



NEWS

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | E-Mail: agarten@elcamino.edu

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El Camino College Compton Center Students May Be Eligible for the American Opportunity Tax Credit

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, students at El Camino College Compton Center may qualify for a tax credit to help pay for college tuition and expenses. The American Opportunity Credit is worth up to \$2,500 of the cost of college fees and related expenses, such as books, supplies and equipment needed for a course of study. Students or their parents can make a claim on 2009 and 2010 tax returns.

The full credit is available to individuals whose gross annual income is \$80,000 or less, or \$160,000 or less for married couples. Even students who don't make enough money to file a return should do it anyway because they may get up to \$1,000 back. Don't forget, the last day to file a 2009 tax return is April 15, 2010.

To take advantage of this tax credit, contact the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at 1-800-829-1040. The VITA program offers *free* tax help to people with a gross annual income at or below \$49,000 who need assistance preparing their tax returns.

Students and their parents are encouraged to learn more about this important tax credit by visiting www.irs.gov/recovery and clicking on the "American Opportunity Credit" link today.

For more information about financial aid at El Camino College Compton Center and to get assistance with the application process, contact the Financial Aid Office, Room E-17, at 310-900-1600, Ext. 2935.

About El Camino College Compton Center

El Camino College Compton Center is the community's education solution offering a full complement of transfer and degree courses, as well as career and technical education. Students may earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a four-year university or train for a career. Many classes are available and offered at an affordable price—fees are only \$26 per unit. The catalog and class schedule for day, evening, weekend and online courses is available on the Web site at www.compton.edu or may be picked up at Compton Center located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA. For more information, call 310-900-1600.

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