



Southwestern College Student Equity Research Agenda 2015-2016

In alignment with the mission of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) and Student Affairs, the purpose of the Student Equity Research Agenda is to provide accurate data and information for analysis, decision-making and continuous improvement of Student Equity-funded services and processes.

Recent changes made by the California State Legislature and the California Community College Chancellor's Office, based on recommendations from the Student Success Task Force (SSTF), have called for campuses to promote student success through a variety of means. One of these major shifts involves the Student Equity Plan. The Student Equity Plan is based on data analysis which identified student achievement gaps that are being addressed with targeted interventions designed to close the gaps among underrepresented groups ensuring access, success, and equity for all students. The interventions were designed to impact the success of a particular student population with specific low completion rates (Hispanics, African-American, and older students) but ultimately to focus on the overall improvement of student success rates across all factors of success (access, course completion, ESL and basic skills completion, degree/certificate completion, and transfer). The proposed interventions include expanding the college's research capacity as well as imbedded tutoring in basic skills courses, and providing faculty and staff with professional development focused on student retention and student success. These interventions are geared toward affecting systemic institutional change aimed at raising the achievement and completion rates for all students.

Core Services of Student Equity Research

Southwestern College's Institutional Research and Planning unit, through use of a designated Student Equity Research Analyst, aims to provide Southwestern College with accurate and timely information used to support student success and service decision-making and policy formation. The Student Equity Research Analyst's primary responsibilities are categorized into the following areas:

- Student Equity Research Projects
- Research Consultation & Workgroup Meetings
- Committee Participation
- Professional Development/Trainings

Student Equity Research Agenda – A “Living” Document

Due to the fact that Student Equity will continue to evolve as the California Community College Chancellor's Office and Southwestern College implement student-success related changes to services, programs, and procedures, the Student Equity Research Agenda is also anticipated to evolve as well. As specific areas of interest and development surface from research projects, data analysis, and feedback from campus constituents, the Research Agenda will be adjusted appropriately. Relevant Student Equity stakeholders will be consulted and later notified of changes to this agenda.

**Student Equity
Annual Research Agenda
2015-16**

Alignment with SWC Strategic Plan	Project/Action Item	Summer 2015	Fall 2015					Spring 2016					Summer 2016
		July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
	Research Projects												
Success Indicator 1	<u>Access</u> Increase Student Enrollment with Respect to Hispanic Students, and Older Students												
	• Consult service area representatives on survey content	X	X	X				X			X	X	
	• Distribute Survey(s) (External Company)					X	X						
	• Conduct analysis							X	X	X	X		
	• Prepare annual report											X	X
	• Present findings to Student Equity Committee												X
Success Indicator 2	<u>Course Completion (Retention)</u> Increase the successful course completion rates for students enrolled in basic skills courses, in particular for African- American students and younger students (18-24 years).												
	• Consult service area representatives on Tutoring and Gatekeeper Courses content	X	X										X
	• Consult service area representatives on Professional Development content	X	X			X			X	X			
	• Survey students who completed gatekeeper courses							X					
	• Conduct analysis (of completion rates)			X			X	X				X	X
	• Prepare annual report											X	X
	• Present findings to Student Equity Committee												X

Alignment with SWC Strategic Plan	Project/Action Item	Summer 2015	Fall 2015					Spring 2016					Summer 2016
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	Research Projects (continued)												
Success Indicator 3	<u>ESL and Basic Skills Completion</u>												
	Increase student completion rate in ESL and Basic Skills (Remedial English and Remedial Math) courses, specifically for male students and African-American students.												
	• Consult service area representatives on ESL Tutoring and Basic Skills Courses content	X	X		X			X			X		
	• Consult service area representatives on Professional Development content		X			X			X	X			
	• Conduct analysis (of completion rates)			X			X	X				X	X
	• Prepare annual report											X	X
	• Present findings to Student Equity Committee												X
Success Indicator 4	<u>Degree and Certificate Completion</u>												
	Increase the number of students who complete 30-units and Degrees/Certificates, specifically for older students (25-49 years).												
	• Consult service area representatives on Evaluation of External Transcript System content		X							X			
	• Conduct analysis (of notification and completion)				X	X				X		X	X
	• Prepare annual report											X	X
	• Present findings to Student Equity Committee												X

Alignment with SWC Strategic Plan	Project/Action Item	Summer 2015	Fall 2015					Spring 2016					Summer 2016
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	Research Projects (continued)												
Success Indicator 5	<u>Transfer</u> Increase the number of students who transfer to four-year universities, specifically Hispanic students.												
	• Consult service area representatives on Tutoring and Gatekeeper Courses content	X	X				X						X
	• Consult service area representatives on development of Transfer Campaign		X	X					X				
	• Conduct analysis (of transfer rates)						X	X				X	X
	• Prepare annual report											X	X
	• Present findings to Student Equity Committee												X

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	Research Consultations & Workgroup Meetings												
	Student Equity Services Research Consultations												
	• Meet with service area leaders and representatives (ongoing/as requested)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	• Work with service areas to create service area research action plans (ongoing/as requested)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	• Update service area action plans (ongoing/as requested)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Student Equity Committee Research Consultation(s)												
	• Meet with Student Equity Committee co-chairs regarding annual research needs of the committee	X	X	X				X	X				
	Student Equity Workgroup												
	• With Student Equity Specialist and Student Equity Technology Specialist (ongoing/as needed)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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	Committee Participation												
	Student Equity Planning Committee Meetings (Bi-Weekly)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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	Professional Development Meetings/Trainings												
	Student Equity-Related Workshops, Trainings, and Conferences <i>(as announced/offered)</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	2016 Research & Planning Conference										X		
	Regional Research & Planning Meetings		X				X					X	
	2016 AACU Annual Meeting: How Higher Education Can Lead - On Equity, Inclusive Excellence, and Democratic Renewal							X					