Subscribe to The Office of Instruction: The Monday Minute

Fowler, Kelly
Monday, November 16, 2026 · 10 min read

View in Outlook Newsletters

The *Monday Minute*: November 16, 2026 Edition



The Monday Minute (Week 13)

November 16, 2026

Welcome to Week 13!

This week's *Monday Minute* highlights several important updates, including changes in accreditation, an exciting new designation for Mt. SAC, and upcoming opportunities to engage with colleagues and our broader community.

As we navigate these busy weeks, I hope you will find opportunities to celebrate our collective accomplishments and recognize the many ways our work continues to make a difference for students.

Accreditation Update



Higher education accreditation continues to evolve, with significant federal policy and regulatory changes affecting transfer of credit, return on investment (ROI) and student outcomes, academic freedom, and institutional accountability. These changes have important implications for our policies, practices, and how we support students.

Mt. SAC is actively monitoring these developments and working with the Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC) to expand opportunities for our campus community to learn about the changes, ask questions, and engage in discussions about their potential impact.

We have already established a "transfer of credit" team to review the evolving requirements around the new transfer of credit regulations, assess our current practices, and identify areas that may need attention or updates.

Upcoming Opportunity: December 3 Watch Party (3:30 to 4:30)

Join us for a watch party on December 3 to learn more about how AI transfer tools can be used to assist institutions in meeting the 2027 Federal Regularions for American Higher Edcuation Institutions. For additional information and where to watch, please contact Lianne Greenlee.

We encourage everyone to stay informed and participate in these important conversations as we work together to navigate the changes ahead.

Please contact any of the following if you have questions:

- Allie Frickert, Faculty Accreditation Coordinator
- Raul Madrid, Faculty Accreditation Co-Coordinator
- Lianne Greenlee, Assistant Dean of Accreditation and Planning
- Kelly Fowler, VPI and Accreditation Liaison Officer

For additional information, please refer to these resources--

- ACCJC website
- U.S. Department of Education Finalizes Rule to Reform, Strengthen, and Modernize Higher Education Accreditation
- Council for Higher Education Accreditation
- U.S. Department of Education Negotiated Rulemaking for Higher

Education 2026

Mt. SAC Officially Designated a California Black-Serving Institution!



We are excited to share that Mt. SAC has officially been designated a California Black-Serving Institution (BSI) as part of the 2026 cohort! This prestigious five-year designation, extending through November 2031, recognizes our college's commitment to advancing Black student success, equity, and belonging.

A special congratulations and thank you to Dean of Student Services, Dr. Koji Uesugi, and the BSI Application Workgroup for their collaboration and dedication throughout this process. We especially want to recognize Adrienne Price and Dr. Patty Quiñones, whose extensive work and leadership were instrumental in bringing this application to fruition.

Looking ahead, Mt. SAC will partner with the Central Office for the Advancement of Black Student Success to implement our BSI strategic plan and strengthen institutional practices that support meaningful, lasting student success.

Please see the application and additional information at the Center for Black Culture & Student Success website.

Congrutulations to Mt. SAC!



II Global Peace Summit: One Voice, the Americas of Peace

Mt. SAC is excited to host the **II Global Peace Summit**, **January 28–29, 2027**, in partnership with COMNAPAZ México. This two-day event will bring together diverse perspectives to explore global challenges and promote peace, understanding, and collaboration across cultures.

Free registration is now open

How do communities rebuild trust after conflict? How can schools help young people resolve differences? And what can we learn from people working for peace around the world?

Students and community members can explore those questions alongside international peacebuilders when Mt. San Antonio College

hosts the II Global Peace Summit on January 28–29, 2027. The free, two-day gathering will bring perspectives from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Mexico and the United States to the college's Walnut campus.

We encourage our campus community to participate in this special opportunity to connect classroom learning with global perspectives and conversations.

Learn more: secondpeacesummit.org



Temporary Reassigned Time for Exceptional Leverls of Service to the College (Spring 2027 and Summer 2027)

Article 10.O. provides a bank of Temporary Reassigned Time (LHE) for Exceptional Levels of Service to the College. Applications are now being accepted for **Spring 2027 and Summer 2027**. I have attached the application (writeable Word document) and a PDF with the criteria to be used by the Exceptional Service Committee when rating the applications.

Please note that the application, with the professor's Division Dean's comments, must be submitted to the Office of Instruction via email to Laura Martinez (vpisig@mtsac.edu) no later than ***December 1, 2026***.

> 10.O. – Temporary Reassigned Time for Exceptional Levels of Service to the College: For each fiscal year, the District shall provide a pool of 50 LHE, divisible into 1.0 LHE increments, to provide temporary reassigned time to professors who are engaged in exceptional levels of services that support the College, but who are not otherwise receiving an adjustment in workload to reflect that effort.
>
> For each fiscal year, the District shall provide an additional pool of 25 LHE, divisible into 1.0 LHE increments, dedicated exclusively to provide temporary reassigned time to professors who are engaged in exceptional levels of service that support the College's interest in diversity, equity, and inclusion, but who are not otherwise receiving an adjustment in workload to reflect that effort.
>
> One (1) LHE of reassigned time reflects an expectation of forty-two and two-thirds (42.67) hours of service. (15 LHE = 40 hours/week x

16 weeks, so 1 LHE = 40 x 16/15 = 42.67 hours).

