

# Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Assessment Report, 2023-24

## Who We Are

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) is committed to serving California residents from low-income households who demonstrate the motivation and potential to earn a baccalaureate degree at a four-year college. EOP students are individuals who have the potential to succeed at Sacramento State but have not been able to realize their higher education goal because of economic and/or educational background. EOP applicants are California residents and historical low socioeconomic background students.

## Program Services

- Early High School Outreach & EOP Presentations
- Cal-State & EOP Application Assistance
- Financial Aid Advising
- EOP New Student Orientation
- Class Registration Assistance
- Summer Bridge Academy (mandatory)
- Fall & Spring Learning Communities
- Academic and Career Counseling
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Peer Mentoring
- Retention Services
- EOP Grant\*
- Referrals to other Support Services
- EOP Graduation Ceremony

\* Grant is awarded to students who enroll in 15 units per semester & meet income requirements

## About EOP

### Points of Pride

- Inclusion and increased engagement have become a focal point of our department, and increased students are taking advantage of the opportunities to reconnect with our office
- The number of students applying for graduation in a timely manner has increased exponentially

- We have worked with decreasing the number of students needing academic recovery with a decrease in the number of students on academic probation or disqualification.
- We have an increase in the number of students completing their advising.

## Advising Numbers

- We had 1,918 advising sessions completed through the EAB with academic progress made with students.
- 216 Drop-in sessions
- 348 Cancellations
- 186 No Shows

## Events & Activities

### Fall 2023

- EOP Fall **Welcome Back event** (Welcome back activities outside, ice cream and challenge game)
- EOP Halloween Decoration contest **"Barbie"**. EOP won the interactive category of the contest

### Spring 2024

- EOP Open house **"Valentine's Day Special"** (Office tour, services highlighted, food, speeches and awards)
- EOP **Spring Sting** (fun game and lawn activities outside, smoothies and music)
- May EOP **Graduation Ceremony** (Celebration of graduation and other accomplishments)

## Admissions & Outreach Highlights

- 6,976- First-Year EOP applications were received for the Fall semester
- Successfully enrolled 219 incoming First-Year students in the fall
- 15- High School were visited in the Fall semester for Cal-State & EOP application workshops and presentations
- 13- High Schools were visited in the Spring semester for "What's Next EOP & Summer Bridge" presentations
- 1,575- Transfer Applications were received for the Fall semester
- 125- New transfer students were successfully enrolled in the program in the Fall
- 5- Community Colleges were visited for the fall Transfer Day event
- 5- Community Colleges were visited for spring What's Next event
- 9- Community Colleges were provided with an EOP Transfer Application Success Workshop virtually or in person
- 12 High School, Organizations & Community College groups were hosted for presentations and campus tours

# Summer Bridge

## Program Description

The EOP Summer Transitional Programs offer innovative summer programs that support students' transition to the upcoming academic year. Centered on nurturing a sense of belonging and campus identity, the EOP Transitional Programs provide academic enrichment, community support, and personal growth opportunities. Through close collaboration with other Sacramento State programs and departments, our programs are dedicated to educating, retaining, and graduating students.

## Points of Pride

- Summer Bridge Academies added a Senior Bridge program
- The EOP Summer Transitional Programs served nearly 500 underrepresented students
- Summer Bridge programs had over a 90% pass rate on Summer Bridge Courses

## Freshman Bridge Key Performance Indicators

- The average term GPA is 2.674
- The average unit load is 15.3
- 94.8% of students are taking 15 units or more
- 73.4% of students are in good academic standing
- 96.4% of students continued to spring 2024
- 100% of participants feel participation in the Leadership Initiative helped them feel more connected to the campus
- 99% of participants feel a greater sense of belonging at Sacramento State

## Sophomore Bridge Key Performance Indicators

- The average unit load is 15.3
- 98% of the students are taking 15 units or more
- 97% of 2023 Summer Bridge students completed English 20
- 99% of the 2023 Summer Bridge students are enrolled full-time for fall 2023
- 96% of student were comfortable in a virtual learning environment and were able to achieve course learning outcomes
- 98% of students agreed that summer bridge was a good way for them to advance academically and help the graduate within 4 years
- 100% of students would recommend the Sophomore Bridge to a friend

## Junior Bridge Key Performance Indicators

- The average term GPA is 3.33
- The average unit load is 13.61
- 58% of students are taking 15 units or more
- 100% of students are in good academic standing
- 100% of students would recommend Junior Bridge to a Friend

- 75% of participants feel more academically prepared for the next academic year
- 96% of students continued to Spring 2024

### Transfer Bridge Key Performance Indicators

- The average term GPA is 3.34
- The average unit load is 13.47
- 91% of students are taking 15 units or more
- 97% of students are in good academic standing
- 84% of the 2023 Transfer Bridge students are enrolled full-time for Spring 2024
- 100% of participants report Transfer Bridge provided the support needed to succeed
- 100% of participants would recommend Transfer Bridge to a friend
- 100% of participants feel more connected to the campus and resources
- 100% of participants feel more connected to peers

