

MAXIMIZING ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH PREPAREDNESS AND ADVISING (M.A.P.A.)

UC Santa Cruz | Hispanic-Serving Institution Grant | U.S Department of Education

Grant Overview:

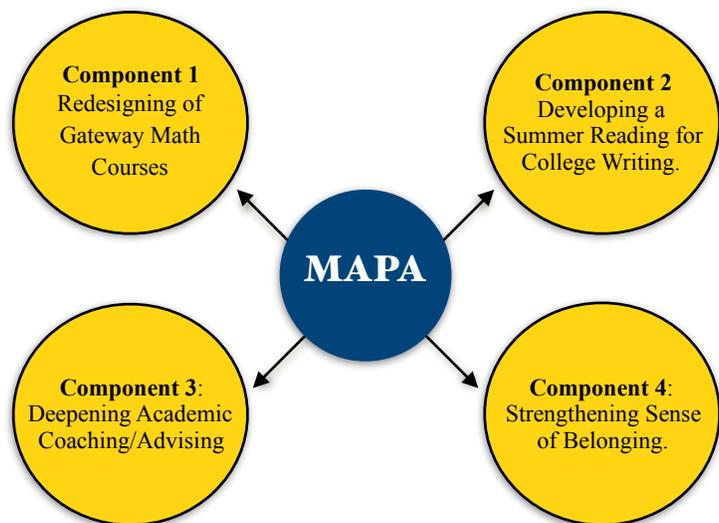
Grant Type: Title V, Part A*
Grant Active Dates: October 2015 - September 2020
Grant Funding Amount: \$2,625,500
Focus Areas: Math 2 (College Algebra), Writing, Sense of Belonging, Advising and Faculty Professional Development.

Grant Components:

- Redesigning the Gate Math Course - College Algebra (Math 2): Math 2 course delivery has been redesigned to disrupt patterns of failure, resulting in improved retention, graduation, and time-to-degree success with a focus on low- income and Hispanic students.
- Developing a Summer Reading for College Writing Institute - WORD: WORD is a College Writing Summer Institute to prepare students who are least prepared for university-level reading and writing focusing on students who have an unsatisfied English Language Writing Requirement (ELWR) with a focus on low-income and Hispanic students.
- Deepening Academic Coaching/Advising: Develop a case management-based, academic coaching model delivered through counselors and peer advisers with a focus on low-income and Hispanic students.
- Strengthening Sense of Belonging: Support the Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP) and El Centro in becoming a hub of organized activity and resources that support Hispanic students' transition, retention, graduation and academic advancement. Programs that fall under Sense of Belonging - 1) Regional Family Conference and 2) Public Forums.

Abstract

The MAPA Project is designed to reduce disparities by implementing four research-based, data-driven, interwoven activities that will enable UC Santa Cruz to put into place the systemic supports that Hispanic students will need to successfully navigate the university experience. MAPA is designed to intervene early and decisively in key gateway areas, improve retention and graduation rates, strengthen UCSC's ability to provide essential services for its students and ultimately improve student achievement. Examples of specific outcomes are: a five-year 15% improvement in pass rates in gateway math courses for Hispanics; a five-year 20% increase in Hispanic students passing the Entry Level Writing Requirement; an additional 150 Hispanic students graduating via the Crossing the Finish Line intervention; 80% of gateway course faculty and 100% of advisors/coaches completing MAPA professional development activities. MAPA's efforts are organized in four components as described in the diagram below.



* Title V, Part A Funding: Assist HSIs in expanding educational opportunities for and improving the attainment of Latino students. Grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability.

Developing a Summer Reading for College Writing Institute - Writing Originating from Dialogue (WORD)

Program Description

WORD is a Summer reading program hosted in locations throughout California. The program is designed for incoming UCSC frosh students to practice their analytic reading in order to:

- Think critically about the text.
- Read for understanding.
- Read as a conversation.

The goal of the program is to provide students with essential reading tools that can further enhance their academic writing at UCSC.

