

# GANAS GRADUATE PATHWAYS

## GRADUATING AND ADVANCING NEW AMERICAN SCHOLARS

Year 4 | UC Santa Cruz | Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Grant | U.S. Department of Education

The GANAS Graduate Pathways project has been designed to unleash the potential of UCSC as a public Hispanic-Serving Research Institution (HSRI) by implementing **five** project interventions along the academic pipeline towards graduate degree completion.

Interventions are strategically positioned to **overcome institutional barriers and equity gaps** that impede the academic success of Latinx, low-income, and graduate students of color in the areas of preparation, retention, advancement to candidacy, and degree completion.

### Grant Objectives

1. Increase the number of Latinx graduate students enrolled at UCSC by 35%
2. Increase Latinx graduate students' writing proficiency by 3%
3. Increase Latinx graduate students' sense of belonging by 12%
4. Increase graduate degree completion for Latinx, low-income and graduate students of color by 3%

### Grant Components:

#### Graduate Student Counselor (GSC)

This year the GSC served over 70 unique graduate students across 81 holistic counseling appointments, drop-in hours, and group advising events. Advising appointments addressed academic and non-academic barriers that impede transition and degree completion such as financial and basic needs challenges, making connections to campus and community, and balancing familial/personal responsibilities, among others.

**GSC Appointments  
Completed: 237\***

*"More than just financial help you made me feel so affirmed and comfortable as a person of color in Santa Cruz. I normally wouldn't schedule a meeting and open up about real concerns I have, but having an outlet especially for people of color provided such a necessary safe space. I feel like you understood my background, reasons for financial decisions, and there was absolutely no judgment."*

- Graduate Student, 2024

#### Doctoral Summer Bridge (DSB) Program

During this year's program, 4 graduate student mentors delivered and led culturally relevant events and workshops to support a record 21 new students in their transition to graduate school. The 2024 GANAS DSB program featured collaborative efforts from 20 campus partners over the course of the week-long program. The graduate division generously supported all 21 GANAS DSB scholars with participation stipends totalling \$10,500 in direct student support.

**Students Served: 48\***

### Grant Overview

**Grant Type\*:** Title V, Part B, PPOHA: Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans

**Grant Cycle:** Oct. 2020 - Sept. 2025

**Grant Year 4:** Oct. 2023 - Sept. 2024

**Grant Funding Amount:** \$2,997,591

\*Title V, Part B, PPOHA: 1) expand postbaccalaureate educational opportunities for, and improve the academic attainment of, Hispanic students; and (2) expand the postbaccalaureate academic offerings as well as enhance the program quality in the institutions of higher education.

### Key Partners

- Cal State Monterey Bay
- Division of the Arts - Art Department
- Education Department
- Educational Opportunity Programs
- The Writing Center
- Division of Graduate Studies
- Merrill College



## **VOCES Graduate Student Writing Center**

This year VOCES continued offering writing tutoring sessions led by trained graduate student writing tutors who served 125 graduate students through 257 one-on-one consultations, 233 writing group visits, and 130 visits across workshops and retreats. Additionally, VOCES launched Ponte Las Pilas job market workshop and the writing together workshop series, aimed at providing practical writing tips to graduate students across all stages of the graduate student experience.

**Students served: 401\***  
**via 1,170 1:1 appointments**

*"As a first-year graduate student, I found the workshops extremely helpful. As someone who has a difficult relationship with writing, I found the process of journaling important to finding joy in writing. The ways that Dr. Saavedra talked about the writing process and finding my voice in my writing have empowered me to write more often..."*

- Graduate Student, 2023

## **Graduate First-Year Experience (FYE) Course**

Two FYE courses (Education 235; Lit 200B Proseminar) were taught in the Fall 2024 to 14 graduate students across both course offerings. Film 200A Taught by Jenny Horne served 4 graduate students in Spring 2024.

**Students Served: 22\***  
**FYE Courses: 5\***  
**Faculty Involved: 25\***

## **Latinx Initiative for Future Teachers (LIFT)**

This year the program supported 9 Education Masters/Credential students as part of LIFT Scholars, all 9 students funded by GANAS Graduate Pathways. Students were additionally supported with specialized student-centered workshops and group meetings meant to prepare them for credentialing exams and mentorship from local educators. The program also hosted a speaker series featuring one guest speaker who presented on "Radical Mental Health First-Aid" sharing their journey and experiences as an educator of color, and the importance of culturally sensitive engagement.

**Students Served: 43\***



## **Navigating Graduate School Application Process Course Series**

This year, MERR 35A & MERR 35B successfully supported 12 students in the Fall and 21 students (including additional campus community members auditing the course), respectively. The curriculum focused on helping students further explore graduate school programs and prepare their application materials for submission. Navigating the Graduate School Application Process Course Series was sunset by GANAS Graduate Pathways in Summer 2024 with GANAS Careers taking on the final year of this grant activity through 2025.

**Students served: 51\***

**\*Denotes cumulative numbers from years 1-4 of the grant**

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