

## Humboldt State University and Facilitating Graduation

Humboldt State University has several programs that address point eleven (“Adoption of Strategies for Student Success and Learning Support: Tutoring; Technology-Mediated Supplementary Learning; and Similar Tactics”) of the Chancellor’s Coded Memo on Facilitating Graduation.

HSU has several programs that appear to meet the spirit of point eleven. Most significantly are the following:

- **Freshmen Interest Groups (FIGs).** The FIG program at HSU started as a Living Learning Community about ten years ago. The current model (similar to that used at the University of Oregon) has been used by the campus since 2000 and consists of thematic course groupings that first-time freshmen are eligible to enroll in. For example, one such theme is Life Sciences and the Environment. Students in this FIG all enroll in an introductory botany course, a first year composition course, a college algebra course, and a seminar. The role of the seminar is to explore the theme of the FIG, assist with college success skills, facilitate student connection to the campus and monitor student progress. Instructors in the seminar work with course faculty to ensure that students are progressing satisfactorily and intervene with students who are not. Currently about 55% of first-time freshmen are enrolled in one of the 23 FIG themes. A similar approach has been used with transfer students (Transfer Interest Groups or TRIGs), but on a much smaller scale.
- **Supplemental Instruction.** Funded through a Howard Hughes Medical Institutes grant, HSU provides supplemental instruction for several courses in biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics that have historically proven to be particularly difficult for students. Approximately 350 students enrolled in the program last year. Supplemental instruction is offered as a credit/no credit one semester credit unit and is facilitated by advanced undergraduates and graduate students. The course is supervised by a member of the faculty. Students who enroll have significantly fewer grades lower than C relative to those who do not take advantage of the program.
- **Learning Center.** The Learning Center provides small group tutoring for any subject area to all students at no cost.
- **Educational Opportunity Program.** The EOP serves first-generation, economically disadvantaged students and offers bridge (and other) programs for first-time freshman that provide academic and transitional support.
- **Miscellaneous Supplements.** The campus supports many other facilities and programs to ensure student success: Tutorial software is available to supplement skill development in music, English and students enrolled in foreign language programs. The campus provides a writing center and a math lab that are available to students. Many academic departments across the campus provide tutoring by faculty, advanced peers, or graduate students.