expanding ideas, revising, learning better reading strategies and understanding grammar. The center also offers creative writing groups and events.

Bilingual tutors are also available to help ESL students.

"We can meet you where you are," said Mindy Bailey, a receptionist at the Taylorsville Redwood center. "Whether you are trying to understand the assignment, stuck on a first draft or you need help with the final copy."

Writing centers are located at Taylorsville Redwood, South City, Herriman, Jordan and West Valley campuses. The centers offer Zoom and in-person appointments, where students can meet with a tutor or get written feedback.

Students must be enrolled in a class to use the service. To make an appointment or find locations and hours, visit slcc.edu/swc.

Student Gardens

The Student Gardens offer garden plots to rent at the Taylorsville Redwood, South City, and Jordan campuses, giving students and staff a chance to access healthier food and develop their green thumb.

To get a plot, students, staff or clubs must submit a rental request for the growing season, sign a rental agreement and attend an orientation about the space and tools. Plots are free for students and \$25 for faculty and staff.

Students and faculty keep whatever they grow. Unclaimed produce will automatically be donated to the Bruin Pantry. If you're looking for volunteer hours, the Student Gardens offer opportunities which vary by growing season.

According to the Student Gardens website, the program emphasizes access to healthy, fresh food for all members of the SLCC community.

Bruin Pantry

The Bruin Pantry provides food assistance to SLCC students, faculty and staff. With five campus locations, the Bruin Pantry aims to be an accessible resource for all students.

The pantry relies on donations but tries to keep basics like canned goods, pantry staples and fresh produce stocked. They also offer hygiene items like menstrual products, laundry detergent, soap, toothpaste and shampoo.

To use the pantry, students or faculty need to show their SLCC OneCard.

To help support the pantries with food or hygiene items, the Bruin Pantry accepts donations at any location during open hours. Outside of pantry hours, items can be dropped off at the Student Center Information Desk at Westpointe, South City, Miller, Jordan or Herriman campuses.

According to the Bruin Pantry, high-demand food items include canned meats,



These unclaimed vegetables grown at the SLCC gardens were given to the Bruin Pantry.



SLCC currently has five Bruin Pantry locations. A OneCard is required to gain access to the pantry.

beans, canned fruits and vegetables, nut butters, potatoes, pasta, rice and ramen.

Needed nonfood items include hygiene products, laundry detergent, bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner and diapers.

Students can also sign up to volunteer at the Bruin Pantry through Campus Groups.

Other available services

Additional services include the Center for Health and Counseling, the Disability Resource Center, Veteran Services, International Student Services and Career Services.

For a complete list of student services, visit slcc.edu/student.

Non-traditional students choose **learning** over degree paths

Jozie Benet-Larsen

Staff Writer

Over 50,000 students attend Salt Lake Community College across multiple campuses and online classes. SLCC promotes itself as a place where anyone is welcome to learn and earn a degree if they choose.

The SLCC website shows the different paths students can take through the college, including taking a class simply for enjoyment.

An older student's perspective

"I like to learn, but I also like to encourage the students and be a support to the college," said Annette Richards, a 69-year-old student not working towards a degree.

For Richards, SLCC is a place for continued education, community and resources.

While she thinks the students are great and likes the professors, she feels that there is a bit of a gap between them and herself.

"I don't think they know what to do with us older students," she said.

Richards said much of this gap shows up in the way assignments are handled, and how technology is used.

"We aren't all techy, so we [older students] come from kind of a different perspective."

She said she enjoys SLCC but feels a bit out of place at times.

Richards previously struggled to complete assignments when she didn't fully understand what was expected. Communication gaps between her and the professor were a barrier for her, especially when it came to the tech side of things.

However, Richards now audits her classes, making it less about the assignments and more about the experience.

A young musician's perspective

Trace Welter, 19, attends SLCC to expand his knowledge and skills in the music world, and said his experience is "very casual."

"I'm only in touch with a few of my classmates outside of class and I haven't yet participated in any groups or events," said Welter. "While I am pretty disconnected to the community at SLCC, I still feel very welcome, and I love the environment."

Welter chose SLCC because of his interest in audio and the college's reputation for great studio space.

This semester he is taking the Recording Techniques class and the Mixing and Mastering class.

He plans to take two classes in the fall and then he isn't sure whether he'll start focusing on working and building his portfolio or stay at SLCC.

"I would be interested in an audio engineering degree, however, I'm not entirely sure yet if that aligns with my goals," he said.

