



SACRAMENTO STATE

Paving Excellence, Retention and Success in Student Trajectories (PERSIST)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018

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Executive Summary

Paving Excellence, Retention and Success in Student Trajectories (**PERSIST**) is a program designed to meet the needs of students who are in their second year of college at Sacramento State. The program, the first of its kind, supports students to persist in their educational pursuits, while obtaining support to traverse the sophomore year. The program provides campus resource support, college level advising, sophomore success workshops, registration assistance, and help create a productive course schedule facilitating time to degree.

Four hundred and thirty five students completed the Sophomore Student Survey which is provided to students who were enrolled in English 20 courses put on by PERSIST staff. The survey results showed that 81% of students felt prepared/very prepared for the next semester, a 16 percentage point increase from AY 16-17. Eighty seven percent of students rated the workshop as helpful/very helpful, which is a one percentage point increase from AY 16-17.

The PERSIST Sophomore Student Workshop Survey asked students what services they would like to receive. The top three services requested were: academic advising, career development/exploration, and personal advising.

In spring 2018, fifty students attended the PERSIST Recruit Back Workshop. Topics discussed in this workshop included academic standing, re-enrollment, financial aid, course credit, and Smart Planner.

Progress to Degree

As part of PERSIST, our central aim is to help sophomores and juniors to re-enroll in subsequent semesters and help them graduate from the institution. We emphasize the importance of re-enrolling each term, taking a productive set of units (15 or more units each term to graduate on time), selecting the right courses in conjunction with his/her major, and developing advocacy skills to position them for life beyond college. We provide different Progress to Degree workshops in which students will receive registration assistance, help with course registration trouble-shooting, and resources relevant to their experiences that will prepare them for the next steps in their college journey.

Staffing

Abraham Madrigal – PERSIST Program Assistant

Bernard Reyes – PERSIST Research Assistant

College Advisors

Kristen Tudor– College of Arts and Letters

Pingsheng Tong – College of Business Administration

Amber Gonzalez – College of Education

Rachel Garcia – MESA Engineering Computer Science Program

Nassrine Nouredine – College of Health and Human Services

Enid Gonzalez-Orta – College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Cindi Sturtz Sreetharan – College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies

Program Outcomes

This academic year, the Vice President of the Division of Student Affairs decided to align department goals with the university's goals, Student Affairs Divisional Goals, and Baccalaureate Learning Outcomes. The structure of this section will include the goals, the strategies to achieve those goals, and the outcomes.

Program Goal 1: Students will show positive outcomes as a result of English 20 interventions.

University Strategic Goal: Engage students in a comprehensive university experience

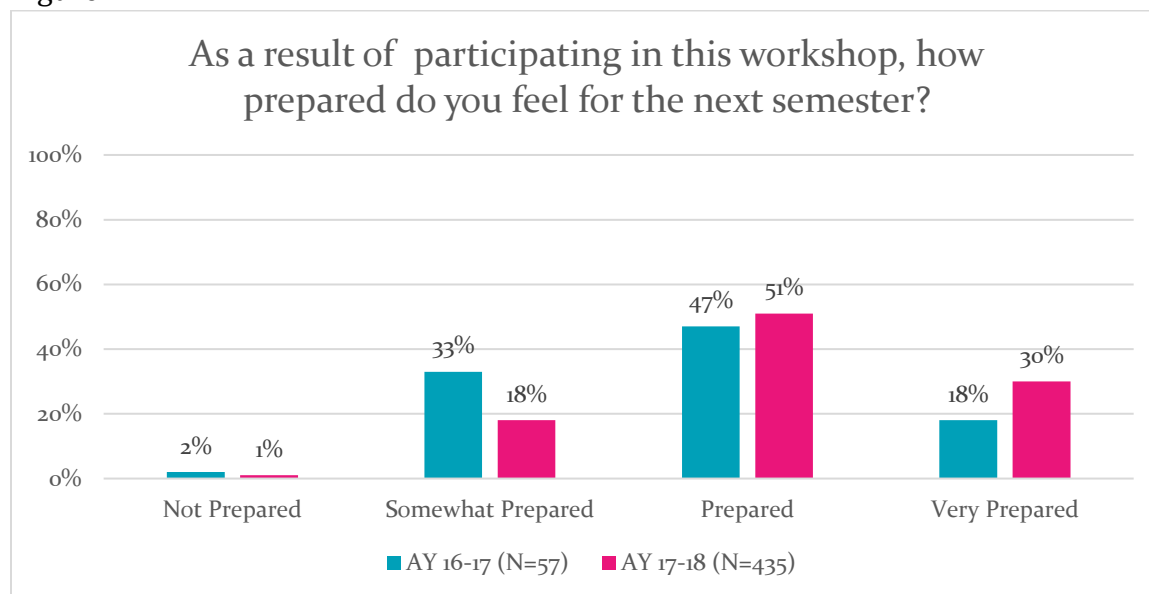
Student Affairs Divisional Goal: Increase graduation rates and decrease time to degree