The program consists of two parts: a three-week onsite instructions with professional faculty, and a two-week online instruction in which students have reading assignments.

Students submit an AWPE-like test at the end of the onsite portion in order to evaluate their writing progress and reading technique skills.

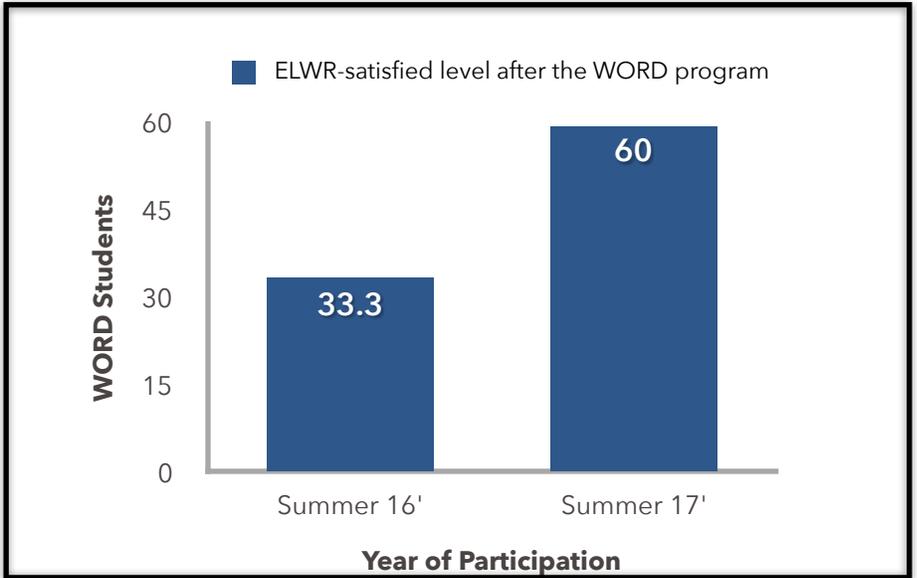


Figure 1. The WORD program effectiveness was computed by taking the number of students who went from performing at an ELWR-unsatisfied level to an ELWR-satisfied writing level after WORD intervention. Numbers were calculated based on AWPE-like exams performed during WORD.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Location 1	Downtown Los Angeles	Downtown Los Angeles	Downtown Los Angeles
Location 2	Gardena	Gardena	Downtown Los Angeles
Location 3	East Los Angeles	East Los Angeles	East Los Angeles
Location 4	San Francisco	San Fransico	San Jose
Location 5	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland
Total Participants	49	80	96

The W.O.R.D. program has hosted UCSC incoming frosh students throughout various cities in Southern and Northern California. The total number of participants have increased over the years.

Being able to interact with others from my college made me feel socially prepared and excited to be attending UCSC.

- WORD Student 18'



Strengthening Sense of Belonging at UC Santa Cruz

Program Description

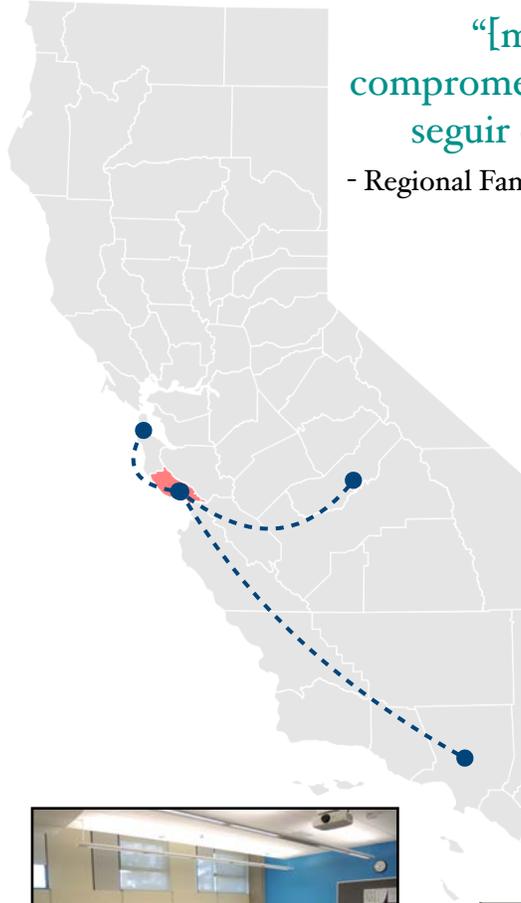
MAPA hopes to enhance the Latinx student experience at UC Santa Cruz through direct interventions with programs such as:

Regional Family Conference: designed to engage families in bilingual interactive experiences where they learn about UCSC and how to support their students.

Public Forums: designed space for the UCSC community and other stakeholders to engage and learn more about the implementation of HSI grants.

Community Engagement:
Lecture series - Community events and presentations in regards to the meaning of a HSI-campus identity were captured by the presence of Dr. Gina A. Garcia. Furthermore, Sylvia Hurtado reinforced the idea of campus climate and institutional change as the UC system progresses towards a Hispanic-Serving system. The goal of these lecture series is to present the student body as well as staff and faculty with practices to embrace diversity in our institution.

As well as supporting the efforts from **EOP** and **El Centro: Chicanx Latinx Resource Center**, promoting organized activities and resources for Latinx students' college experience, retention, graduation, and professional development.



“[me siento] más segura y comprometida a animar a más familias a seguir el sueño de nuestro hijos.”

- Regional Family Conference Spanish speaking parent



Regional Family Conference in East Los Angeles served as a pre-orientation for frosh and transfer students to learn more about how to navigate the university.



Regional Family Conference	Year 1 participants	Year 2 participants	Year 3 participants
S.F.	317	N/A	N/A
Fresno	N/A	69	N/A
L.A.	N/A	164	207



El Centro: Chicanx Latinx Resource Center staff with Gina Garcia after the presentation.

Redesign of the Gateway Math Course - College Algebra (Math 2)

Program Description

The redesigned of the gateway math course, college algebra (math 2) serves as an initial intervention to accommodate students from underrepresented communities at UC Santa Cruz. Given the increasing enrollment of Latinx students in Math 2 as well as the high failure rate observed in this ethnic group before intervention (Fall 2013), the restructuring of the course shifted from faculty oriented to student centered classroom by:

- Utilizing active learning techniques in the classroom.
- Reducing class size.
- Shortening the TA-to-student ratio in sections.

Thus shifting the Math 2 course from a dumping ground into a launching pad course for Hispanic students.

Professional development for Math TAs and supplemental staff is incorporated into the renovated Math 2 course. Through a partnership between SEMILLA and MAPA, 26 math TAs were part of a two-day professional development training where graduate students learned inclusive teaching practices using 21st century pedagogy. Through these pedagogies, TAs have an understanding of the cultural-relevant teaching practices that can best support the need of students.

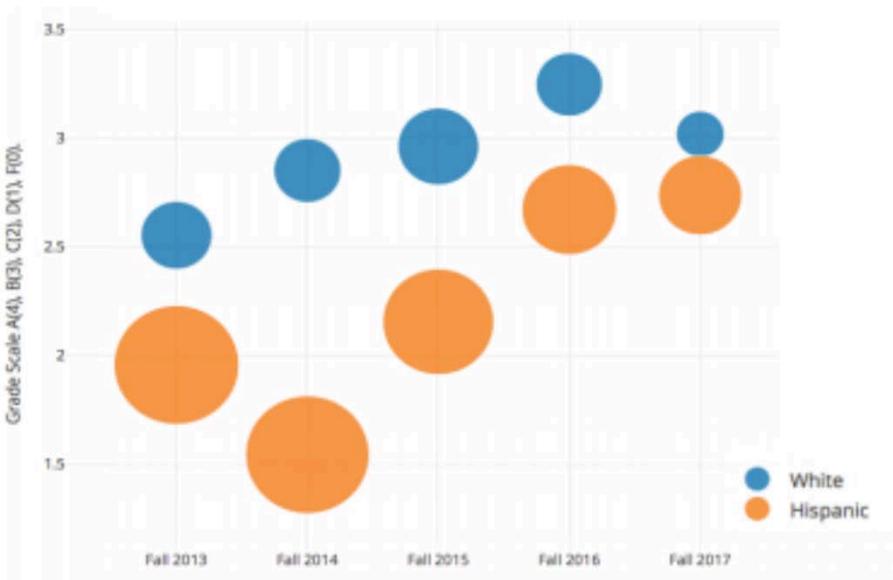
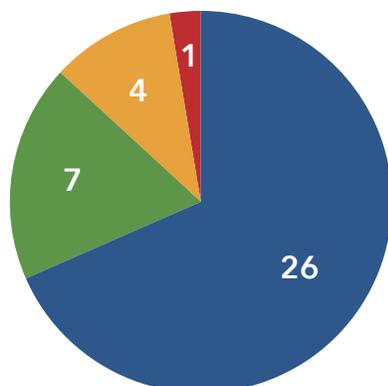