Welter plans to continue playing in his band and says he has many goals after SLCC.

"Music is where the heart of my passion is, and where my life revolves around," he said. "However, the music industry, is very unstable and unpredictable. So, to be able to develop a better technical understanding and career around the industry is a good way to stay in the loop and be able to work with what I love, no matter what."

Welter said he sees SLCC as a steppingstone to the career he is building and is taking these classes to gain a deeper understanding while actively being in the music industry.

Supporting students on non-traditional learning paths

SLCC provides options for students of all ages, whether they are seeking a degree, exploring a new interest, or just wanting to continue learning.

While both students say they feel welcome and are getting something out of their experience at SLCC, Richards said she wants students to remember that older classmates are here to support and learn just like everyone else. She said not to be afraid to interact with and get to know them.

Non-Degree Seeking Options/Prior Degree

slcc.edu/transcriptevaluation/non-degree.aspx



MY SLCC ACADEMICS

Maps FUTURE STUDENTS

News & Events CURRENT STUDENTS

A-Z Index SALT LAKE TECH

Home

Transferring to SLCC - Start Here

Transferring Guidelines

Contact Us

Petition for the Acceptance of Credit

FAQ

Non-Degree Seeking Options/Prior Degree

NON-DEGREE SEEKING OPTIONS/PRIOR DEGREE

NON-DEGREE SEEKING OPTIONS

The evaluation process is for students seeking a degree at SLCC.

- If you are not seeking a degree at SLCC, you may qualify as a Guest Student. A Guest Student is currently attending another institution or university.
- Students seeking to take prerequisites for a graduate program, who have earned a Bachelor's degree, please follow these steps:

SLCC international student navigates studying in the US

Kevin Martinez

Contributing Writer

Chan Phall arrived in Utah from Cambodia in December 2023 to study construction management at Salt Lake Community College. She said she expected challenging coursework and new opportunities, but what she didn't expect was the constant stress of managing language barriers, heavier course loads and strict visa requirements far from home.

Phall said the transition into the U.S. education system was far more challenging than expected.

"There's a lot of work to do, especially when you have to adapt to a new system, a new language and everything," Phall said. "Your determination is higher than that of people who are already here."

International students follow strict federal visa rules while adjusting to a new education system and paying non-resident tuition while studying. These requirements can affect how students plan their classes, handle stress, or seek campus support, often making their college experience different from domestic students.

To keep up with her workload, Phall said self-studying became essential, she described it as "double studying," where she would study in class, then spent extra time getting more information from other resources. She pointed to tutoring centers and libraries as critical supports.

Phall said communication challenges

and unfamiliar teaching styles added to the pressure.

"Number one is the language barrier," Phall said. "The second, I would say ... the education system and also the demanding coursework."

She said visa requirements influenced both financial and academic decisions.

"I overloaded myself with the courses," Phall said. "Some semesters, I had to take more than 12 credits, like 16 to 18, because it's the same price."

International students are also charged a \$125 administrative fee per semester, adding

another expense to Phall's budget.

Learning to adapt

Despite the challenges, Phall described studying far from home as transformative.

"Coming to the United States helped me become more independent, patient, resilient and confident," Phall said. "It has prepared me to be more adaptable and ready for a professional career."

Phall encourages new international students to stay patient and seek help early.

"Do not be afraid to ask questions," Phall said. "Everything takes time."

Finding campus resources

When the stress became overwhelming, Phall said the International Student Services office was the first place she turned to.

"They [student services] can guide me to do things the right way, like follow the right pathway, so I don't mess up with the visa rules ...," Phall said. "So, I would say the international office is the most important place for every international student."

Phall said she also leaned on her professors and the Center for Health and Counseling, especially during her first year.

"When I feel overwhelmed, I go to talk with my advisor or my professor," Phall said. "I also went to see a health counselor, and he ... advised me, he asked me questions."

Students seeking services, updates, and event information can visit the SLCC's International Student Services website or follow them on Instagram.



■ Photo courtesy of Chan Phall

Chan Phall in November 2022. Phall arrived in the United States from Cambodia to study construction management at SLCC.

