PASO is a federally funded Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Title V program that is designed to increase Latin@ retention and graduation rates at CSUSM. PASO provides additional academic and personal support to PASO Scholars during their first year of college.

Our PASO team consists of full time staff and upper division CSUSM students who are bilingual and bicultural, trained to assist you with: academic advising, financial aid, math and writing tutoring, time management, financial education, and much more.

Our PASO Staff have insightful knowledge on how to navigate your transition from high school to college.

PASO is ready to support you with the resources you need. I cordially invite you to visit us soon!

Mission Statement:
“The Pathways to Academic Success and Opportunities (PASO) is dedicated to increasing retention and graduation rates amongst PASO Scholars by infusing culturally relevant curriculum, enhancing student support services, to promoting educational equity.”
I joined the CSUSM Psychology faculty in the Fall of 2011; my area of specialization is behavioral neuroscience. I completed my predoctoral work at Michigan State University and postdoctoral training with the Developmental Psychobiology Research Group at the University of Colorado Denver. Among my research interests are the role of stress/arousal peptides on maternal behavior in mice and the role of acculturation and other psychosocial measures on the biological response to stress in pregnant women, particularly Mexican and Mexican-American women. To do this I maintain both a mouse and human lab.
Meet our PASO Instructors

SILVERIO HARO

Originally from Fresno, California, Silverio Haro refers to himself as an educator, given the various hats he’s worn throughout his career. He has served in the roles of advisor, administrator, and adjunct faculty member, to name a few. He is committed to seeing students succeed and has worked with student groups as well as individual students to meet their academic and personal goals. He is especially proud to have mentored dozens of students and knows all too well the power of a caring and interested mentor to motivate and guide.

I grew up in San Diego County with my parents and five siblings. I am a first-generation college Latina who was very fortunate to be part of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) where I received various support services throughout my college years. In my sophomore year I began working in the CAMP office as a Peer Advisor, building my resume to later become an Academic Advisor for Undergraduate Advising Services (UAS) at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM). I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development Health Services at CSUSM and Master of Science in Higher Education Administration at National University. I currently advice six majors for the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral & Social Sciences (CHABSS) and serve as the liaison for Pathways to Academic Success & Opportunities (PASO). I enjoy assisting student’s transition from high school to CSUSM, my goal is to help students develop a unique academic plan to cater to their needs, teaching them the necessary skills and tools to have a successful undergraduate experience.

BENITA RAMIREZ

Igrew up in San Diego County with my parents and five siblings. I am a first-generation college Latina who was very fortunate to be part of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) where I received various support services throughout my college years. In my sophomore year I began working in the CAMP office as a Peer Advisor, building my resume to later become an Academic Advisor for Undergraduate Advising Services (UAS) at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM). I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development Health Services at CSUSM and Master of Science in Higher Education Administration at National University. I currently advice six majors for the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral & Social Sciences (CHABSS) and serve as the liaison for Pathways to Academic Success & Opportunities (PASO). I enjoy assisting student’s transition from high school to CSUSM, my goal is to help students develop a unique academic plan to cater to their needs, teaching them the necessary skills and tools to have a successful undergraduate experience.
Meet our PASO Instructors

MEA HALL
GENERAL EDUCATION WRITING - PRINCIPLES OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION 101

Mea has been teaching at CSUSM for the last five years, after earning her Master of Arts degree in Literature and Writing from the same institution. Mea strongly believes that education is the surest way to foster compassionate problem-solving in any society. Her background living and traveling all over the United States and my many years of experience as a counselor at a multicultural camp in Arizona have demonstrated to her that the better people understand each other and themselves, as individuals and as cultures, the more productive conversations become. She respects the way that PASO offers students exactly those opportunities. Outside of the academic and art world, Mea’s other abiding love is her children, who remind her daily why education and the arts are so important in the world.

TERESA WESELOH
GENERAL EDUCATION WRITING - PRINCIPLES OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION 101

I am a lifelong Southern Californian. I earned a B.A. in Fine Arts at San Diego State University and a master’s degree in Literature and Writing at CSUSM. I have worked as an educator most of my life in many different capacities and have been a lecturer here at Cal State for the past ten years. Away from school, my favorite activities include taking long walks and hikes, reading, and practicing yoga. I love to travel. After winter break trips in recent years to Alaska, Canada, and Minnesota, I spent Christmas 2017 in warm and sunny Nicaragua. I truly enjoy teaching first year students, and particularly my PASO scholars, because of their drive, their positive energy, and their passion for learning.
Meet our PASO Instructors

She holds a Ph.D. in Education from Capella University as well as an M.A. in Communication from San Diego State University and B.A. in Communication from CSUSM. Having worked as an organizational communication consultant conducting communication audits, diversity training and group development, she frequently teach courses in Small Group Communication, Interviewing and Public Speaking. She currently is a full-time lecturer, serves as the communication department internship coordinator and is engaged on campus with multiple committees.

