

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP): A Legacy of Student Success

Program Overview

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at California State University, Fresno has a rich history of student success. The program has a current enrollment of over 1600 students. Students in the program come from first-generation, economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. EOP students are represented in all phases of campus life, receive academic achievement awards, are on the President and Dean's lists, participate in the travel abroad program, and provide countless hours of community service. The success of EOP students have been due largely in part to a core group of Peer Mentors who are committed to fostering the development of our students.

A critical component of EOP is the Summer Bridge program which is a three-week residential program designed to support the transition of first-time freshmen to the university. Peer mentors also play a key role in supporting the adjustment of students during Summer Bridge.

PRIDE POINTS (OIE Report)

- Fall 2009 cohort achieved 6 year graduation rate of 59.7% which is higher than the campus rate of 58.4%
- Fall 2009 Summer Bridge cohort achieved a graduation rate of 60% which is the highest rate in the history of the Program



"EOP has always made me feel welcomed to Fresno State and has made my transition from high school to college a bit easier. It has so far been a great experience being part of EOP, and I am very grateful to have my peer mentor and my advisor there when I need them."
—Alma Mejia, Undeclared Freshman

"Being part of the EOP program has made a difference for me by making my college experience extra interactive. Through the EOP program, I have had the opportunity to meet great individuals by attending helpful workshops that I may utilize throughout my career."
—Guadalupe Navarro, Pre-Nursing Sophomore

"I've met so many people and great advisors that have guided me to where I am. Summer bridge helped me meet new people and also get a feel of where the buildings were on campus. I've also gone to wonderful helpful workshops that have broadened my horizon and it is so great to know what to expect each year."
—Celina Mouanoutoua, Pre-Nursing Junior

"EOP has been a tremendous help contributing to my success. Knowing that there is a program that is design to help students adjust to the University and help us to succeed in college is awesome. I couldn't be more proud to be an EOP student."
—Debbie Xiong, Health Science Senior

"EOP has made a difference for me because the program has given me guidance and support with not just my schooling but also getting to know me as a person, where I come from, and what I expect for myself. Just by having that support in all areas, it's made me become a more well-rounded individual."
—Gabriana King, Criminology Senior

"The encouragement I received from my counselor was very helpful. The appointments were easy to schedule and the questions I had were always answered. Thank you."
—Aaron Blackburn, Health Science Alumni

EOP MAKING A DIFFERENCE
FRESNOSTATE
Educational Opportunity Program

Mentoring In Action



EOP Peer Mentoring

The Peer Mentors are an amazing group of upperclassmen and graduate students who are dedicated to supporting and fostering the development of our EOP students. Starting with the freshmen year, structured activities and services are provided to ensure a smooth transition and successful adjustment to the university. All first-year and second-year students are assigned to a Peer Mentor and are expected to meet their peer mentor regularly throughout the duration of the semester.

The Peer Mentors establish a helping relationship with each student; provide resources for a smooth adjustment to the university and work in conjunction with the EOP counselors to ensure their students' success at the university. Peer Mentors ensure that each student is meeting the requirements set forth by the program.

PRIDE POINTS (Fall 14/Spring 15)

- 84.5% of 1st and 2nd year students met with their peer mentor at least once
- Peer mentors facilitated 22 workshops focusing on student success topics. A total of 530 visits were logged
- Annual peer mentor volunteer project resulted in significant donations to the Marjaree Mason Center