>> In photos: 'The Devil Wears SLCC' as annual Senior Fashion Showcase hits the runway

Billie Martinez

Staff Photographer [@billie.mphotography](#)

This spring, Salt Lake Community College's Fashion Institute highlighted its 20 "emerging designers" in its largest fashion show of the year. The 2026 Senior Fashion Show, "Fantasy of Illusion: An Uncharted Dream" gave graduating students complete creative control over full authentic collections. The Grand Theatre's stage and aisles were filled with months of hard work and dedication. As models strutted and clacked their heels to the beat of the music, audiences were awed by the level of detail and creative choices offered by SLCC Fashion Institute's Collection Development, Fashion Show Production and Fashion Merchandising students. Every designer showcased the skills and craftsmanship learned over the years at SLCC Fashion Institute. Each student presented six cohesive looks to tell a story or express an aesthetic. The collections ranged from themes of travel, mushrooms, toxic masculinity, Pokemon and more.



Photo by Billie Martinez

A model displays a piece from Grant Woodland's collection, "Subconscious," which features themes of suppressed emotions and identity.



Photo by Billie Martinez



Photo by Billie Martinez

Above: A model displays a piece from Katie Fox's collection, "Business Underground," inspired by business wear and the '90s punk scene.

Left: A model displays a piece from Abigail Maat's collection, "Girlhood," representing childhood and playfulness.



Photo by Billie Martinez



Photo by Billie Martinez

Left: A model showcases a piece from Daxton Price's collection, "The Idea of Being a Man."

Left: A model wears a piece from Merlin Anderson's collection, "The Arcane Order," inspired by mages.

Right: A model shows a piece from Micah Taylor's collection, "Tangled Birds."

Below: SLCC President Greg Peterson cheers on the student designers after the fashion show.



Photo by Billie Martinez



Photo by Billie Martinez

Finding a good fit matters more than sticking with a first choice

Mansour Yarow

Staff Writer  @mansour_yarow

If you're thinking about changing majors, you're not alone. Changing majors is more common than many students realize.

According to a 2017 study from the National Center of Education Statistics, about 30% of undergraduates with declared majors change their majors at least once within three years of enrollment.

"It does happen fairly often," said Verl M. Long, assistant director of academic advising at Salt Lake Community College.

"The factors contributing to that could just be that they get into their program and realize that's not the program they want to do or the career path that they want to pursue," he said. "It could be that they just find something that's more interesting or fits their strengths better, that will lead to job opportunities."

Finding a program that fits

Connor McCormick, a student at SLCC who used to be a film major at the University of Utah, said he quickly realized that the program didn't align with his expectations.

"The film program isn't what I thought it would be," said McCormick, who is now pursuing a degree in marketing management.

SLCC student, Jack Kempton, switched from a major in computer science to occupational therapy, finding it a better fit.

"Computer science wasn't my jam," Kempton said. "I felt like I wanted to go into a major that was more people-focused and helping people."

With more than 100 degree and certificate programs in nine areas of study offered at SLCC, students have room to explore a career path. And sometimes that path changes more than once. In fact, about 1 in 10 students end up changing their major two or more times.

"I changed my major twice ... From illustration, I got severe art burnout and dropped out of the classes," said Gabi Heaton, a social work major. "Writing studies was my new focus because it was transferable but with some of SLCC's budget cuts, my major was very limited. Now I have a newfound passion for social work ..."

Mina Shugafa, a business student, originally studied nursing in Afghanistan, but after working in a nursing home, she discovered she was no longer interested in it.

Later, she studied geographical information systems (GIS) but again found it was not a good fit. After working at a bank and in her own business, she eventually found a promising career path.

"I was managing my own store, and my dad was a businessman," said Shugafa, "I felt like I have so much freedom. That's why I decided to continue studying business, and that would be my major."

Some students, like Emily Basantes in the Aerospace/Aviation Technology Maintenance program, still consider changing their major to something more practical.

"Aviation is a great career, but I am thinking of changing it to health



Academic advisor Gordon Storrs, left, assists SLCC student Diana Guzman.

or radiology because there are better career and job opportunities," said Basantes.

Change can be good

A 2016 report from the Education Advisory Board showed that students who declare their major in their second semester or later graduate at a rate of 83%, compared with 79% of those who declare it in their first semester and never change it.

"One of the common myths that we have is that ... students need to stay in the major that they started with, which is not true," said Danielle Shepherd, a career coach at SLCC.

As students take more classes, some find their interests better align with a different program.

"Switching majors is totally fine, because as you learn, [and] as you develop the skills here, and take the courses, you might find more opportunities that better connect with what you want to do," Shepherd said. "And if that's the case, it's always better to pivot and take that opportunity rather than staying in something that you don't like."

