

Celebrating 2022 EOPS Graduating & Transfer Students



Dear EOPS graduating and transfer students,

On behalf of the EOPS family, we would like to congratulate you on your achievements at Glendale Community College. We are extremely proud of you and all that you have accomplished. Your dedication, resilience and strong work ethic helped you reach your academic and career goals. As you embark on the next chapter of your life, we wish you great success.

We are delighted to celebrate the class of 2022 during our in-person commencement ceremony. If you are earning a Certificate and/or Associate Degree and would like to participate in the graduation ceremony on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM, please complete the [In-Person Graduation Sign-Up sheet](#). *You must RSVP by May 20, 2022.* For more information regarding the graduation ceremony, [click here](#).

We are also excited to share that EOPS will be providing complimentary Caps and Gowns to our EOPS graduates! If you have completed the graduation petition with EOPS, [check your GCC e-mail](#) on how to obtain your EOPS Spring 2022 Graduation Package Voucher.

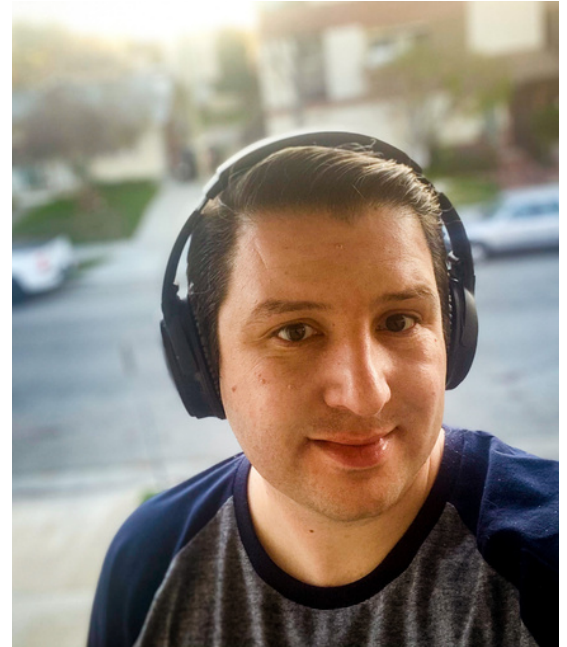
To our graduates, we hope your educational experience at GCC will help you as you continue onto the next chapter of your life. To our transfer students, we wish you continued success at your chosen university.

As the academic year comes to an end, we'd like to highlight some of our EOPS students and share their inspirational experiences.

ARTHUR WARD

Arthur is a returning college student who began his GCC journey in Summer, 2020. He is majoring in History and plans to pursue a career in teaching within higher education. He is extremely passionate about the history of science and medicine. The advancements in the field of biological sciences is fascinating to him, and he wants to teach that part of history to people as a future educator.

Arthur will be graduating GCC in spring 2022 with multiple degrees! He will earn an AA-T degree in History, AA degree in Social Sciences, and an AA degree in Italian. He has been admitted to all the UC campuses he has applied to; he is proudly committing to UC, Berkeley.



Arthur shares that his greatest experiences at GCC have been the opportunity to be involved, even in a remote, pandemic environment. Throughout the past two year, Arthur has been a member of ASGCC, Governance Committees and Campus Judicial Committees. These experiences helped him gain valuable leadership skills. More importantly, he represented the student voice; which impacted campus policies that directly effect our students and their GCC experiences. Arthur also serves as an SI tutor to his peers.

All his hard work and success did not come without any challenges. He shared that returning to college after 12 years was difficult, especially during the peak of the pandemic. He was forced to quickly get back into the rhythm of becoming a college student and needed to learn how to navigate the remote learning environment, while having other personal and life responsibilities. Arthur knew he wanted to be in college to pursue his career aspirations; his self-drive and motivation helped him reach his goals at GCC. He's also thankful for the EOPS program and the 1-1 counseling we provided to support him and his needs. Knowing that there were counselors on campus who had a vested interest in him and his goals was very important to him and his educational journey.

Arthur wants current GCC students to know, "You can do it! At times, your journey will be tough and challenging; however, during your time at GCC, you will learn so much, both academically and, more importantly, about yourself. I promise you will grow, find yourself capable of so much, and transform beyond your reckonings. So, please take advantage of all the opportunities afforded to you and prepare to spread your wings and grow; your future success will genuinely be gratifying."

HAYKANUSH ARAKELYAN

Haykanush is a 1st generation, single parent, returning college student who came to the United States in 2017 with her daughter. Her educational journey first started at the Garfield campus, where she learned and developed core English language skills. A year later, in 2018, she transitioned to the Verdugo Campus and continued studying English, then began taking general education and major related courses. She shared that she was very excited to start her education in the United States. Her daughter motivates her to continuously better herself and instills the importance of learning and education in her daughter.



Haykanush will be earning many degrees from GCC in spring 2022! She will receive an AS degree in Accounting, AS degree in Bookkeeping, AA degree in Business Administration, AS-T degree in Business Administration, and an AA-T degree in Economics. She will be transferring to CSU, Northridge in Fall 2022 and will be pursuing an bachelor's degree in Accountancy. After earning her bachelor's degree, she plans to continue her education to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Haykanush reflected on her experience at GCC and shared that she is happy that she her life choices led her to GCC. She worked on campus in the Culinary Arts department as a Teacher Assistant. She now works as a Student Ambassador at the Welcome Center. She enjoys interacting and helping her peers learn to navigate college resources and help direct students to the proper departments according to their needs. She is also part of the financial club on campus where she learns more about financial literacy. All these experiences are important to her because she built positive relationships with peers, faculty and staff.

During her time at Glendale College, Haykanush shared that she faced many challenges, especially when she first began studying ESL and then once again when the pandemic started. She used that energy and turned it into a positive. She says, "Every day we are faced with challenges, and we always need to work on ourselves to be a better version of ourselves." The pandemic helped her change her perspective on life. She focuses more on her health and takes active measures to spend quality time with her daughter.

She is thankful for the support she received from EOPS, along with help of CARE and CalWORKs benefits. Haykanush is appreciative of all the financial support provided by EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs, but emphasized that the 1-1 counseling and support she received helped her stay on her path towards achieving her goals.

To current GCC students, Haykanush says, "Never give up – NEVER! Always try your best, don't doubt yourself. Take the step and continue taking step to better yourself. You are in control of life."