



The Need: EOP was created to help historically low-income and underrepresented populations gain access and equity to higher education. Therefore, in 1968, the Harmer Bill (SB 1072), established a statewide effort and EOP became a state funded program in 1969. Here at Cal State San Marcos we shifted the focus to low-income, first-generation students (after Prop. 209) attempting to help more students in the community gain access to the university. Each year EOP admits a new class of first-year freshmen and transfer students. EOP First-year freshman target is approximately 150 students each year. For that reason, EOP places a great deal of its effort to get students graduated as soon as possible. Statistics show that about 31% of First-year freshmen and 37% of Underrepresented minority students entering a CSU campus will be Pell eligible (low-income)*. Given CSUSM population in 2009-10 that would mean 3037 and 3625, respectively, would have been possibly EOP eligible.

*NASH/The Education Trust/Access to Success Baseline Metrics/CSU system/Bachelor's programs

The Mission: EOP strives to serve historically economically disadvantaged and first generation college students with academic support services that lead to a university degree.

The Program: The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) is the University's first access and equity program. It exists to serve historically low-income and educationally disadvantaged undergraduate students by providing academic support services that will improve both the access and retention of this population in a university setting.

Educational Opportunity Program consists of these services:

1. **First-Year Learning Cohorts:** EOP Summer Bridge Program and all first-year freshmen take courses together to build community and foster a more comprehensive learning experience.
2. **Academic Advising:** One-on-one or group advising with an EOP Counselor.
3. **Personal Counseling:** Assisting students with personal issues through counseling and referral as needed.
4. **Financial Aid (assistance):** EOP counselors are available to help students with paperwork, appeals and referral to the financial aid office as needed.
5. **Priority Registration:** EOP students have priority registration the first two semesters in the program.
6. **Summer Bridge:** prepares first-year students to succeed in CSUSM's academic, social and cultural environment through an intensive five to six-week program that provides first-year EOP students with rigorous instruction in writing, math, study skills, college success strategies and community building.
7. **Leadership Opportunities (intern and peer mentors):**
8. **Peer Mentoring:** Students volunteer to work with students
9. **Laptop loan:** students in need of a laptop over the weekend are afforded the opportunity to use a computer with up-to-date software to take home for one week.
10. **Club EOP:** to promote academic excellence through the establishment of academic and social relationships between EOP students, faculty, peers, staff and campus organizations.

Enrollment: There are currently 703 students active in the program for the academic year 2010-11.