SLCC Stars dancers gain pro experience on the court

MaKenlee Enger

Contributing Writer

Salt Lake Community College Stars Dancers performed their final routine of the season during the Salt Lake Stars' NBA G League game on March 24, 2026 at the Maverik Center, taking the court in front of a live crowd and wrapping up another year of performing at a professional level.

During the 2023–24 season, SLCC's dance team was invited to collaborate with the Salt Lake Stars. The invitation has since grown into an ongoing partnership between SLCC's dance program and the Stars' organization, giving student dancers the chance to perform alongside a professional team. Through the program, dancers say they gain real-world experience, build confidence and spend hours preparing choreography both in and outside of class.

"What started as an invitation has grown into an ongoing professional collaboration," said Whitney Harris-Gutierrez, the team's director. "Our dance students love the opportunity to directly prepare for a professional career in performance entertainment."

For many dancers, the experience exceeded expectations. Lorryn France, a third-year dancer, said she did not expect to find so many performance opportunities at SLCC.

"It's very known that there's not going to be a chance for you

to perform," France said. "But being a part of so many different opportunities has been really cool."

The program has continued to grow each season. Stars dancer Lauren Uribe said what started as a few games has expanded into something much bigger.

"It just kept growing each year," Uribe said. "It's pushed me out of my comfort zone because we're not just performing, we're also interacting with the audience."

Beyond game-day performances, dancers contribute in ways audiences do not always see. The team recently participated in SLCC's Giving Day efforts, helping raise money for scholarships and community support.

"It's a really cool opportunity to give back to our community," France said.

The preparation behind each performance requires significant time and commitment. Although the team meets for two hours a week as a

class, dancers spend additional time outside rehearsals learning choreography, practicing and creating routines.

"Every game we come to, we have completely new material," Harris-Gutierrez said. "They spend those two hours together, but countless hours on their own."

Many routines are also created by students, adding another layer of responsibility and creativity to the experience.

For Stars dancer Camryn Conner, the opportunity to continue performing after

high school is what drives her commitment to the team.

"In Utah, it's really hard to dance beyond high school," Conner said. "I'm really grateful for the opportunity."

As the season ends, dancers said their shared passion keeps them motivated.

"We all do it because we love to dance," France said.

Fans can follow the SLCC Stars Dancers on Instagram to keep up with performances, audition times and behind-the-scenes updates.



SLCC Stars Dancers with director Whitney Harris-Gutierrez.



SLCC Stars Dancers take the floor on March 24, 2026 at the Maverik Center for their final halftime performance of the season.

Partnerships help uplift Utah's climbing legacy

Zachary Whiting

Contributing Writer

Salt Lake City and its surrounding mountains play major roles in the development of both recreational and search-and-rescue climbing.

The Salt Lake Climbers Alliance reported that Little Cottonwood Canyon became the first recreational climbing area in America listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This climbing culture, which dates to the 1960s, continues to grow as more people realize the quality of the climbing areas around them.

Learning the fundamentals

Salt Lake Community College offers rock climbing courses (HLAC 1527 and 1528) that prepare new climbers for outdoor terrain. SLCC partners with Dimple Dell Rec Center in Sandy and The Front Climbing Club in Salt Lake City to teach the classes.

Most of the classes are taught by two instructors: John Gillham at Dimple Dell Rec Center and Hilary Silberman at The Front Climbing Gym. Each has spent approximately 30 years climbing and watching the sport grow and evolve.

Gillham recalled that early in his climbing career, it was purely an outdoor sport, and

Utah climbers used a traditional method of placing removable gear into the cracks of the rock to catch them if they fell. This is often referred to as “trad climbing.”

As climbing grows in popularity, more climbers are bolting routes. Bolting is similar to trad but uses permanent gear.

With the increase in bolted routes, Utah has become more popular among beginner and experienced climbers, alike.

Eventually, indoor climbing gyms began opening across the country, providing places to train even during the winter offseason.

Silberman, who teaches both of SLCC's climbing classes as well as competitive teams at The Front Climbing Gym, said she sees an increase in accessibility to the sport.

“I mean, first of all, when I started climbing, there were no climbing gyms,” Silberman said. “So, you learned to climb outside, you had a mentor who would take you outside and kind of teach you the ropes. And then with the advent of climbing gyms, over time ... it's become more accessible.”

Beyond accessibility, Gillham has noticed another large shift in the climbing community.

“It [indoor climbing] also has changed ... to become much more social,” said Gillham. “You'll do a lot more climbs in an evening and be hanging out with friends and socializing the whole time.”

