

What is Project Succeed?

Project Succeed is a campus-wide initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Its focus is to improve the 5-year graduation and retention rates and close the achievement gap for Under-Represented Minorities (URMs) across all majors at SJSU.

There are three major goals: strengthen SJSU's core academic performance in retention and graduation; provide an improved supportive environment for URM students; and enhance the delivery and integration of academic and co-curricular support services.

Block Scheduling

For Fall 2015, newly matriculated students in the College of Business, College of Engineering, and Child and Adolescent Development Department were assigned schedules that included at least two shared classes with other students in their declared majors. Those students and several additional students were also assigned Peer Mentors.

A total of 1,273 new freshmen (37%) of the class participated in the block scheduling program.

Fall 2015	Blocked	Unblocked
Total enrolled	1,273	2,202
Retention (1 semester)	1,234	2,092
% Retention (1 semester)	96.9%	95.0%
SJSU units earned (1 semester)	11.8	11
SJSU GPA (1 semester)	2.886	2.891
On Probation SP 2016	145	287
% Probation SP 2016	11.4%	13.0%

Contact Cindy Kato for more information

Faculty/Staff Mentor Program

Project Succeed is very excited to introduce mentorcommunity@sjsu—a website and portal that will facilitate student access to faculty and staff mentors. Research shows that making a connection with a faculty member is one of the best predictors of retention for first generation college students.

In Spring 2016, we had a successful pilot program;

Upcoming Events



Project Succeed is hosting two discussion sessions for faculty, staff, and students. The goal of these sessions is to get campus input to improve student success at SJSU. Be part of the conversation!!!

Session 1: FACULTY/STAFF MENTOR PROGRAM

Planning and implementing the new Faculty Mentor Program

**September 9
9:00 – 12:00 ENGR 285
Coffee and lunch will be provided**

Session 2: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Discussion session on First Year Experience (FYE) programs and their future at SJSU

**September 23
11:00 – 2:00 ENGR 285
Lunch will be provided**

RSVP: gale.holdren@sjsu.edu or <http://tinyurl.com/sjsu-discussion>

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students were matched with faculty and staff mentors via the website. Students reported that their experience with their faculty mentors was very positive; one student stated that she is more likely to interact with faculty in the future based on her positive experience with her faculty mentor.

We look forward to mentorcommunity@sjsu.edu pilot semester 2.0 as we increase the number of students, faculty and staff participating in mentoring at SJSU in Fall 2016. There will be a discussion session on September 9 regarding the faculty mentor program.

Contact Maria Alaniz for more information or visit the website at www.sjsu.edu/generate/mentorcommunity/

Peer Educators & Mentors

During the Fall 2015 semester, 9 peer mentors were assigned to work with frosh-only courses in blocked scheduling cohorts to develop smaller student learning communities. The peer mentors collaborated with their faculty in order to provide personal and academic support. Their primary responsibilities

included attending each class, meeting with students in mentoring sessions, and facilitating academic success workshops such as time management, goal-setting, and test-taking.

In addition to these 9 mentors, 5 mentors were requested by faculty to provide similar support, but were not a part of the blocked scheduling. These mentors participated in Mexican American Studies, Humanities Honors, and Communication Studies courses.

In Fall 2016, we are expanding the use of peer educators as a way to provide further support to the students in those classes. The class must be a lower division class with either an average failure rate of 20% or more or a higher percentage than the university average of students at-risk for retention (URM, first generation, Pell eligible).

Contact Deanna Peck for more information or to request a peer mentor or educator for one of your classes

First Year Experience

During the Fall 2015 semester, plans were drafted to convert Area E

courses to FYE and an Advisory Committee was formed to refine the FYE proposal, and eventually it was presented to the Board of General Studies. We are broadening the discussion about FYE at SJSU. Please join us for a discussion session on September 23 about the future of FYE at SJSU. This session is open to all SJSU students, faculty and staff.

Contact Maureen Smith for more information

Student Living Learning Communities

There are six Living Learning Communities (LLCs) located in the first year communities. The LLCs are meant to help students deepen their connection to their peers. They are:

- **BUILD** (Business Innovation & Leadership Development)
- **CELL** (Community for Engineering Living & Learning)
- **Black Scholars Community**
- **Rainbow Village**
- **Global Village**
- **Arts Village**

Contact Stephanie Hubbard for more information

Project Succeed Contacts:

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