

Year One: A College of San Mateo Promise

Access, Equity, Connections = Completion



Context:

All colleges have successful special programs that provide direct support to a relatively small number of students. These programs are difficult to scale to the entire college due to costs and other operational challenges. At the same time, the college has an achievement gap with respect to age. The college intends to significantly improve persistence, success, and completion for students by focusing on new students in collaboration with our local high schools and adult schools. The two-thirds of all CSM students are under the age of 25. As a result, we believe that this strategy will allow us to efficiently scale our efforts to the entire institution, resulting in the greatest long-term impact on overall college persistence, success and completion.

Our Approach:

A high percentage of incoming College of San Mateo students are first generation students. Many incoming students are not fully aware of how to navigate the transition into college life. Moreover, many face social, financial and other barriers to enrollment, attendance and persistence. Therefore, students may not reach their educational goals. By providing staff, faculty and resources as support in the framework of a guided program while students are enrolled in high school and through the first year at CSM, Year One students will successfully transition as full-time students at College of San Mateo. These students will have the connections and support they need to persist and complete their educational goals.

Key Assumptions:

- CSM and our partner high schools are jointly responsible for student success.
- There is a positive correlation between student engagement and student success. The earlier the student engagement, the greater the likelihood of success.
- Many resources already exist at both the high schools and CSM. However, many students are not using these resources due to a lack of awareness, access, and/or support.
- The college has a role in removing as many barriers to student success as reasonably possible. This goes beyond traditional student support services and includes direct financial assistance, transportation, textbook assistance and connections to other county assistance services (i.e. SparkPoint).

Goals:

- 20-24 units completed by first year >=75%
- Placement into college-level courses
- Fall to Fall Persistence: >=70%
- Successful Course Rate >=75%
- Completion Rate >=70%
- Time to completion: 2 years if full time