Climbing structures

With the increase in indoor climbing, both instructors have expressed concern for the safety of new outdoor climbers. Although the environments share similarities, certain indoor skills don't transfer to outdoor climbing.

These concerns are a priority in both climbing classes: Rock I, which focuses on the fundamentals, and Rock II, which is more advanced.

Each gym has unique climbing walls and setups, and instructors develop their own ways of preparing students for climbing both.

Both gyms have climbing walls built on a frame made of steel beams. On top of this frame, The Front uses wooden panels, which plastic holds

are then screwed into. The flat surface allows easily visible holds that minimize the risk of injury on jagged or outcropping surfaces.

Dimple Dell uses sculpted plaster over its frame with screw holes to attach additional climbing holds. This gives a rock-like surface, which is better suited for practicing outdoor climbing.

The Front has a larger selection of climbing routes than Dimple Dell, ranging from a shorter, ropeless form of climbing called bouldering to styles like top-rope and lead climbing, which use full-height walls and require ropes.

The Rock I class focuses on bouldering, working its way to top-rope over the semester. Rock II starts at top-rope before getting into lead climbing, which is more dangerous because climbers can fall many feet before the rope catches. The class then focuses on outdoor climbing styles, beginning with lead climbing before moving into the many forms of trad climbing.

Student experiences

Students taking Rock I and II have varied reasons why they started climbing. For some, it was their first time experiencing the sport, while others had climbed a few times but wanted to get better.

SLCC student Benjamin Yeager explained that when he was growing up, climbing seemed too dangerous, but said taking Rock I allowed him to approach it safely.

“I started doing a lot more [climbing],” Yeager said. “And it's been really cool to get to experience, overcoming some of those fears and build that resilience.”

Yeager recently started helping instruct at Dimple Dell, where he shows other students how to be safe and confident in their own climbing.

Frank Forbush, a student enrolled in both SLCC rock climbing classes, has had a positive experience.

“They're awesome,” he said. “Really well taught. They teach you something you can't get taught anywhere else. Trad climbing and stuff like that.”

For more information on SLCC's rock climbing courses, visit the online course catalog.



John Gillham belays Benjamin Yeager as they practice taking falls to later demonstrate for the Dimple Dell Rock I class.

■ Photo by Zachary Whiting

Planning and collaboration lead to a more engaged experience

Malachi Aycock

Contributing Writer

Starting a student club at Salt Lake Community College can help students build community around shared interests, but the process of creating and running a club can come with challenges.

Getting started

Students who want to form a club must complete several steps, including finding interested members, working with faculty advisers and navigating campus resources. While clubs help students gain leadership experience and build connections, some students say getting started can feel overwhelming.

Students must find classmates interested in joining before beginning the official approval process.

“The first step is recruiting five students enrolled at SLCC,” said Mason Bancroft, coordinator for student clubs at SLCC.

Once the group is formed, students must complete paperwork outlining how their organization will operate. This includes submitting a club activation form, a club constitution and a commitment form for the club president. Student leaders need to attend an orientation meeting with peer leaders from the Thayne Center for Student Life, Leadership and Community Engagement.

The final step requires a student proposal, presented to the Inter-Club Council.

“ICC is the primary governing body of all student clubs,” Bancroft said. “They review proposals, approve new clubs and help manage funding opportunities for student organizations.”

SLCC currently has 56 active student clubs, and new organizations are proposed throughout the academic year, according to Bancroft.

Zen Gatoloai, president of the Pacific Unity Association, described his involvement with clubs before taking on a leadership role.

“I started off by just joining a club to get involved and make friends on campus,” Gatoloai said.

The PUA promotes Pacific Islander culture and provides students opportunities to connect through shared traditions and community values. Gatoloai said being involved in clubs helped him become more confident in interacting with other students.

“I used to not talk to anybody,” Gatoloai said. “I would just join club meetings that I wouldn’t say anything.”

Value in involvement

Some students say the logistics of starting a club can feel intimidating. Jaxon Porter, a software development student at SLCC, said students may struggle to plan meetings and find members when turning an idea into a club.

“Gathering members would probably be a big thing, as well as organization,” Porter said. “Then it hits me. Okay, well, then, how are you gonna meet? Where are you gonna meet? What are you gonna do when you meet?”

Despite the initial challenges of starting a club, Bancroft said students often benefit by taking part in activities outside the classroom.

“The more you become engaged in college, whether that’s through a student group or getting involved with a department, the more you can get out of the college experience,” Bancroft said.