### Senior Bridge Key Performance Indicators

- The average term GPA is 3.15
- The average unit load is 13.99
- 29% of students are taking 15 units or more
- 100% of students are in good academic standing
- 100% of participants report Senior Bridge provided the support needed to succeed
- 100% of participants report Senior Bridge increased knowledge of next steps toward career development
- 100% of participants would recommend Senior Bridge to a friend
- 100% of participants feel more connected to the campus and resources
- 100% of participants feel more connected to peers

### Testimonials from Bridge Scholars

- *"I think the most meaningful experience in the program was getting an overall feel of what taking a college class would be like. It was very helpful and made me feel more prepared for what is to come."*
- *"My overall experience has been outstanding. I have been making progress in my writing and gaining more knowledge about several things. Summer Bridge has helped me challenge myself to keep pushing toward greatness even when I think it may be impossible or hard to do."*
- *"What I have found to be the most meaningful experience in the program was all the workshops that informed us about different activities, clubs, classes, etc. All of which are very helpful to students in many ways."*
- *"I enjoyed my EOP class because of how welcoming everyone was and felt connected towards everyone as some have the same stories and background. I like how I leaned about Sacramento state university resources and much more."*

## Signature Programs

### Summer Bridge

EOP Summer Bridge Academy served 192 incoming First-Year EOP students. Students were offered up to 5 units of general education which included ENGL 5, EDUC 10, ETHN 11, STAT 1, THEA1, ENGL 1X, HIST 17B. Additionally, students earned a Leadership Certificate through their ALS 79 course. Students attended mandatory workshops that focused on self-care, financial wellness, and campus resources.

- **Goal 1:** The EOP Summer Bridge Academy will close the achievement gap by providing courses that better equip and prepare students for college-level courses.
- **Goal 2:** The EOP Summer Bridge Academy will facilitate a positive campus experience through engagement and leadership development.
- **Goal 3:** The EOP Summer Bridge Academy will provide comprehensive first-year advising that focuses on utilizing campus resources, understanding the EOP program, and graduation requirements.

### Sophomore Bridge

Sophomore Bridge served 120 students and offered 5 sections of ENGL 20 and 1 section of HIST17B. The program is optional for EOP students and open to Sacramento State University students who come from underrepresented backgrounds.

- **Goal 1:** Re-engage students and provide transition support into their 2nd year.
- **Goal 2:** Gain skills in writing development and leadership training.
- **Goal 3:** Provide students personal, academic, and career development opportunities.

### Junior Bridge

Junior Bridge served 35 native Juniors and offered ENGL-109x and ETHN-100.

- **Goal 1:** The Junior Bridge Program will promote timely graduation by enrolling students in the appropriate course(s) based on their WPJ scores.
- **Goal 2:** The Junior Bridge Program will facilitate students' commitment and connection to Sacramento State through meaningful interactions with students, instructors, and staff.

### Senior Bridge

The Senior Bridge Program served 40 seniors and offered two asynchronous courses designed to support upper division that included PYC 135 AND ETHN 199. Students learned in a diverse multicultural atmosphere, and gained exposure to the vital community, civic engagement opportunities, and professional growth.

- **Goal 1:** Promote timely graduation by enrolling students in two asynchronous upper division courses.
- **Goal 2:** Gain exposure to vital community and civic engagement opportunities.
- **Goal 3:** Give back to EOP and develop personal brand and goals.

## Summer Bridge Events & Activities

- EOP Bridge Faculty & Staff Training and Orientation – Provides all staff and faculty a program overview and collaborative training sessions
- SBA Welcome Day – Virtual Orientation for Summer Bridge participants providing a two-part workshop series on Bridge Overview, How to Graduate in Four, Navigating Canvas, and My SacState Portal
- New Student Orientation – In-person Freshman Orientation, providing students with an overview of EOP program support and services to new students
- Three in-person cooking demos focused on shopping on a budget and healthy recipes for busy students
- EOP Crossing Ceremony – Culminating event to celebrate and recognize students' successful completion of the Bridge Academies

## EOP Retention Services & Programs

### First Year Experience

- Our EOP FYE (First Year Experience) program began in the fall semester with 252 incoming students from high school.
- In partnership with Hornet Launch, our EOP students were placed in 15 or more units based on their major selection/field of interest if undeclared.
- All FYE students were part of our EOP ALS 70A course, which helped their high school to college transition and provided them with leadership skills through the leadership initiative program.
- Our FYE program collaborated with Student Organizations & Leadership to provide leadership workshops during ALS 70A course to help students complete their gold certificate.
- During their second semester, students were enrolled in an Ethnic Studies 98 course led by our FYE coordinator.
- By the end of the course, students had compiled a career portfolio which included the following: resume, cover letter, "what can I do with my major" assignment, and an informal mockup interview video.
- Students were provided with a variety of guest presentations including several from the career center on career exploration and major interest.
- Our first-year engagement component included EOP World Sports Day in the fall and in the spring, a Valentines celebration of students enjoying desserts as they wrote valentines cards to each other.

