

Student Information System (SIS) Implementation Project Frequently Asked Questions

General

What is the SIS project, and what will it impact?

The SIS project is the effort by the five undergraduate institutions (5Cs) of The Claremont Colleges (Pomona College, Scripps College, Claremont McKenna College, Harvey Mudd College, and Pitzer College) and The Claremont Colleges Services (TCCS) to transition to Anthology Student, a new student information system (SIS).

The SIS project will impact the management of academic records, course scheduling, degree audits, academic advising, student accounts, institutional research, and internal and external reporting. Currently, students and faculty engage with the Jenzabar CX SIS through what is commonly referred to as “the portal,” wherein students manage their accounts and course schedules, and faculty manage their class rosters, grades, and advising responsibilities.

In addition, the SIS facilitates student and faculty records management, transcript services, degree and enrollment verifications, degree progress auditing, and institutional research. It also interfaces with other systems supporting essential campus functions such as admission, financial aid, and residential life.

What is Anthology Student, and why was it selected?

Anthology Student is a cloud-based student information system. The Claremont Colleges identified Anthology Student through an SIS market analysis and vendor selection process, with the support of Strata Information Group. Anthology presented a proof-of-concept of its Student product to 5C stakeholders. It demonstrated the product’s functionality aligned with the Colleges’ critical needs, including support for cross-registration, abundant integrations with third-party systems, a contemporary cloud-based technical infrastructure, and flexible configuration capabilities. Through our rigorous vendor selection process, the Colleges obtained feedback from over 50 5C functional and technical subject matter experts, which confirmed Anthology’s ability to meet the Consortium’s needs. Reference calls with other Anthology clients also supported this assessment and inspired confidence in the vendor’s commitment to customer success.

Why are the undergraduate institutions of The Claremont Colleges transitioning to a new student information system?

The current student information system at the 5Cs was implemented over 20 years ago. That product is built on outdated on-premises technology, has been highly customized, and is approaching end-of-life. This leaves the 5Cs in a precarious position where academic operations rely on a fragile technical infrastructure and a diminishing pool of experts capable of maintaining it. The Consortium needs to transition away from its present system and implement a contemporary SIS that can meet The Claremont Colleges’ unique needs for the next 20 years.

When will The Claremont Colleges transition to Anthology Student?

The Anthology Student (AS) system is scheduled to “go live” mid-2025. The implementation will follow a phased approach from planning and design through building, testing, and finally, “go live.” The calendar of activities will evolve. To see an overview of the project phases, please refer to the [SIS Implementation Project Milestones diagram](#).

Who is managing the SIS project, and what measures have been taken to ensure that the individual needs of the five colleges are being taken into account?

The 5Cs have charged TCCS with assembling a team to manage the SIS implementation in collaboration with 5C SIS users and implementation consultants from Anthology. Staff members from the Registrar, Student Accounts, and Information Technology Services offices from each of the colleges, alongside colleagues from various other offices, are substantially engaged. More information is available on the [Team](#) section of this site.

Will there be a disruption or downtime during the transition to the new system?

Yes. There will be a cutover period of one to two weeks during the summer of 2025. During this time, Jenzabar CX will be offline, and Anthology Student (AS) will not yet be fully operational. During the cutover, we will cease operating our legacy system, conduct the final data conversion and clean-up effort, and then bring up the new system for operations. This process will be disruptive and demand the full attention of administrative SIS users. We will make every effort to minimize the impact of cutover activities on students and faculty, but end users should be prepared for the possibility of service delays.

Will training be offered for students, faculty, and staff on the new Anthology Student system?

Yes. In addition to the vendor's training materials for administrative SIS users, the implementation team will develop training materials and facilitate training opportunities for 5C students and faculty.

How will the new system handle the privacy and security of student data?

The Claremont Colleges and TCCS are committed to preserving the security and confidentiality of student records. As we do for our legacy system, we will employ a combination of technological measures, best practices, and policies to regulate access to Anthology Student. Anthology incorporates robust security features that conform to industry standards. Please refer to Anthology's website to learn more about their commitment and approach to [data privacy](#) and [product security](#).

Will there be technical support to assist with any issues or questions on the new system?

Yes. During the implementation, 5C community members may contact the TCCS project team at sisproject@claremont.edu for technical assistance. Following the implementation of Anthology Student, TCCS will designate staff members to provide ongoing support for the system.

Below, you will find additional information by user groups: faculty, staff, and students.

Faculty**How will the implementation of Anthology Student as the new student information system impact faculty?**

The new SIS will include a new faculty portal. Faculty members should anticipate navigating a new portal system to post grades, access class rosters, manage waitlists, and obtain advising information. They should also anticipate changes to the way routine academic business gets done. Some examples include new forms, approval processes, or system-generated messages. As we progress through each data conversion and testing cycle with Anthology Student, we will document such changes for training purposes.

How will faculty be kept informed of the project status?

The ADC (Academic Deans Committee) will coordinate communications to provide timely and relevant information to faculty members about the project.

When and how will faculty members be prepared to use the new system?

We plan to offer training materials and opportunities in spring 2025 to help faculty members familiarize themselves with the new portal.

How will faculty provide feedback or suggestions on navigating the new system?

Anthology Student is a cloud-based system, so the user interface and features available are largely pre-determined by the vendor. The implementation team will seek feedback on training materials from faculty who participate in the training opportunities in the spring and summer of 2025.

Staff**When and how will staff training on the new system be provided?**

Administrative users of the SIS will learn the new system through the implementation process. Training will initially involve staff members who are subject matter experts participating in the project, commencing in summer 2024. Staff who will be system end users but not involved in the implementation should anticipate training in the spring and summer of 2025. Staff will have access to a library of job aids, reference materials in multiple formats, and support from the TCCS project team.

Students**How will the transition to the new Anthology Student system impact students?**

The new SIS will include a new student portal. Students should anticipate navigating a new portal system to register for courses, view grades, and review their student accounts. They should also anticipate changes to the way routine academic business gets done. Some examples include new forms, approval processes, or system-generated messages. As we progress through each data conversion and testing cycle with Anthology Student, we will document such changes for training purposes.

When and how will students be trained to use the student portal?

Currently, training for students is scheduled to commence in April 2025. Students will be offered training opportunities and access to comprehensive resource materials in multiple formats.

How will students provide feedback or suggestions on navigating the new system?

Anthology Student is a cloud-based system, so the user interface and features available are largely pre-determined by the vendor. The implementation team will seek feedback on training materials from students who participate in the training opportunities in the spring and summer of 2025.