Baccalaureate Learning Goal: N/A

Standard of Achievement: *Maintain or increase positive outcomes from post-presentation survey compared to prior year.*

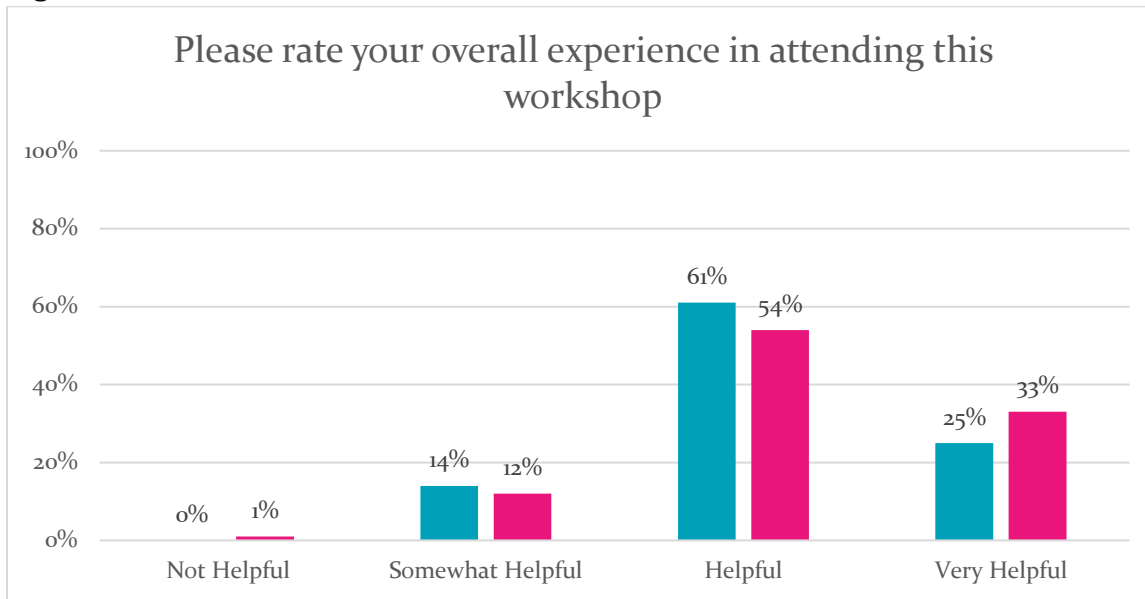
PERSIST staff provided a 20 minute workshop to students who attended English 20 (sections 5, 7, 12 and 20). The workshop presented multiple topics including General Education Pattern, Graduation Requirements, Foreign Language Exempt List, English Sequence, Keys to Degree Toolbox, and Student Involvement. In addition, it provided information about the College to Career Readiness program, as well as other student academic success services such as "U" Mentor and SmartThinking. Four hundred and thirty five students completed the Sophomore Student Workshop Survey. Figures 1 and 2 show the results from the questionnaire.

Figure 1



Sources: a) PERSIST Student Survey Spring 2017, and 2) PERSIST Student Survey Fall 2017-Spring 2018.

Figure 2



Sources: 1) PERSIST Student Survey Spring 2017, and 2) PERSIST Student Survey Fall 2017-Spring 2018.

The survey also showed that majority of the sophomore students (27%) experienced challenges and barriers in class registration this year, followed by time management (16%).

Program Goal 2: PERSIST will advance recommendations related to the academic and psychosocial factors related to student dropout from the university.

