

California State University Dominguez Hills

SPARK! Program

(Students Preparing for Academic Rigor and Knowledge)

SPARK! is a program designed to give freshman students a jump-start into academic success. It brings together a constellation of the best practices developed and used by educational specialists from across the country. And it is the synergy between these practices that makes SPARK! unique and promises to have a powerful effect for students.

Through a seven-week summer experience, students are provided with the opportunity to:

- Develop effective reading and writing skills
- Learn about university resources
- Develop useful study skills, test-taking skills, and time-management
- Discover ways to retrieve library information for research and knowledge
- Uncover the history and dynamics of our culturally diverse society
- Begin to learn about the world through the discovery of self and community
- Develop collaborative learning approaches

SPARK! will avail students of enrollment priority and specialized academic advising.

During the summer experience, SPARK! students will be assigned a peer mentor with interests similar to their own who will supplement their class room instruction with small group tutorials.

Students who enter the SPARK! program and are eligible for Financial Aid will be able to apply for separate Financial Aid for summer, and apply their aid to their summer classes. Since information technology has become an essential learning tool, every effort will be made to provide SPARK! students with easy computer access.

In their second summer, SPARK! students will be able to strengthen their mathematical skills, in an intensive program, with instructors who understand the challenges that math presents to most students. Those interested in pursuing careers in sciences or technology will find this intensive program provides them with the initial building blocks for application in science.

Summer Experience Program Specifics

The SPARK! Summer Experience will involve enrollment in three 3-unit courses, all intended to prepare the students for academic success:

- English 088, 099, depending upon the student's EPT, or SAT/ACT score,
- UNV 101, Freshman Year Experience, and
- AFS 212, Introduction to Our Diverse Global Society

Freshmen Year Program Specifics

During their freshmen year SPARK! students are grouped into cohorted classes. This enables students to form study groups and develop a level of familiarity with others on campus. Peer mentors will continually work with students to supplement classroom instruction and work on building effective study skills. During the fall semester students focus on completing developmental and general education English courses. Their spring semester focuses on starting Mathematics requirements as well as completing additional general education requirements.

Eligibility

To be considered for participation in the SPARK! program, students must:

1. Be a graduating senior, or student with no college experience,
2. Apply for admission to CSUDH,
3. Complete the 2005-2006 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for summer, and a separate 2006-2007 FAFSA for the Fall and Spring semesters,
4. Register to take the English Placement Test (EPT) and the Elementary Level Math test (ELM) by May 31st, 2006.

For Further Information Contact:

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