

## Progress Update (Past Two Years) - Enrollment Development

1. Provide an update on your program or department's progress on your last objectives or action plans:

### Redesign New Student Seminar

## Progress Update Past Action Plans

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The IEC has completely redesigned the new student seminar experience. During Covid, the new student seminar was offered through remote modalities out of necessity. Upon SMC's return to on-ground instruction, the International Education Center chose to continue to offer the new student seminar online. The online modality allows students to complete the pre-enrollment steps, the seminar itself, and to meet with our international counselors, much earlier than the on-ground seminar offered in the past. The earlier completion of the pre-enrollment steps, the seminar, and the subsequent counselor appointments allow students to enroll in courses as soon as their enrollment dates came to pass. As a result, our international student admission to enrollment yields have increased substantially.

### Monitor New Student Referral Program

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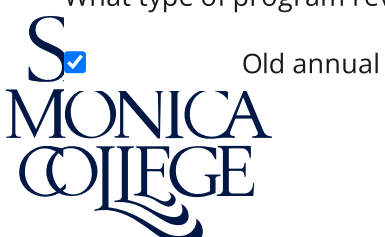
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Monitor the Student Referral Program - In response to our competitors, SMC significantly raised the Commission payments to our agent partners. The increased commissions helped to offset the COVID-driven enrolment declined and are currently helping to rebuild our enrollment numbers. We plan to monitor competitors rates and propose adjustments as needed to secure our competitive edge.

### Global Citizenship Program

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Global Citizenship Initiative: Under the leadership of Denise Kinsella, the Global Citizenship and Study Abroad Program has been thriving. The 2023-2024 Theme for SMC Global Citizenship was “Risk, Refuge and Resilience”.

The program offered a myriad of faculty driven workshops and lectures. The 15th annual Global Citizenship Symposium was held on May 2, 2024. More than 30 students submitted their works, and seven finalists were invited to present their projects to the SMC community at the Symposium. The event was in person and many faculty, staff, parents, and students were in attendance.

The following programmatic events were held as a result of the Global Citizenship Grants:

**Fall 2023 Literary Series: Author Leye Adenle read and discussed their work with students through zoom.**

**Professor Hari Vishwanadha, English**

**October and November 2023**

**Cosmovision Indigena**

**Professor Alejandro Kee, Modern Languages and Cultures**

**October 2023**

Zapotec artist, Maestro Porfirio Gutierrez, was invited to discuss “The Relationship to Climate and Artist material” from an Indigenous perspective.

**Communists, Criminals, and Caravans: Central Americans Seeking Refuge in the United States**

**Professor Alejandro Lee, Modern Languages and Cultures**

**September 2023**

Dr. Leisy Abrego’s presentation drew the interest of 26 participants, including faculty and students. During the session, she discussed the reasons behind the exodus of Central American citizens to the United States.

**Manzanar Diverted: When Water becomes Dust**

**Professor Alejandro Lee, Modern Languages and Cultures**

**September 2023**

Ms. Ann Kaneo presented her award-winning documentary to an engaged audience of 42 participants. The film was well received and sparked thoughtful discussions during the Q&A session.

**Spring 2024 Sustainability Speaker Series**

**Professor Gillian Grebler, Earth Science**

**February and April 2024**

Ten guest speakers were invited to present various workshops that provided opportunities for students to connect with others dedicated to sustainability, climate-resilience, and environmental justice. Among many of the speakers were, Atossa Soltani, Cecilie Stuart, Pascal Baudar, Jamiah Hargins, and Mark Abraham.

## Global Afro-Futurism Lecture and Mural-Making Workshop with Nehemiah Cisneros

**Brianna Simmons, Art**

**April 2024**

SMC alumni and visual artist, Nehemiah Cisneros, discussed the Global Afro-Futurism movement and how his own work dialogues with other art pieces from the African Diaspora.

## Rethinking Rufus: Sexual Violations of Enslaved Men

**Professor Brandon Reilley, History**

**April 2024**

Campus historian Thomas A. Foster was invited to discuss his book centered around the history of African American people.