University Strategic Goal: Engage students in a comprehensive university experience

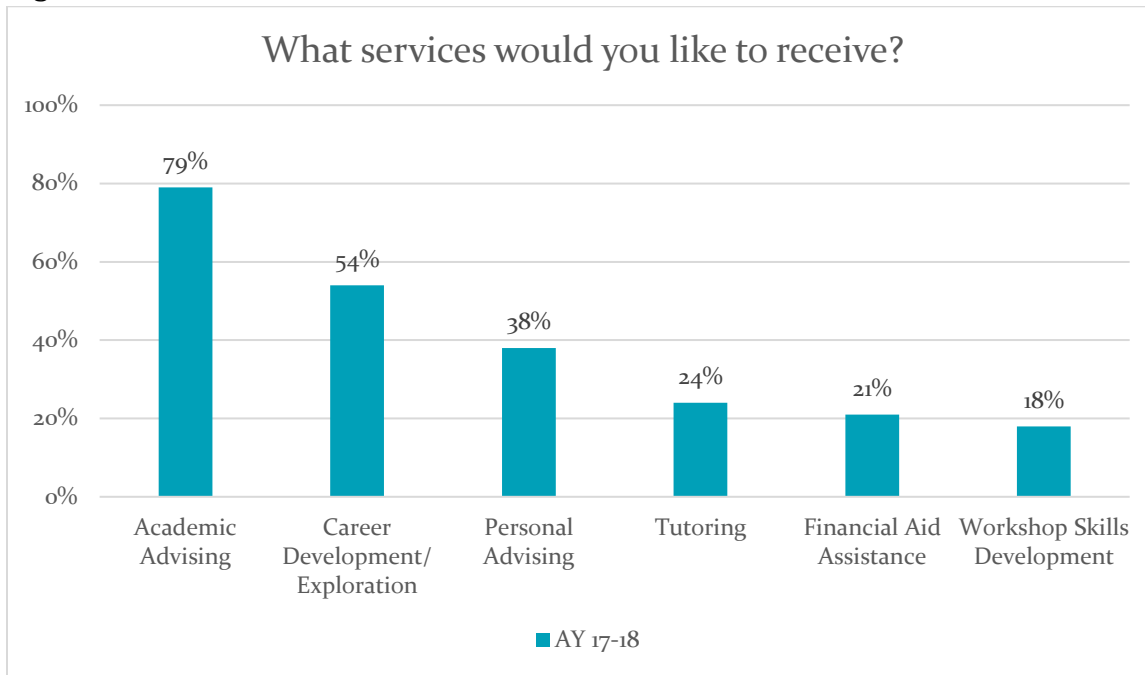
Student Affairs Divisional Goal: Increase graduation rates and decrease time to degree

Baccalaureate Learning Goal: N/A

Standard of Achievement: A total of 3-5 core areas will be reported to achieve a set of baseline findings for action and implementation.

The PERSIST Sophomore Student Workshop Survey asked students what services they would like to receive. Results from the survey are in Figure 3.

Figure 3.



Source: PERSIST Student Survey Fall 2017-Spring 2018.

Program Goal 3: PERSIST will reinitiate recruit back workshops and strategies to improve student success and re-entry to the university for stop-out, did not graduate, and other at risk groups.

University Strategic Goal: Engage students in a comprehensive university experience

Student Affairs Divisional Goal: Increase graduation rates and decrease time to degree

Baccalaureate Learning Goal: N/A

Standard of Achievement: *Collect baseline data on number of students who attended workshops.*

The PERSIST Recruit Back Workshop informs students on topics including: 1) what academic standing is and how to re-enroll, 2) information regarding financial aid including how to resource education and what to do if the University is owed money, 3) an evaluation of credit from other campuses, 4) the progress to degree meter, and 5) Smart Planner. In spring 2018, fifty participants attended the PERSIST Recruit Back Workshop.

Appendix A

| Program Goals | What will be the standard of performance? | Outcomes |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Students will show positive outcomes as a result of English 20 interventions. | Maintain or increase positive outcomes from post-presentation survey compared to the prior year. | 81% of students felt prepared/very prepared for the next semester (16 percentage point increase from prior academic year) 87% of students rated the workshop as helpful/very helpful (1 percentage point increase from prior academic year) |
| 2. PERSIST will advance recommendations related to the academic and psychosocial factors related to student dropout from the University. | A total of 3-5 core areas will be reported to achieve a set of baseline findings for action and implementation. | 79% of students reported wanting to receive academic advising, 54% career development/exploration, and 38% personal advising. |
| 3. PERSIST will reinitiate recruit back workshops and strategies to improve student success and re-entry to the university for stop-out, did not graduate, and other at risk groups. | Collect baseline data on number of students who attended workshops. | 50 participants attended the PERSIST Recruit Back Workshop in Spring 2018. |