

# Paving, Excellence, Retention, Success in Student Trajectories (PERSIST) Program

## Who We Are

PERSIST is designed to meet the needs of students who are in their second-year of college at Sacramento State. It provides a series of workshops including academic planning, wellness, financial aid and workforce skills development for students to make a smooth transition to their upper division course material.

## Demographics of Students for Fall 2018 (N=4126)

### Gender

62% were female

38% were male

### Ethnicity

31% were Hispanic/Latinx

25% were White

25% were Asian

9% were Other

7% were Black/African American

2% were Pacific Islander

1% were Native American

### Top Majors

10% were Expressed Interest Nursing

31% were Pre-major Biology

31% were Undeclared

31% were Expressed Interest Criminal Justice

31% were Pre-major Computer Science

## Key Performance Indicators

Fall 2018

Average Term GPA was 3.05.

Average Unit Load was 14.15.

95% of students were full-time.

52% of students were enrolled with 15 units or more.

100% of students were in good academic standing.

97% of students persisted the following semester.

## How We Help Students

- Enroll students in 15 units or more in the following semester
- Provide students with financial aid and FAFSA information
- Help students understand University's academic requirements, policies and procedures
- Collaborate with community members and bring workforce skill workshops to students
- Get students involved in campus activities
- Disability testing for a limited number of eligible students
- In conjunction with The Well, provide Active Minds - Stress Less, Worry Less workshop presentations
- Get students connected to campus resources and mentoring opportunities

## Results from English 20 Presentations

- 90% of students felt that the workshop was helpful.
- 76% of students felt prepared for the following semester due to PERSIST participation.

## Survey: Types of services students want to receive from PERSIST

- 87% Academic Advising
- 51% Career Development / Exploration
- 45% Personal Advising

## Workshops Offered

1. **Financial Aid: "What's Next?"** – Covering additional steps students need to take after submitting their FAFSA which can include creating a Web Grants account for Cal Grant or submitting additional documents if needed for federal verification, applying for CSUS Scholarships, and submitting FAFSA/Dream Act.
2. **Career Readiness: Teamwork/Collaboration** – community employer (i.e. SMUD, State Farm) conducts workshops on desired skills employers are seeking from employees. Learn to work within a team structure and negotiate and manage conflict.
3. **Health and Wellness: Active Minds – Stress Less, Worry Less** – a presentation about simple techniques to manage stress college students face.
4. **Progress to Degree: Academic Advising/Class Planning** learn what classes to take next semester, learn about summer school options (at Sacramento State or community

colleges), tutoring, academic standing, general education, graduation requirements, and the Writing Placement for Juniors (WPJ).

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