



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College
Miramar College • Continuing Education



Get Certified!

As part of its commitment to diversity, the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) encourages eligible firms to obtain certifications from District-approved [certifying agencies](#), as these certifications are recognized by other public agencies whereas the District's Certification Verification is not.

By obtaining all certifications for which you may be eligible, you may be afforded bid preferences or streamlined bid processes when pursuing State or Federal work. You will also be included in databases utilized by a variety of public agencies, prime bidders, professional services firms and suppliers. Additionally, your pursuit of more formal, approved certifications will contribute to the District's commitment to data integrity and accuracy, and be consistent with ongoing activities at the state and federal levels to enhance certification accuracy and mitigate fraud.

[Small Business Enterprise \(SBE\)](#)

The SDCCD recognizes SBE and microbusiness certifications obtained through the California Department of General Services (DGS) and relies on the DGS' [Bid Sync](#) tool to identify local SBE-certified firms to notice for bid opportunities. Resources to help you [get certified](#) include:

- [SBE Eligibility Requirements and Benefits](#)
- [Certification Requirements](#)
- [Certification Instructions](#)

The SDCCD also recognizes the SBE certification from the [Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#) (METRO) and the Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE) from [City of Los Angeles](#), both of which use SBA size standards.

[Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\)](#)

The SDCCD recognizes DBE certifications obtained through California Department of Transportation's [Unified Certification Program](#) (UCP) and relies on the UCP's [DBE Firm Search Query](#) tool to identify local DBE firms to notice for bid opportunities. Resources to help you obtain DBE certification include:

- [DBE Eligibility Requirements and Application](#)
- [DBE Certification Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The SDCCD also recognizes DBE certifications from the [Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#) (METRO) and the [City of Los Angeles](#), detailed in the SBE section above.

A designation as an 8(a) Program participant from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and identified through the System for Award Management (SAM) is recognized by the District as a certified DBE due to the rigorous certification approval process involved with this designation. The SBA's 8(a) certification site includes [instructions on how to apply](#) for this designation.

[Minority Business Enterprise \(MBE\)](#)

Certification programs for MBE firms vary among public agencies. The SDCCD relies on the California United Certification Program (UCP) [Firm Search Query](#) tool to identify State-certified MBE firms to notice for bid opportunities. Eligible firms may submit applications to the [State of California Minority Business Enterprise \(SMBE\) and Women Business Enterprise \(SWBE\) program](#).

The SDCCD recognizes MBE certifications obtained through the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) [Supplier Clearinghouse](#) and relies on the agency's public access [search tool](#) to identify local MBE firms to notice for bid opportunities. Eligible firms are encouraged to pursue verification ([standard](#) or [fast-track](#)) with the Supplier Clearinghouse.

The SDCCD also recognizes MBE certifications from the [Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#) (METRO) and the [City of Los Angeles](#), detailed in the SBE section above.

[Woman Business Enterprise \(WBE\)](#)

Certifications for WBE firms vary among public agencies. The SDCCD relies on the United Certification Program (UCP) [Firm Search Query](#) tool to identify WBE firms to notice for bid opportunities. The UCP has a [State of California Minority Business Enterprise \(SMBE\) and Women Business Enterprise \(SWBE\) program](#).

The SDCCD recognizes WBE certifications obtained through the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) [Supplier Clearinghouse](#), detailed in the MBE section above.

The SDCCD also recognizes WBE certifications from the [Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#) (METRO) and the [City of Los Angeles](#), detailed in the SBE section above.

[Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise \(DVBE\)](#)

The SDCCD recognizes DVBE certifications obtained through California's Department of General Services (DGS) and relies on the DGS' [Bid Sync](#) tool to identify DVBE-certified firms to notice for bid opportunities. Resources to help you [get certified](#) include:

- [DVBE Eligibility Requirements and Benefits](#)

- [Certification Requirements](#)

The SDCCD does not recognize certifications from agencies or organizations which charge a fee and/or a renewal fee for the certification. Please review the District's list of [approved certifying agencies](#) to learn more. Please also review the District's [database of small and historically underutilized firms](#) to make sure the information on your firm is up to date and accurate. Firms with new information are asked to submit a new [Certification Verification Form](#) so that these records can be updated. The forms may be submitted to Andrew Schweizer at aschweizer@gafcon.com or faxed to (619) 388-6509.

No-cost workshops and training to help firms obtain certification(s) are periodically offered by business development organizations including:

- [San Diego Contracting Opportunities Center](#)
For assistance with certifications, please e-mail Leanne Cabling at lcabling@ptac-sandiego.org, requesting assistance for SDCCD purposes.
- [Small Business Development Center](#)
- [Small Business Administration, San Diego](#)