Catherine Matsumoto
General Education - Oral Communication 102
Organizational Chart

President's Office
Graham Oberon
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs & PASO Principal Investigator

PASO Program Assistant
Monica Huerta

Title V PASO Project Director
Minerva Gonzalez

Faculty Led Initiatives
Dr. Kimberly D’Anna Hernandez
Leads / Collaborates With:
Department Chairs and Deans
Faculty Center Fellows
Faculty Members

Culturally Responsive Success Strategies:
Project Director
Minerva Gonzalez
Leads / Collaborates With:
Academic Programs
CSUSM Corporation
External Evaluator
F U E RZA Mentoring Program
Institutional Planning & Analysis
Instructional & Information Technology Services
Latinx Center Director
NLRC Director
Office of Inclusive Excellence
Orientation/First Year Programs
PASO Course Faculty
Specialized Programs (ACE, CAMP, EOP, TRIO/SSSI)
Student Affairs
U.S. Dept. of Education

Culturally Responsive Success Strategies:
Cultural Transition Advisor / PASO
Outreach & Retention Coordinator
Sandra Holguin / Salvador Perez
Leads / Collaborates With:
Academic Programs
Bilingual Financial Aid Specialist
Institutional Planning & Analysis
Instructional & Information Technology Services
Local / Non-local High Schools
Other Programs and Services across University
PASO Ambassadors
Student Affairs

Grant Steering Committee

PASO Advisory Board
PASO Staff

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PASO Preview Day

PASO Preview Day is a perfect opportunity for prospective CSUSM Students and their parents to learn about the Pathways to Academic Success & Opportunities Program (PASO).

PASO Preview Days

March 17, 2018
April 14, 2018
April 21, 2018
May 5, 2018
Orientation

PASO collaborates with Orientation so students acquire concise and accurate information to make the scholar(s) more comfortable on campus. PASO also provides an opportunity drawing to PASO Scholars and claim their prize at the PASO center. The sole purpose of this is for PASO Scholars to be familiar with the center prior to starting their academic year.

Specialized Orientation Day June 23, 2018
PASO Sponsored Courses

PASO courses are designed to recognize, incorporate and acknowledge the cultural wealth of Latinx students. Through the students shared experiences these courses will build support, motivate and inspire our PASO Scholars to achieve academic success.

"It is a great thing to be a part of. The comfort level and sense of community is insane."

-Yanin Cervantes
The Lowrider Event

Establish an annual gathering amongst the CSUSM Community (Students, staff and faculty), including the University Police Department, and our local community to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month. PASO provides San Marco’s community members with information about Pathways to Academic Success and Opportunities (PASO) and how it provides support to first year/self-identified Hispanic/Latino students their freshman year.

Financial Aid Workshop

Financial Aid Workshops help guide scholars through their Financial Aid application process, emphasize on the various types of student aid programs available to them, the timeframe on when their financial aid will be disbursed, and finally provide students with the minimum requirement to keep receiving financial aid throughout their college career.

SMUSD College Expo

Mission Hills High School hosts their annual SMUSD College Expo in which all grade levels are welcome. This is a large College Fair with over 100 representatives from various colleges/universities and other programs. Some of the topic students acquire from this event is information pertaining to: College Admissions process, Financial Aid, College Admissions tests, and support programs.
The PASO Mixer is an event used to welcome PASO Scholars to CSUSM and encourage conversation among the scholars by playing games, coloring/drawing, icebreakers or simply talking with one another. Staff also collaborates in this event to promote a healthy and encouraging relationship with scholars.
My name is Alejandra Martinez. I am a Latina and a first generation college student coming from out of the area. As a first generation college student I was unaware of what to expect in college and I began to second guess my decision of leaving home. I thought about the financial issues that I would be putting my parents through and I also began to think about how un-oriented I would be on my own here. My parents did not make it far enough to get a college education, so this transition was new to us. It was all a new learning process in which we were both very excited and scared at the same time. I was afraid that I would be putting a weight on my parents with the expenses that would come out of my first year of college if I did not succeed. Fortunately, I was enrolled in the PASO sponsored courses that fulfilled the general education requirements. These courses made my transition from High School to college much easier and I became more informed about some of the expectations that I would need in my college career. These classes became an environment where we shared some of the same struggles and supported one another. The staff provided us with information and guided us through our first year. As a PASO scholar I was given the resources that allowed me to succeed in my first year of college. Not only did the PASO sponsored courses help me through this transition, but the program itself gave me a feeling of belonging on campus.

Now as a PASO ambassador I want to be able to provide current PASO scholars the feeling of belonging on campus and have them feel as the PASO Office is their safe haven. Just like I was made aware of all the resources and opportunities on campus I want to be able to provide them with the same opportunities. I have gone through the same struggles that first year student’s face which is why I want to be able to make their transition as easy as the one that I experienced.