
Standard IA.1: Example of how the College's Mission describes its commitment to student learning and student achievement

First Year Experience Program and Related Support Service Programs

With the Mission written to address educational goals and outcomes, such as development of skills necessary for success, career and transfer readiness, and a commitment to learning, the College's Mission provides faculty, staff, and administrators the flexibility necessary to develop, pilot, and institutionalize an array of innovative programming as needs and resources arise. One program created to address the unique needs of first-year students and to improve their success is the First Year Experience Program (FYE). Created in Spring 2013, the focus of the program is to encourage first-time freshmen to apply and enroll early and to support their transition from high school to college. This program incorporates a multi-pronged approach based on the recommendations of the California Community College Student Success Task Force (CCCSSTF) and includes the following:

- Multiple student contacts;
- Targeted program recruitment activities based on mandatory assessment results;
- Multiple summer program options intended to prepare students for transition to college;
- Intrusive counseling and other support assistance; and
- Activities to facilitate successful and timely completion of math and English requirements.

This program began as a pilot in 2013-2014 and served a relatively small number of students. According to an [evaluation report](#)¹ developed by Santa Monica College's Office of Institutional Research, FYE students achieved better first semester completion rates, higher rates of success in Math and English, and significantly higher persistence rates than students who did not attend FYE. Thus, the College is expanding the program to serve more than 1,000 participants in 2015-2016.

The FYE program feeds into a number of existing services designed to support first-year students and those traditionally underrepresented in higher education. These programs have developed through the College's work with the local community and the identification of underserved populations:

- The College has partnered with the City of Santa Monica and the Pico neighborhood for more than a decade to create the [Pico Promise Program](#), which serves low-income potential first-generation college students residing in Santa Monica's Pico neighborhood.²
- An increase in the veteran population has been the catalyst for a partnership between the College's Center for Students with Disabilities and the Greater Los Angeles Office of Veterans Affairs to better serve the educational needs of servicemen and women returning from duty. The success of this partnership resulted in a best practices accreditation commendation given to the Greater Los Angeles Office of Veterans Affairs during their own accreditation process by the International Commission on Rehabilitation Facilities.

¹ Evidence: IA1_FYE_Results_Summary_3-4-15.pdf

² Evidence: IA1_Pico_Promise_Program_website.pdf

Each of these programs exemplifies the College's commitment to student learning and achievement, as well as its increased focus on equity.

- The College utilized institutional funding to establish the [Latino Center](#)³ and the [Black Collegians Center](#)⁴ more than 25 years ago to promote and support postsecondary education among Latino and Black students respectively.
- With support from private foundations, the College developed a [Guardian Scholars Program](#)⁵ to support students who are or once were in foster care.

Additional examples of the College's commitment to support student learning and achievement through the development and institutionalization of innovative programming include the following:

- [Prep2Test](#),⁶ a College-developed tool to prepare students to take the assessment test;
- [MyEdPlan](#),⁷ a tool also developed by the College to facilitate the creation and tracking of education plans;
- Comprehensive instructional and student success programs, such as the [Science and Research Initiative](#),⁸ that offer counseling and other supportive services to improve student achievement in specific fields of study; and

[Supplemental Instruction](#),⁹ an internationally recognized academic support model that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success within targeted historically difficult courses.

³ Evidence: IA1_Latino_Center_website.pdf

⁴ Evidence: IA1_Black_Collegians_Program_website.pdf

⁵ Evidence: IA1_Guardian_Scholars_Program_website.pdf

⁶ Evidence: IA1_Prep2Test_website.pdf

⁷ Evidence: IA1_MyEd_Plan.pdf

⁸ Evidence: IA1_STEM_and_SRI_website.pdf

⁹ Evidence: IA1_Supplemental_Instruction_website.pdf