Assigned time from this pool may be awarded to professors to perform projects that require professors' expertise. Such projects may include the exploration, development, or implementation of high-impact educational practices (Faculty Inquiry Groups), new program creation, and other service to the college that goes significantly beyond the normal expectation of all professors. In addition, assigned time from this pool may be awarded to small scale proposals that would otherwise qualify for consideration under Article 16.K. (sabbaticals). No single project assigned time from this pool shall be awarded more than 9 LHE.

In addition, the District agrees to allocate up to $5,000 each year for supplies and equipment requested for these projects.

Please reach out to Laura Martinez if you have any questions. Thank you!

Banner Upgrade Reminder: Sunday, November 22

The Information Technology team will be performing critical Banner upgrades on **Sunday, November 22,** starting at 8 a.m., with service expected to resume by 12:00 p.m.

What does this mean to you?

During the scheduled maintenance window, the following systems/applications will be **temporarily unavailable** to students, faculty, and staff:

- Banner Administrative Pages
- Faculty/Staff Self-Service, including benefits, pay stubs, final grades, and class rosters
- Student Self-Service, including online payments, registration, and grades
- Mt. SAC Portal
- EAB Navigate

Will I still be able to access Canvas?

Yes. Canvas will remain available, and users already logged into

Canvas will not have their sessions disrupted by this maintenance.

Although the Canvas card will be inaccessible while Mt. SAC Portal is unavailable, you can access Canvas through the Mt. SAC homepage:

1. Visit www.mtsac.edu.
2. Open the **Sign In** menu in the upper-right corner.
3. Select **Canvas (Classes).**

Which other services will remain available?

- Canvas
- DegreeWorks
- Email
- Office 365 services
- Campus phone system and extensions

While our priority is to complete the required maintenance within the defined timeline, sometimes unexpected things happen. The projected system down time is an estimate derived from tests simulated in our non-production environments. In the event additional time is required, a revised announcement will be sent via campus email.

For additional information, please visit the 2026 Scheduled Maintenance Calendar. Please reach out to Monica Cantu-Chan if you have any questions.

A Resource for Employees: EASE (Employee Assistance Service for Education)

The **EASE** (Employee Assistance Service for Education) program at Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) is
a confidential, district-paid counseling and support service available to employees and their immediate family members (including children up to age 26).

Key Details

- **Services Provided:** Virtual and face-to-face counseling, phone consultations, community referrals, and mental health resources.
- **Common Topics Covered:** Work stress, anxiety and depression, family or emotional distress, grief and loss, life transitions, substance abuse, and conflict resolution.

- **Cost:** Free/paid for by Mt. SAC.
- **Hotline:** You can reach the 24/7 EASE hotline at **1-800-882-1341**.
- **More Information:** Review the Mt. SAC EASE Flyer or visit the Mt. SAC Faculty Benefits page. [1, 2]

EASE offers specialized training, professional development, and resources for leadership and employees. Please feel free to contact us to learn more about our services and how we can support you on your journey.

Important Dates and Reminders



- Thanksgiving Holiday**: November 26 and 27, 2026**
- Deadline to Request to Merge Canvas Shells for Winter 2027: **December 1, 2026**
- Last Day of the Fall 2026 Semester: **December 11, 2026**
- Grades Due (full-term classes): **Tuesday, December 15, 2026 (by 8 pm)**
- Winter 2027 Begins: **January 4, 2027**
- Deadline to Request to Merge Canvas Shells for Spring 2027: **February 1, 2027**
- **Winter 2027 Ends: February 11, 2027**
- February Holidays: **February 12 (Friday) and February 15 (Monday)**
- Spring 2027 Begins: **February 22, 207**
- Mt. SAC Faculty Center for Learning Technology website
- Mt. SAC Student Services Resources
- Canvas Student Support Hub (log in to access this resource)
- Mt. SAC 2026 - 2027 Academic Calendar
- Mt. SAC 2027 - 2028 Academic Calendar
- Fall 2026 Credit Course Section Cancellation Protocol
- Mt. SAC Calendar of Events
- The Monday Minute Feedback Survey



As we head into the final weeks of the semester...

Thank you for your continued collaboration, dedication, and commitment to our students and one another. As always, the Office of Instruction and our Division Offices are here to support you throughout the semester.

Have a wonderful week!

Add Comment

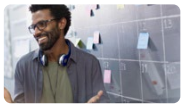
More from newsletters



The Office of Instruction: The...
by Fowler, Kelly



Office of Instruction: The Monday...
by Fowler, Kelly



Winter 2027 FCLT Workshops Coming...
by Figueroa Morales, Eva (eh-vah)

Subscribe to The Office of Instruction: The Monday Minute

Empowering creators to build communities.

Get started