## Asian Pacific Americans and Militarism in Oceania

**Professor Brandon Reilley, History**

**May 2024**

Historians Alfred Flores and Christen Sasaki explored the connections through the scope of settler military occupation, imperial jurisdiction, and cultural transformation.

## Study Abroad program:

After the Covid pandemic the Global Citizenship committee was able to reinstate study abroad trips. Delphine Broccard, GC chair, along with Christyanne Melendez, from the Science department lead 24 students who participated in the study abroad trip to Costa Rica, in June 21-29, 2023. The students had a great experience learning about the risk of degrading plastic pollution in the ocean, beach clean-up, understanding what it takes to safeguard a watershed area that supplies drinking water and hearing stories of resilient immigrant women who seek to better their social conditions through entrepreneurial training.

## Florence, Spring 2024

In spring 2024, another study abroad trip took place to Florence in April 6-13. Professor Taneka Washington (Art History) and Professor Susan Kolko (Fashion department) led 24 students along with the assistance of Worldstrides agency through the city of Florence. The group explored the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, traveled by train to The Leaning Tower of Pisa, visited a cheese farm and enjoyed many galleries and museums.

## Student Activities/Engagement Programs

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Student Activities/Engagement Programs - Under the leadership with Denise Kinsella and her team, the international education center was one of the first departments to offer on ground interactive student engagement activities. Our engagement team, organized and implemented on ground speed friending activities to connect international students to one another and the campus, as well as cultural trips to museums and fun outings to basketball and baseball games. the team also organized trips to local amusement parks as well as shopping trips to Ikea. The team also planned fall and spring beach days that offer food and fun interactive activities for new incoming students.

### Develop On-Line Pre-enrollment Counseling

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Develop On-Line Pre-enrollment Counseling - To facilitate the admission, pre-enrollment steps completion, seminar registration, and connection to counseling services. the IEC has established a series of pre-enrollment counseling workshops offered in the months leading up to each semester and intersession term. The sessions are run by IEC staff with the participation of International student Peer Mentors. The sessions are well attended and have increased our admissions and enrollment yields.

### Explore Means to recruit New Students Remotely

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Explore Means to recruit New Students Remotely - In response to travel restrictions resulting from the COVID pandemic, the IEC under the leadership of Denise Kinsella, successfully participated in Dozens of

remote recruitment fairs across established and developing markets. These remote recruiting opportunities helped the IEC to slow the enrollment declines during the height of the COVID pandemic. As the pandemic waned, remote recruitment opportunities decreased and in-person recruitment travel resumed with plans to increase recruitment travel up to 9 trips per year.

### Add Late Admission Cycles

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Add Late Admission Cycles - In an effort to increase new student enrollment, the IEC has added late enrollment cycles for Fall, Winter and spring terms. The late admission cycles have added an average of 15 to 20 new students to each fall, spring, and winter terms.

### Develop hybrid Counseling 11 Course

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Develop hybrid Counseling 11 Course - In collaboration with the IEC counselors and the V.P. of Academic Affairs, a new hybrid counseling 11 course was developed to enable new international students to apply for an F-1 Visa and gain entry into the U.S. during the COVID mandated travel restrictions. Currently the hybrid course is used to help international students who cannot find sufficient on-ground units to maintain their status.

### Enhance Student Understanding of AB 705

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In Spring 2021, a new ESL Guided Self-Placement (GSP) test was implemented to replace the computer-based ESL assessment test. Like with any transition, students had many questions on how to navigate this new format. IEC Counselors and staff noted an increase in questions related to this issue and responded immediately with additional targeted assistance. IEC Administrators and staff developed Pre-enrollment Zoom Help Sessions for students navigating through the pre-enrollment requirements which included their GSP. Counselors developed a short GSP video which briefly explains what GSP is and how students should approach this process. It explains how students should navigate through the math GSP depending on their selected major and goals. Many students have also taken advantage of one-to-one Zoom Express Counseling sessions to address any lingering questions or concerns.