Photo by Violet Stocking

SLCC's K-pop Club preform for guests at the 2025 Bruin Bash. This club meets biweekly to practice and choreograph dances to k-pop songs. They have preformed at many SLCC events.

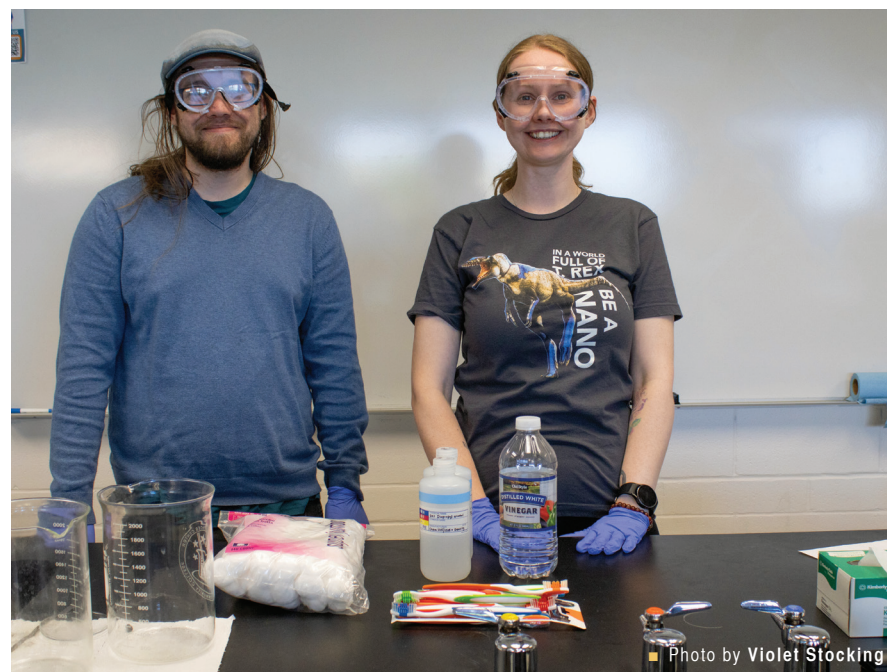


Photo by Violet Stocking

Tristan Hammack and Kasie Bussard of SLCC's Nanotechnology Club surrounded by materials from a meeting where they demonstrated how to restore corroded batteries to reduce waste.

SLCC's poet laureate, keeping the poetry scene alive on campus

Ashley Orduna

Staff Writer

Salt Lake Community College's Poet Laureate, Brenda Sieczkowski, is an associate professor and director of the Publication Center. Aside from teaching English courses, Sieczkowski oversees efforts to bring poetry to the community by inviting poets to interact with students through open-mic poetry readings and other activities.

Sieczkowski said she has a deep appreciation for her role as SLCC's poet laureate, a position she's held since 2023.

What does a poet laureate do?

"To me, a poet laureate is like an ambassador to the country of poetry," said Sieczkowski. "Poetry in my view, is a country without borders ... so with that I try to also focus on inviting community members and students to experience poetry in maybe an unconventional way."

She frequently uses the Publication Center as a workshop space, allowing students to interact with poetry not just through reading but through crafting, workshops, Q&As and receptions with visiting poets.

Beyond her required duties, like selecting a student poem for commencement and curating poems for events like convocation, Sieczkowski said she uses the funds received from the poet laureate project to support activities and events that bring poetry to the community.

"For me, what that has looked like has been bringing in nationally recognized published poets, so that students can have that experience of reading someone's poetry [and] interacting with them."

The funds also go towards providing free copies of the visiting poets' work to students.

Building community through poetry

This past March, Kathryn Cowles, a long-time inspiration and friend of Sieczkowski, visited the Taylorsville Redwood Campus for a poetry reading and collage-making event at the Publication Center. Community members who attended received a copy of Cowles' book "The Strange Wondrous Works of Eleanor Eleanor."

"I want to get poetry in the hands of the

students without them having [to] worry about budgets," said Sieczkowski. "When budgets are tight, poetry can be seen as a luxury ... I don't want it to be that way. I want it to be something essential and something available to everybody."

These poet-student interactions are important, she said, because they can be life-changing for student writers.

"It can take them from 'I'm someone who writes poetry,' to 'I'm a poet, that person is a poet, I'm a poet.'"

For Sieczkowski, building a poetry scene at SLCC looks like creating a community that can come together, discuss any poetry or creative writing angle, hang out and connect through writing and conversations.

