

Santa Monica College: Areas of Interest-based Student Care Teams

Area of Interest-based Student Care Teams (SCTs) are meant to foster the engagement of and sense of belonging among Black and Latinx students while employing proactive, anti-racist, culturally responsive practices. By design, these SCTs are intended to create the space and climate to develop and strengthen relationships. Student Care Teams are based on the Area of Interest of the student's current Academic and Career Path.

Background:

- SMC's 7 Areas of Interest (Aoi) group together Academic and Career Paths (i.e., "programs") based on similar core content (including a math path) and similar career/transfer opportunities and requirements.
- Area of Interest Communities are meant to reduce the feel/size of the entering cohort to help facilitate stronger peer-to-peer and student-to-faculty connections as students are likely to be taking similar courses/sections at the same time. All students will belong to an Aoi Community.
- Areas of Interest Communities allow SMC to provide more contextualized services from a designated Aoi support team including "experienced" SMC peers, alumni, instructors, counselors, and support services staff.
- Areas of Interest facilitate both formal and informal learning communities and allow for building community and a stronger sense of belonging for students.
- Currently, the 7 Aois are:
 - Arts, Media, and Entertainment; Business; Culture, History, and Languages; Education; Health and Wellness; People and Society; STEM
- Each Aoi has a **Student Care Team** specifically designed for first-time-in-college (FTIC) Black and Latinx students.

Aoi-Based Student Care Teams

- Student Care Teams provide a high-touch, authentically caring, and personable cohort-based experience for first time in college Black and Latinx students by employing and leveraging proven equity practices aimed at improving first-year student success and term-to-term persistence.
- By implementing culturally responsive services and programming co-constructed with student cohort and Peer Navigators, SCTs are designed to increase overall sense of mattering and affirmation at the college.
 - These practices include wraparound services, individualized communication, and pro-active intervention strategies from a support team

Composition of each Aoi-Based Student Care Team *

- Instructional Faculty Lead
- Counseling Faculty Lead
 - Counseling Cluster (specific and identifiable group of practitioners tailored to the Aoi)
- Career Counseling Representative
- Proactive "case management" by a Student Care Team Success Coach (Student Services Specialist)
- Financial Aid Representative
- Health and Wellbeing Representative
- Peer Navigators

* SCT members will participate in training/professional development designed to build equity-mindedness, anti-racist and culturally responsive practices.

Aoi-based Student Care Team Goals:

- Increase term-to-term persistence among Black and Latinx students
- Create sense of belonging among Black and Latinx students
- Increase transfer, degree, and/or certificate completion among Black and Latinx students