

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)

LEARNING COMMUNITIES



SACRAMENTO
STATE

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EXCELLENCE THROUGH

Community



SACRAMENTO
STATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

EOP Goals

The EOP Learning Communities Program seeks to achieve the following goals:

- » To cultivate community among faculty, students, and staff that results in a favorable learning community experience
- » To closely monitor and promote student academic success through the provision of an intensive range of support services which include advising, counseling, tutoring, and mentoring
- » To increase the Fall to Spring and one year retention rate among students enrolled in the program
- » To foster student learning, engagement, and persistence to graduation on the Sacramento State campus

Community

Academic Success

Increase Retention

Graduation





The Curricular Design

of the EOP Learning Community Experience

The EOP Learning Community consists of an array of courses from various academic disciplines which are taken by incoming first time freshmen EOP students who are from historically underserved populations (i.e., low income/first generation). Students in the learning community take part in a first semester curriculum comprised of the following courses:

- » An English Course
- » A Math Course
- » A Freshman Seminar Course
- » A General Education Course
- » A Tutorial Course

Students in the learning community enroll in a full-time set of courses with their EOP peers which helps to make for a well-rounded first semester experience. In order to support students academically through their coursework, each learning community student receives the support of a teaching assistant/peer mentor who helps meet the academic needs of each student through individualized coaching and tutorial support in a group context.

Benefits

of the EOP Learning Community Experience

There are several benefits for students participating in the learning community, which include the following:

- » The chance to build relationships with faculty and students
- » Taking courses in a cohort with other EOP peers
- » Cooperative learning opportunities
- » Receipt of an EOP Grant upon review for eligibility
- » Tutorial and mentoring support
- » Academic advising and counseling services
- » Assistance with major college decisions
- » Community building activities

There are also benefits that abound for faculty and staff working with the students in the learning community including:

- » Engaging in interdisciplinary partnerships across campus
- » Creating coordinated assignments
- » Training opportunities
- » Relationship building with students
- » Support from other faculty

Tutors and Mentors

Advising and Counseling

Interdisciplinary Partnerships

Coordinated Assignments





Jerry Blake

“One of the benefits of being a learning community faculty member is having the ability to discuss student progress and coordinate assignments. Ultimately this helps the students grow and develop academically. The experience of working with other faculty members also allows me the opportunity to gather new pedagogical ideas to improve my own teaching practices.”

—Jerry Blake, EOP Freshman Seminar Instructor/Counselor



Sarai Sandoval

“What I have learned from being in EOP is the importance of unity among other students and among my teachers. Being in the Learning Community with other EOP students has helped me meet people that I now consider my friends. The learning community courses strengthened my academics and also made my transition from high school to college much easier for me. EOP has been a great influence in my life and I am grateful to be a part of the program.”

—Sarai Sandoval, EOP Learning Community student



Jesus Andrade

“The EOP Learning Communities Program helped me both academically and socially. Because of the uniqueness and structure of the EOP Learning Communities I was able to improve my writing and math skills, as well as create life-long friendships with other students.”

—Jesus Andrade, former learning community student and ASI President for 2006



History

The EOP Learning Communities Program was established in 1995 as a pilot project to help incoming freshmen build connections to other students, faculty, and the campus at large. Beginning with 19 students, the first EOP Learning Community was entitled "La Familia," representing the importance of the family and relationship building process. Today the learning community has grown to serve over 400 incoming students each fall and is continuing to grow through learning community course offerings at the upper class levels to foster connections beyond the first year of the college experience.



OUR MISSION

From its early foundation, the mission of the EOP Learning Communities Program has been to provide a socially and intellectually enriching learning community experience for first-time freshmen EOP students that promotes their academic achievement and retention at Sacramento State.