

MAXIMIZING ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH PREPAREDNESS AND ADVISING (MAPA)

Year 5 Grant Summary | UC Santa Cruz | Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Grant | U.S. Department of Education

Grant Overview:

Grant Type: Title V, Part A*

Grant Active Dates: October 2015 - September 2020

Grant Year 5: October 2019 - September 2020

Grant Funding Amount: \$2,625,500

Focus Areas: Math 2 (College Algebra), Writing, Sense of Belonging, Advising and Faculty Professional Development.

Grant Components:

- **Redesigning of College Algebra (Math 2):** Math 2 course delivery has been redesigned to disrupt patterns of failure, resulting in improved retention, graduation, and time-to-degree success with a focus on low-income and Hispanic students.
- **Developing a Summer Reading for College Writing Institute: Writing Originating from Reading and Dialogue (WORD):** WORD was a College Writing Summer Institute to prepare students who are least prepared for university-level reading and writing focusing on students who have an unsatisfied English Language Writing Requirement (ELWR) with a focus on low-income and Hispanic students.
- **Deepening Academic Coaching/Advising:** Develop a case management-based, academic coaching model delivered through counselors and peer advisers with a focus on low-income and Hispanic students.
- **Strengthening Sense of Belonging:** Support the Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP) and El Centro in becoming a hub of organized activity and resources that support Hispanic students' transition, retention, graduation, and academic advancement. Programs that fall under Sense of Belonging – 1) Regional Family Conference and 2) Public Forums.

Abstract

The MAPA Project was designed to reduce disparities by implementing four research-based, data-driven, interwoven activities that would enable UCSC to put into place the systemic supports that Hispanic students need to navigate the university experience successfully. MAPA was designed to intervene early and decisively in key gateway areas, improve retention and graduation rates, strengthen UCSC's ability to provide essential services for its students, and ultimately improve student achievement. Examples of specific outcomes included a five-year 15% improvement in pass rates in gateway math courses for Hispanics; a five-year 20% increase in Hispanic students passing the Entry Level Writing Requirement; an additional 150 Hispanic students graduating via the Crossing the Finish Line intervention; 80% of gateway course faculty and 100% of advisors/coaches completing MAPA professional development activities. MAPA's efforts were organized into four components, as described in the next page.

"From those 5 weeks, I learned so much. I learned how to be an active reader, how to use metacognitive rules, how to think critically, and much more. I believe that these skills will not only be useful for my writing classes but other subjects as well. [The instructors] did an AWESOME job at providing us with useful knowledge. Not only did I gain knowledge, I gained friendships which I'm very grateful for as I thought I would be alone."

- WORD Participant

"My mom really enjoyed the *Consejos de un Estudiante* (A Student's Advice) presentation. She did not understand the difficulties that come with college. However, after hearing the students' experience she felt much more connected to my college journey."

- Pathways to College (P2C) Webinar Series

"Given my own experience with HSIs – both within and outside of the UC system – I can attest to the ways in which the UCSC HSI task force has clear and direct connections to broader efforts in the field."

- Robert Teranishi, Ph.D., MAPA External Evaluator

* Title V, Part A Funding: Assist HSIs in expanding educational opportunities for and improving the attainment of Latino students. Grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability.

GRANT COMPONENTS

WORD Program

Students Served: 403*

The program provided students with *essential reading tools* that can further enhance their academic writing at UCSC.

Participants practiced their analytic reading and critical thinking skills to understand college-level text and engage in academic dialogue.

WORD was a 5-week summer reading program hosted throughout California for incoming UCSC students. To accommodate for online learning, this year the program took place completely online with synchronous and asynchronous activities.



Sense of Belonging

Students Served: 480*

Regional Family Conference
Engaged families in a one-day bilingual interactive experience where they learned about UCSC, resources, and how to support their students in their transition to college. This year we hosted an in-person conference in Los Angeles and rebranded to call it *Pathways to College Conference*.

To support students and their families in preparing for remote instruction, we expanded the program to provide a virtual series of workshops during the summer.

Public Forums
Provided a space for the UCSC community and other stakeholders to engage and learn more about the implementation of HSI grants.

Community Engagement - Lecture Series
Events intended to promote HSI-campus identity through engaging conversations and presentations on leading HSI research and institutional change.



Course Redesign

Students Served: 495*

Classroom Evolution
Math 2 (College Algebra) has been redesigned to include an *active learning approach*, reducing class size/TA-to-student ratio, embedding advising, and integrating a teaching team (instructor, TA's, tutors, & adviser) to support the course.

Teaching Assistant and Tutor Professional Development
Teaching assistants and tutors supported Math 2 participated in a two-day training focused on **inclusive teaching practices** using 21st century pedagogy and *cultural-relevant teaching/assessment practices*.

Advising

Student Support

Through a *holistic approach*, the MAPA Counselor provided advising to students participating in grant activities, collaborating with instructors, tutors, teaching assistants, staff and campus leadership.

Served: 1,037*
EOP/Hispanic students

Advisors/Counselors Professional Development

Through the Multicultural Advising Conference, campus-wide advisors and counselors participated in an interactive theater session model *to disrupt micro-aggressions and identify strategies to support students*.

Staff Served: 197*

*Denotes cumulative numbers from years 1-5 of the grant

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