Figure 2. Average grade scale breakdown: 4 (A), 3 (B), 2 (C), & 1 (D). Hispanic-identified students who have taken the redesigned Math 2 class after the initial intervention in Fall 16' achieved a higher average grade than pre-intervention cohorts.

“This class really improved my understanding of concepts I never fully got in middle school and high school. The lectures and sections were both great and incredibly effective for me. After taking this class I feel a lot more prepared for future math classes.”

- Math 2 Student Fall '17



- Math TAs
- Learning Support Services Math Tutors
- Academic Excellence Program Leaders
- Faculty



Total participants 38

Deepening Academic Coaching/Advising

Program Description

MAPA utilizes advising as a tool to increase student success. Through professional development for advisors, MAPA hopes to create holistic advising practices by encouraging advisors to be part of the **Multicultural Advising Conference**. One of the key advising strategies outlined in the MAPA grant is to provide advising services in academic and classroom settings. The advising programs are:

Collaborative Math 2 course: student have the opportunity to meet with an advisor throughout the quarter to assure they are receiving the support needed.

WORD participants: Advisors meet with the student during the summer program prior to their welcome week at UC Santa Cruz.

Regional Family Conference: Academic, peer and financial aid advisors were available to answer general questions for students who attended the conference.

Improving My Academic Progress (iMAP): EOP students who are not in good academic standing connect with a mentor and resources to ensure they return to good academic standing.

Crossing the Finish Line (CFL): Intervenes students who have not completed their degrees in order to increase awareness of their completion status through coaching with action plans that will result in graduation.

The Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Initiatives Team, in partnership with interactive theater experts at UC Berkeley, hosted the **Multicultural Advising Conference (MAC)** for UCSC campus-wide advisors and counselors. Through interactive theater, the MAC focused on fostering equity and inclusion in the advising context through the disruption of micro-aggressions. As an HSI effort, the MAC aimed to better support UCSC staff to serve the increasingly diverse student body through a campus-wide holistic advising professional development. The MAC provided advisors an opportunity to examine student experiences and reflect on strategies that support validation and student success.

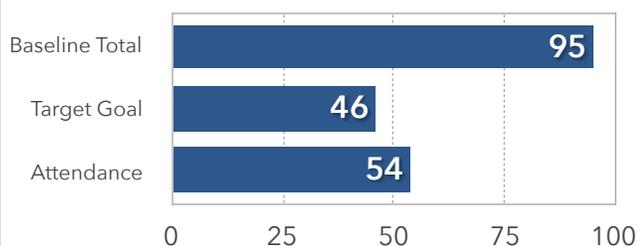


Figure 3. Total number of UCSC advisors (54) exceeded the grant objective of training 50% of UCSC campus-wide advisors and counselors (46).

“I am interested in learning how to best support the intersectionality of our students and how to best convey my appreciation for the similarities and differences they bring to their peers.”

-UCSC Advisor

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