### EOP Sophomore Success Program

The EOP Sophomore Success Program is designed to aid students as they continue to transition into their second academic year, offering all-encompassing advising, comprehensive career development services, and leadership opportunities.

## Points of Pride

- Bolstered leadership and community service opportunities through the re-established EOSPA for Fall & Spring.
- Provided comprehensive advising through group and one-on-one advising.

## Events & Activities

- **Sophomore Success Workshop:** Offered Sophomore Success Workshops in the Spring semester to provide conversations on sophomore slump, major impaction, summer school information and review important dates and upcoming deadlines regarding registration and financial aid documents. Students are encouraged to set goals and receive guidance towards selecting a major and next semester's classes.
- **Career Exploration Workshop:** Offered Career Exploration Workshops in the Fall and Spring semester that focused on general education review, impacted major/expressed majors, developing back-up plans, experiential learning, and the career planning process. Students are able to set goals and receive guidance towards selecting a major and next semester's classes.
- **Leadership and Professional Development:** EOP offered students an opportunity to attend the EOP Leadership Conference at CSU Humboldt on 11/4/2023. Five EOP students were selected to attend the conference to build leadership skills and network with CSU EOP program participants.

## EOP Third Year Success

The EOP Third Year Success program is focused on providing retention support to native juniors entering their third year and transitional support to incoming transfer students entering their first year at Sacramento State University.

## Points of Pride

- Successfully supported 125 transfer students in their transition through the Fall Transfer Learning Communities.
- Cultivated learning community cohorts of transfer students with weekly class sessions in the Fall and Spring that equipped students with personal, academic, and professional development to assist them in successfully navigating through their academic and career journeys.
- Over 230 junior and transfer students participated in the third-year academic advising campaign covering evaluation of academic progress and preparation for transition toward senior "Grad-Bound" advising.
- Facilitated focus group sessions and surveys with current transfer students to gather their feedback on recommendations for continuous improvement of the Transfer First Year Experience. Utilized the feedback for revamping the 2024-2025 Transfer Learning Community structure.
- Assembled, trained, and maintained a high-functioning team of Instructional Student Assistants (ISA)—seven in the Fall and four in the Spring—and retained one student staff to return as a team leader for the 2024-2025 academic year.

- Provided engagement activities organized and led by ISA team for junior and transfer students to engage with one another within EOP office space including Cocoa & Cram study sessions in the Fall and Wednesday Homework Hangouts in the Spring.
- Provided monthly newsletters for Junior/Transfer cohort to keep students informed of campus opportunities including financial scholarships, non-financial resources, and relevant events and activities.

### **Signature Event: Fall End-of-Semester “Cocoa & Cram”**

The Cocoa & Cram study session was organized and facilitated by the transfer Instructional Student Assistant team under the guidance of the transfer program coordinator for Junior and Transfer students. This was a low-cost event that catered to over 50 participants and was both fun and productive for students who attended. The event gave students the opportunity to enjoy hot chocolate and snacks, obtain scantrons, and engage with one another with the choice to either study together, rest, or enjoy interactive down time together. It also allowed us to showcase new improvements made to the office space specifically for student use.

### **EOP Senior Success**

The Senior Success program aims to provide EOP senior students with a full-fledged retention service support to help them persist and prepare to graduate from Sacramento State.

### **Points of Pride**

- Assisting students in monitoring and evaluation of their educational progress towards degree completion.
- Helping students to review their general education and graduation requirements.
- Committed to improving graduation applications for senior scholars and helping to achieve educational goals.
- Review with students the steps needed to apply for graduation.
- Helping students to make informed choices that will optimize their educational experience and leading them to achieve their educational and career goals.

### **Signature Programs/Services**

- **Grad-Bound Progress Check:** This initiative is one of the senior services to increase the rate of students applying for graduation. The purpose is to help provide fundamental support for EOP seniors to understand their degree progress completion, career or graduate school resources and plan for college exit. During the Fall of 2023, A targeted email and phone campaign went out to EOP 4th Year/Senior advising.
  - 18 students who have not applied for graduation came to meet 1:1 with a counselor advisor.
  - 98 seniors who have applied for graduation came into one of the seven senior advising workshops in November.
- **Graduate School Workshops:** This was a new initiative to support senior students interested in applying to graduate school on how to write a graduate essay sample. There were four workshops on graduate school and how to write a graduate essay on November 7,9,14 and 16. These workshops were via Zoom.



- **4<sup>th</sup> Year/Senior Advising Campaign:** During the Spring of 2024, A targeted email and phone campaign went out to EOP 4th Year/Senior advising.
  - An email was sent out to 30 EOP students (23 juniors and 7 seniors) to come in for 1:1 advising. The students will be seen by our EOP senior success team.
  - 296 Seniors in good standing out of 649 students enrolled in classes for spring 2024.
- **Signature Program Highlight:**
  - The 2024 EOP Promotion Celebration event was held on April 17, 2024, from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm at the Harper Alumni Center. 336 senior students who applied for graduation were sent an email and a phone call campaign. 120 people confirmed their RSVP for the event, and 68 graduating students confirmed attendance. We had 150 people who attended the event.