

CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES | NON-FUNDED WORK

SASEI Transfer Student Success Initiatives

Strategic Initiatives and Actions

Student Success

2.12 Continue to improve seamless community college transfer and seek opportunities for enhanced collaboration with community college partners.

Project Summary

Historically, CSUCI began as a transfer-majority institution, welcoming transfer students as its inaugural class. With 50.9% of the undergraduate population comprised of transfer students, our strategy for increasing transfer student success is a model of shared responsibility with our regional community college partners. Important elements of our strategy include peer mentor-led regional outreach to Latinx community college students and a cross-institutional faculty fellows program that is building culturally relevant curriculum and educational pathways to CSUCI. By leveraging cross-institutional partnerships between CSUCI and Ventura County's three community colleges (VCCC), we are streamlining the transfer process through aligning practices, curriculum, and policies. Our regional HSI partnership has named this strategy "[aligning to one degree](#)", which recognizes that together, both the two-year and four-year systems provide the coursework upon which the baccalaureate degree is awarded.

Transfer student success initiatives are housed under the Student Academic Success & Equity Initiatives (SASEI) department and supported by Project ALAS (Aligning Learning and Academic Success) and Project Adelante, U.S. Department of Education Strengthening Hispanic Serving Institutions grants. These initiatives include peer mentor-led regional outreach to community college students and their parents, regional faculty fellows program, leveraging technology to support an online orientation for CSUCI transfer students, and engaging incoming transfer students through the Transfer Bootcamp as well as support current CI students to graduate in a timely manner. The steps CSUCI has taken to streamline the process for transfer students and support their success prompted [MONEY magazine to rate CSUCI the 4th best college in the nation for transfer student success](#).

Transfer Student Success Academy (TSSA): As part of our regional strategy for advancing a culture of transfer success, SASEI hosts an annual day-long Transfer Student Success Academy (TSSA) helping students to navigate the hidden curriculum before they arrive at CSUCI. The 2018 TSSA engaged over 144 community college students and their families with staff/faculty and peer-led workshops on financial aid, transfer preparedness and building a university culture including a faculty-led roundtable discussion on major/career pathways and course guidance from both university and community college faculty.

Regional Transfer Fellows: Through the Regional Transfer Fellows program, a collaboration between community college counselors and CSUCI advisers, recommendations were shared with members of the transfer orientation coordinating committee, which led to systemic changes in the way that CSUCI serves incoming transfer students. Efforts to become more responsive to incoming transfer students' needs include the development of an online orientation platform and creation of the Transfer Student Success Bootcamp to better support transition and success at CSUCI.

Online Orientation: The online orientation serves to supplement "Island View Orientation" by highlighting student success spaces that provide academic supports like tutoring and peer mentoring; student support services like counseling, disability accommodations & support services, and Dolphin Pantry; academic advising, faculty expectations, financial aid, and how to engage in high-impact practices like peer mentoring and undergraduate research. Making this platform accessible is important as an alternative orientation for students who live outside the area or during emergency situations when it is not feasible for students to come to campus. The online orientation platform will be piloted for transfer students beginning June 2019 and will continue through summer for those students entering in Fall 2019.

Transfer Bootcamp: The first Transfer Bootcamp was held for matriculated students with the aim of supporting their transfer readiness by providing additional support at the critical transition between community college and entry into the university. In the first year, 31 students participated in workshops that included information on technology, the various resource centers on campus, career services, graduate studies services, discussion with faculty advisors and a review of differences in academic expectations as well as a “Back to Basics” panel that reviewed the availability of emergency funds and food security issues.

Baseline Data

In AY 2017-18, CSUCI made significant progress toward increasing the 2-year and 4-year graduation rate among transfer students. With a transfer 2-year graduation rate of 44.7%, CSUCI has nearly achieved the CSU system-wide GI 2025 goal of 45% and is ahead of the annual target to achieve CSUCI’s GI 2025 campus goal of 41.1%. Similarly, the transfer 4-year graduation rate of 75.1% is ahead of the annual target (72.7%) to achieve CSUCI’s GI 2025 campus goal of 78%. Between Fall 2014 and Fall 2017, the number of Latinx students from VCCC increased from 789 to 911. In that same time period, we’ve decreased the number of VCCC Latinx students on academic probation at the end of their first year from 96 to 81. In other words, 12% of the Fall 2014 VCCC Latinx cohort was on academic probation, but that number dropped to 9% of the Fall 2017 VCCC Latinx cohort. This represents a decrease of 3 percentage points for VCCC Latinx students compared to a 1 percentage point decrease for VCCC non-Latinx students.

Transfer Student Success Academy (TSSA): Since 2015, a total of 378 students have attended TSSA. Effectiveness is measured through increases in student/parent knowledge gained, attitudes, and interest in attending college. Survey responses indicate a positive impact on the students, with 95% of students that agreed or strongly agreed that the Academy contributed to their decision to transfer to a university. For TSSA 2018, 76% of the 144 attendees identified as Latinx and 69% as first-generation. Evaluation data indicates that TSSA positively impacts transfer preparedness with 99% indicating they were excited about transferring to a 4-year university due to TSSA.

Transfer Bootcamp: Measures of effectiveness of the Transfer Bootcamp include a participant survey: one student shared, “Event was helpful, I can’t wait to kick start my university level education.” Additional efforts to measure the effectiveness of this practice on retention and degree completion are underway. Currently, this program is sustained through a combination of external grant funds and institutional resources.

Goals

- Meet and sustain GI 2025 2 year and 4 year graduation rate campus goals
 - Continue to exceed GI 2025 expectations and further improve graduation rates to 45.5% next year and increase from 44.7%
 - Continue efforts to exceed GI 2025 expectations and improve 4 year graduations from 75.1% to 75.3% within the next year
- Decrease academic probation rates among Latinx transfer students
 - Continue efforts to decrease academic probation rates among Latinx transfer students from 9% to 8% next year, bringing this to a decrease from 12% to 8% for those not in good academic standing
- Improve seamless community college transfer through:
 - Regional outreach efforts with community colleges
 - Cross-divisional transfer initiatives (i.e., peer mentors, Transfer Bootcamp, & online supplemental orientation)
 - Regional academic partnerships with community colleges

Project Status

Implementing phase

Key Leaders and Divisions

Lead Division	Division of Academic Affairs
Collaborating Division	Division of Student Affairs
Action Champions	Amanda Quintero, Michelle Hasendonckx
Action Project Leads	Verónica Montoya
Action Collaborators	Doreen Hatcher, Ernesto Guerrero , Regional Community College partners

Additional Information

https://www.csuci.edu/news/releases/2018-money_ranking.htm

<https://www.aacu.org/peerreview/2018/Summer/CSU>

<https://www.aacu.org/liberaleducation/2019/winter/quintero>