She reminisced on past poetry classes, saying her classrooms are always full of students from different backgrounds.

"I have a lot of students that are not English majors," said Sieczkowski. "I have music students, I have a woman who is retired but is now just taking classes, and then I have had social work majors. They're not necessarily taking it because they're like 'this is going to get me a job, or this is going to help my career path. This is for me.'"

Another memorable moment happened during last year's National Poetry Month when the Student Writing and Reading Center held a sidewalk chalk poetry activity, and Sieczkowski took her class out to participate.

"People got really into it and were looking up their favorite poems. Some people were composing poems on the spot."

She also recalled a heartfelt moment where a group of students had made her an "unbelievable" hand-sewn zine filled with their work.

"Consistently, the students will say that the [poetry] class changed their life," she said.



■ Photo courtesy of Salt Lake Community College

Brenda Sieczkowski is SLCC's poet laureate. She hosts activities and events to help build a poetry scene for students.

Growing SLCC's poetry scene

"I want to explode what a poem can be," Sieczkowski laughed. "I don't want to, like, enclose it in really specific and elitist ideas."

Despite SLCC having a fast student turnaround rate of two years, she wants to see a bigger college poetry scene. A cohort that can thrive in a community with an updated idea of poetry that isn't just about trying to find the "code" within poems.

"Poetry lights up language in extra ways and expands language," Sieczkowski said. "There's not a single interpretation. There's no getting a poem right. There's only coming to the poem and experiencing it."

Learning to love poetry or finding your voice as a poet is as simple as building habits, according to Sieczkowski. She encourages people to read and write one poem a day.

"This is what everyone will tell you. You just have to consume it a lot," she said, adding that she tells students to give themselves permission to write bad poems.

"The more bad poems you write, the faster you can sit down and write a good one."

More than just books, services of campus libraries

Ashley Orduna

Staff Writer

The libraries at Salt Lake Community College are places for students to gather, get resources, build community and find support.

“My typical day is not a typical day,” laughed the Public Services and Outreach Librarian, Erica Gudino. Every day looks a little different for Gudino; some days she helps at the desk and others she helps host events to build outreach for services offered through the library, traveling to other campus locations or reading books to children at The Eccles Early Childhood Development Lab.

“The string that connects all the little parts of my job and career is being able to recognize people,” said Gudino.

Working at the SLCC library seemed to be a “beautiful collaboration” of everything that Gudino had been looking for while studying to become a librarian. Before becoming a librarian, Gudino mainly worked in non-profits building community support systems.

Pop-up libraries expand student access

Gudino completed an internship with a mobile library, an idea she brought to SLCC through the pop-up libraries that occur throughout the semesters.

These mobile libraries provide a space for students to connect with services and librarians.

“It was really a way to expose the library, market us, get students really seeing our faces and engaging with us,” said Gudino. “A large part of it is relationship building and having that face recognition and saying, ‘We are here for you’ even if they may not know what they want.”

While Gudino’s office is found at the Markosian Library, she frequently travels to other SLCC campuses, especially campuses that lack a physical library, such as the West Valley Center.

“We don’t have a physical library there, so even doing the pop-up libraries is really useful,” said Gudino.

Gudino added that places like West Valley typically see the same volume of usage, such as checking out books, that they would see at campuses like Taylorsville Redwood.

Head to the library for an ‘escape’

Another service that Gudino highlighted was the escape room that the library hosts.

The escape rooms are often used by classes, students, staff and faculty as team-building activities or for professors to introduce students to the library resources. Gudino said the goal of the escape



The Markosian Library at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus.

room activities is to make the first interaction between the library and the SLCC community something “fun and silly” that they will remember while being exposed to the resources available through library services.

“It’s a nice team building exercise ... Using the summer Bridge classes [as statistics] we’ve got 93% of students saying it was effective and they learned a lot of skills,” said Gudino.

Gudino added that she was excited about a Utah State Library grant that awarded \$30,000 to support SLCC’s hotspot and laptop lending program.

“We have kind of been running off of grant funding for the last academic year, because we have hotspots that students are able to check out for free,” she said.

Gudino said that Library Services has also been working with Rene Zepeda, the basic needs coordinator from the Thayne Center, to ensure that the free internet services go to those students with the greatest need rather than on a first-come, first-served basis.

“We know in [2026], you can’t be a student without [the] necessary technology ... so with this new grant that we got, we will be purchasing new laptops.”