Intervention Support for at Risk Students

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It has not been possible to complete this objective to an acceptable standard over the past year due mainly to significant budget cuts that have limited the number of counseling hours available to successfully implement this initiative. Initially, the intent was to identify factors based on Institutional Research's data that would help us identify "buckets" of F-1 student cohorts who would be most inclined to experience academic difficulties besides just using GPA predictors. Due to budget constraints and the prioritization of providing basic counseling services, we have been unable to take on this additional project for the time being. This project was put aside for now and will need to be readdressed once budgets are sufficiently restored to allocate the additional resources needed to support the initiative.

Currently, International students referred to our department for academic support services receive an immediate response on how to reach a counselor as well as immediate connection to campus based academic support services.

Study Abroad Package Program

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There has been little interest in the Study Abroad Package Program since we have returned to on-ground modalities. Many of the courses of interest to perspective students in Kinesiology and Business are not offered in on-ground and hybrid forms reducing options and student interest in such programs. We will continue to cultivate interest in these types of programs and look forward to building that interest again as more in-person courses become available.

Design a Counseling Services Brochure

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The creation of a Counseling Services Brochure was put on hold due to Covid and more recently due to budget cuts and the need to direct every available counseling hour to rendering basic counseling services. In lieu of a brochure, the counseling website has been updated to reflect counseling services and counseling access information negating the need and expenditure for a counseling brochure.

Participate in the Guided Pathways initiative by identifying and training international counselors to become "experts" in different areas of interest

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IEC Counselors are fully on board with the Counseling Department's Guided Pathways initiative. This model by which colleges will help new students explore programs, consider possible careers and develop academic plans to achieve their goals is critical for F-1 students who are here for a limited time, are paying non-resident tuition and may not be familiar with the broad range of majors.

IE Counselors attend the same training meetings as members of the general Counseling Department. IE Counselors have been assigned to the various major groups for training on their roles to become "experts" for those major groups.

#### End of Progress Update Past Action Plans

2. Considering your program's past plans and the developments over the past two years, what challenges and concerns need to be addressed in the next two-year review period?

Enrollment continues to be of central concern. In 2023-24, international student enrollment continued to trend upwards. international student head count increased by an average of 10% and unit enrollment increased by 11%. The IEC in collaboration with Academic Affairs is also managing a newly developed large-scale Contract Education Program with Novel Prep that will bolster enrollment and infuse needed revenue for the district.

Overall, IEC is experiencing a rebound in new applications and there are some limited but positive indicators that the upward trend in enrollment is likely to continue through fall 2024 and spring 2025. The IEC has focused its resources to augment our admission team to ensure that the increase in applications can be managed effectively and efficiently.

While demand for international education is increasing, the IEC faces significant staffing and course offering challenges to converting increased demand into enrollment over the next year. The irregular distribution of on-ground/hybrid offerings, specifically in high demand majors, will adversely impact our ability to recruit and retain international students who must comply with federal on-ground enrollment mandates. In addition, our ability to fill currently vacated positions on our admissions team during a district-wide hiring freeze will determine our capacity to increase admissions and enrollment yields in upcoming enrollment cycles.

3. Broadly discuss the most critical resources you anticipate needing to effectively implement the goals in your program's action plan in the next review period. If applicable, your answers here should inform the specific line item requests in your future Annual Resource Requests (ARR).

A described above adequate staffing will be of paramount import. Additionally, SMC on-ground and hybrid course offerings need to expand to accommodate federal regulations that require international students to enroll in 9 on-ground/hybrid units to maintain F-1 status. Business and Computer Science are the two most popular fields of study accounting for over one half of our enrolled students. Since returning to on-ground instruction, majors in the business field have consistently offered less than 20 on-ground/hybrid sections per semester. Computer Science and related majors have offered even fewer on-ground/hybrid course options. If these trends continue, currently enrolled students will be forced to transfer to institutions that offer a larger selection of on-ground and hybrid courses, and we will no longer be able to admit new students into majors that do not meet the federal government's criteria for full time enrollment. These trends will severely impede our ability retain our current students and to recruit new students to SMC.

This form is completed and ready for acceptance.