

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the UC Santa Cruz SEMILLA Project (Science Education & Mentorship In Latino Lives in Academia) is to cultivate equity-minded reforms designed to challenge and overcome institutional barriers so that STEM-intended Latino and low-income students increase their rates of STEM transfer, persistence and degree attainment. STEM fields are among the most popular majors for all UCSC students, including Latino and low-income students, who arrive at UCSC as STEM-intended. As these students begin their STEM foundational course work in mathematics, chemistry, biology and computer programming, we begin to see disparities in achievement for Latino and low-income students, which results in STEM attrition and fewer students declaring STEM majors. ***The SEMILLA project is designed to interrupt STEM attrition patterns and social reproduction rooted in both the under-preparation of students and the under-preparation of UCSC to serve Latino and low-income STEM students.*** The SEMILLA project will serve as focal point and catalyst for a comprehensive set of interventions guided through analysis of student outcomes and inquiry teams to address barriers both in and outside the classroom.

SEMILLA Logic Model End Outcomes/Goals:

1. Reduce attrition of STEM-intended Latino and low-income students at the major declaration milestone by 20% over baseline;
2. Increase the number of Latino and low-income STEM students who graduate in 6-years to 587 students (a 10% increase from current rates);
3. Increase the number of Latino and low income STEM transfer students from partner community colleges by 20%;
4. Increase the 3-year graduation rate for Latino and low-income students from community college partners in STEM majors by 20%.

SEMILLA Grant Components: a) STEM Equity Analysis, Reporting and Engagement, b) STEM Learning Center, c) Faculty Professional Development, d) Holistic STEM Counselors/Early Alert, e) STEM Sense of Belonging, f) College Math Academy, g) STEM Transfer Academy, h) Articulation of STEM majors/course maps serving local partner community colleges: Cabrillo College, Monterey Peninsula College, Hartnell College and San Jose City College.

The UCSC SEMILLA Project Budget is \$5,940,461 over the five-year award period 10/1/2016 - 9/30/2021.

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