Free drop-in fitness classes offered to SLCC community

Zachary Whiting

Contributing Writer

Students, faculty and staff at Salt Lake Community College can take a variety of free fitness classes across three campuses through the drop-in fitness class program.

The program is available five days a week at the South City, Taylorsville Redwood and Jordan campuses. Classes include Zumba, yoga, indoor cycling, kickboxing, Power Pump and Core Pilates Barre. Students can participate whenever classes are offered, without signing up.

Paula Nielson-Williams, the campus recreation director, said the program has been around for at least four years but is becoming more popular.

“We used to start with maybe one or two [students] a semester,” Nielson-Williams said. “Now we are up to eight or 10.”

Nielson-Williams attributed this increase to recent changes to financial aid. To comply with the U.S. Department of Education, SLCC can only count classes that apply to a student’s chosen degree

toward their federal financial aid eligibility. Under the new Courses in Program of Study process, those who aren’t required to take a fitness class may have fewer opportunities for physical activities.

“So, if you want to take a class without having to pay extra, the drop-in fitness is a good way to go,” said Nielson-Williams.

Classes such as kickboxing and indoor cycling provide free equipment.

Ernie Castillo, an employee at the Lifetime Activity Center, said that non-SLCC students can also join the classes by using the LAC’s guest-pass system.

“Students can bring a guest, and they are allowed to join the drop-in class as well, as long as they pay for the guest pass,” said Castillo.

Many staff members, including Zumba instructor Daphne Pearce, say they are excited to give students opportunities to stay physically fit.

“I like that it’s free for students. It’s a good way to get a workout in,” Pearce said.

For more information on schedules and classes provided, visit slcc.edu/recreation.



Photo by Violet Stocking

Students participating in the drop-in kickboxing class at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus LAC gym.

Unexpected **elective** classes to liven up any semester

Mansour Yarow

Staff Writer [@mansour_yarow](#)

Salt Lake Community College offers a wide range of elective classes. Elective classes give students a chance to try different areas of study and even help them figure out what career they want to pursue.

Here are five classes without prerequisites to add variety to any schedule.

Health classes outside the norm **HLTH 1242 - Laughter Yoga**

Laughter Yoga is a wellness class that teaches students to use laughter as a tool to “lower stress hormones, foster a positive and hopeful attitude and help people increase health and vitality,” according to the course description. Students learn yoga techniques such as pranayama and using diaphragm muscles to control breathing. This is a 2-credit in person course.

HLAC 1527/28 - Rock Climbing I and II

For students who like to get physical with their learning, Rock Climbing offers a hands-on experience. The Rock Climbing I class focuses on indoor top-rope belaying and climbing techniques. According to the course description, “this course is designed for fun, challenge and encourages lifelong participation.”

Rock Climbing II adds intermediate climbing techniques and skills such as clipping, rope management and lead climbing. Students must complete Rock Climbing I or get instructor approval to take this class.

Both classes are 1 credit and are taught off campus.

Art class with creative sparks **FA 1080 - Basic Metal Sculpturing**

For students who are artistic and love to get creative, Basic Metal Sculpturing is a good fit. Students learn proper cutting and welding techniques by using tools such as the Oxy-Acetylene torch and plasma cutter, while engaging in research, writing, mathematical techniques and design planning to create



Photo by Will Samsky

SLCC metal sculpting instructor Richard Prazen demonstrates a MIG welder in his shop.

metal sculptures. This is a 3-credit-hour course that fulfills the Arts credit.

Electives that dive into real-world issues

SW 2850 - Foundations of Trauma-Informed Care

For students interested in learning how to support at-risk populations in our society, this course teaches practical ways to help. This course explores how different experiences influence the way people respond to trauma, whether individually or within communities. Students learn to recognize trauma, support survivors and build interpersonal skills and strategies.

This class counts as a general elective and

can be used as a program elective in social work.

HLTH 1050 - Life, Society and Drugs

For students curious about how drugs influence society, HLTH 1050 might have some answers. This course examines substance use and abuse in local and international communities, covering drugs such as alcohol, tobacco, opiates, marijuana and others. Students also learn about the history of drug trade around the world, its impact and prevention strategies. This is a 3-credit-hour course.

Before taking elective courses, speaking to a academic advisor will help ensure students take the right classes to complete their degree.

»» Democracy. Real News. Truth. Accountability. Integrity.

Care about those things? (And like learning and having fun, too?) **Good news! The Globe is hiring.**

Apply today at globeslcc.com/jobs

Or contact us for more information at globe@slcc.edu
