EOP MISSION STATEMENT
The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) serves as a primary vehicle for the CSU in increasing the access and academic success/retention of California’s educationally and economically disadvantaged students, thus working in the spirit and abiding by the legislative intent that originally established the program in 1969.

ABOUT EOP
EOP emerged from the Civil Rights movement of the late 1960s as a response to the call for access and equity to higher education. As a result of this hard-fought student-led campaign, there is an EOP at every California State University campus today to provide support services for well over 30,000 students.

For more than 35 years, EOP has been committed to increasing access to higher education for California residents who are historically low-income and first-generation college students. EOP students have the potential to perform satisfactorily in the CSU, but have not been able to realize this potential because of the lack of economic and educational resources. Our goal is to meet the educational needs of our students by providing admission assistance, financial support, and academic and personal support services throughout their career at every CSU campus.

IMPACT OF EOP
For more than 35 years, the California State University's Educational Opportunity Program has been providing educational access and opportunity to more than 250,000 low-income and educationally disadvantaged students throughout California, the majority of whom are first-generation college students.

EOP SUPPORT SERVICES

Academic Advising
EOP students are teamed with academic advisors/counselors who help them develop an academic road map. The advisors/counselors meet with students on a regular basis to review short- and long-term goals to ensure academic success.

Tutoring
EOP students are tutored in subject areas to help improve their academic performance. Trained peer tutors provide support on an individual basis or in groups.

Developmental Workshops and Study Skills Courses
EOP sponsors seminars, workshops, and study skills courses to help students develop learning skills. Sessions cover topics such as test taking, note taking, time management, computer and software skills, career planning, campus policies, and numerous other helpful topics.

Summer Bridge Program
Summer Bridge is a comprehensive transitional program designed to assist incoming freshmen prepare for the rigors of university work. Depending on the campus, the program is offered at no cost or nominal cost to the student. It typically provides students with an intensive residential and/or commuter experience, helping students acclimate and understand the adjustments they will need to make from high school to university. EOP students who participate in Summer Bridge benefit from the personalized attention, community building with their EOP peers, individualized instruction, and accessibility to program and campus resources.

EOP GRANT
EOP students who qualify for financial aid may receive an EOP grant. To be considered, students must apply for financial aid by filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). EOP grants will be awarded by the campus to which students enroll as long as funds are available.

WHO MAY APPLY?
All EOP applicants must submit the application materials requested by the CSU campus admission department of their choice, additional materials to each EOP office, and submit the application for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To qualify for EOP, a student must: be a California resident; be a first-time freshman or upper-division transfer student; have a history of low family income; and meet the Family Income Guidelines published in the CSU EOP Information and Applications Forms booklet. (Also available online at www.calstate.edu/eop)

EOP SUCCESS STORIES

Sandra Gonzalez
Congressional Aide Sandra Gonzalez (BA ’93), who grew up in the projects of Fresno and in a single-parent home, had to work in the fields to make ends meet at a young age.

Despite the fact that she was the youngest of five children, Sandra was the first in her family to graduate from high school. During high school, she was involved in soccer, softball and campus activities, yet education beyond high school was never discussed. She had no idea of the many options available to her until a Fresno State EOP representative visited her school.

Sandra, accepted as a special admit through EOP Summer Bridge at Fresno State, remembers how important the program was in helping to prepare for her education. Sandra attended Fresno State for two years and then transferred to Cal State L.A. She connected with the EOP office and got involved in study groups and tutoring. She credits the study groups for the development of her critical thinking skills.

At Cal State L.A, Sandra was instrumental in organizing a Latino coalition. She also played a major role in the founding of the Chicano/Latino Resource Center.

Sandra is currently a Congressional Aide for Congresswoman Linda Sanchez. She is the liaison for labor and health issues.

“More than anything, EOP provided me with a sense of belonging and belief in my own ability to succeed. I don’t think I would have had as much success had it not been for the competent caring personnel in EOP at Cal State San Marcos.”

—Ricky Keith Ausby, assistant principal of Rock Springs Elementary School in Escondido, a 1995 Cal State San Marcos graduate who received his teaching credential in 1996