



RAILROAD OPERATIONS PROGRAM:

Information for Prospective Students

The **Railroad Operations Program (RAILR)** at **Sacramento City College (SCC)** provides hands-on training and industry-focused coursework to prepare you for a rewarding career in this dynamic, essential field. With more than 500 companies, the U.S. railroad industry provides both freight and passenger transportation across a vast 300,000 miles of track. As rail networks expand and modernize, the demand for skilled professionals is on the rise and to meet this growing need, **SCC** and the **Rail Academy of Central California (TRACC)** have partnered to offer a robust educational program, blending classroom learning with hands-on experience.

Program Overview

RAILR equips students with the necessary skills to pursue diverse, well-paying careers such as Railroad Conductor, Engineer or Manager of Train Operations.

It includes **five courses** completed over **approximately seven months**, with two cohorts per year:

- **Cohort 1:** Starts in Spring (January) and graduates in Summer (August).
- **Cohort 2:** Starts in Summer (May) and graduates in Fall (December).

Courses are offered every five weeks, with flexible study options including asynchronous **online course** for a student driven pace of instruction or **in-person classes** at ACE Rail Maintenance Facilities in Stockton, CA.

- **In-person Cohort 1:** Meets Tuesday/Thursday evenings and
- **In-person Cohort 2:** Meets Monday/Wednesday evenings.

Students must complete an in-person lab as part of RAILR142 (Railroad Field Operations). This lab is 24 hours of hands-on activity/lab assignments and will be completed over one weekend from Thursday through Sunday, typically at the end of July for Cohort 1 and at the end of November for Cohort 2.

In order to be successful, students should plan to devote 4-6 hours per week to program studies.

Academic Pathways and Curriculum Highlights

Students can pursue either a **Certificate of Achievement** or an **Associate in Science (A.S.)** degree.

- The **Certificate** is a 16-unit, five-course program, approved by the Railroad Education and Training Association.
- The **A.S. degree** requires completion of the certificate program, plus general education and electives for a total of 60 units.

The RAILR required curriculum - for Certificate of Achievement and A.S. paths - are as follows:

<u>Course Number</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Units</u>
RAILR 102	Railroad Technical Careers	3
RAILR 120	Railroad Operations	3
RAILR 122	Railroad Safety, Quality, and Environment	3
RAILR 140	Railroad General Code of Operating Rules	4
RAILR 142	Railroad Field Operations	3
Certificate of Achievement Total		16
RAILR 100	History of Railroading (A.S. Degree Only)	3
TBD	General Education Units	41
Associate in Science Degree Total		60

Learning Outcomes

For more information, schedule an appointment with a [Career Education Counselor](#)

Upon successful completion of the program, the student will be able to:

- qualify for an interview for a Conductor, Engineer or Management position.
- demonstrate the knowledge and skills appropriate for an entry level railroad position.
- demonstrate the knowledge and skills pertaining to industry history, careers, operations, safety, quality, environment, procedures, and operating rules.

Course Materials & Required Safety Equipment

In addition to normal student expenses, RAILR also requires student expenditure of approximately \$50-\$150 for work boots and work gloves. Included in tuition are Safety Glasses, Earplugs, Hard Hat and Safety vest.

Admissions Requirements

Getting started on your journey toward a career in railroad operations is easy! To qualify for the program, applicants must:

- be a high school student, high school graduate or have obtained a GED.
- must have no Felony criminal violations.
- must be capable of lifting 75 pounds.

2024-2025 Estimated RAILR Program Tuition:

The total RAILR Program enrollment/tuition fees for California residents are estimated to be: \$736 for the Certificate of Achievement and \$2760 for the Associate of Science degree. Tuition/enrollment fees are paid per course (e.g., \$138 for a 3-unit course for California residents) as the student progresses through the program, rather than all at once. Information for non-residents and Total Cost of Attendance can be found [here](#).

How to Apply

Ready to get started? The application process depends on the type of student you are, such as [First Time College Student](#), [Transfer Student](#), [International Student](#), [Veteran Student](#), [Undocumented Student](#) or [High School Student](#). Please click [here](#) for detailed description, application and admissions information for all different student types.

Enrollment and Registration

Students will enroll in the first course, **RAILR 102**, using the SCC enrollment process, found [here](#). Registration in subsequent RAILR courses is dependent upon the student receiving a "C" (or better) grade in the current course. Registration for successive RAILR courses (after RAILR 102) will be administered by the RAILR staff and the student will be notified when to log into the [eServices](#) system to pay for the course.

Financial Aid

Generally students will utilize the SCC Financial Aid Office to identify resources to pay for college, including grants, loans, and scholarships. More information can be found [here](#).

Student Support Services and Academic Counseling

SCC offers many resources, services and counseling to help students succeed, which can be found [here](#)

New Student Orientation

New RAILR students are required to attend an orientation program which is offered one or two weeks before the start of each Cohort. Orientation provides students with information aimed at student success in the RAILR program.

Career Development and Opportunities

RAILR offers comprehensive guidance to students preparing for careers in the railroad industry utilizing both SCC resources and collaboration with industry partners.

One of the **highlights of RAILR is that graduates are guaranteed an automatic interview** with our partners Union Pacific Railroad, AMTRAK and Transit America (**NOTE**: the interview does not guarantee being hired).

Additionally, we offer the following:

- **WTS International and San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission Interview Services**: Includes guaranteed mock interviews and resume writing tutorials
- **SCC Career Services**: Offers assistance with career goal evaluation, job search preparation, and resources. More information can be found [here](#).

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