

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

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Introduction

Commencing here at the University at Albany back in 1968, this 36 year old program seeks to provide admission opportunities for economically and educationally disadvantaged students who wish to enroll in one of many undergraduate departments at this University. Having the second largest EOP in the SUNY system with 700+ students being served, one objective of the EOP is to see that each student admitted is provided with all the services and assistance necessary for success in whatever degree program he or she seeks to complete. To this end, students enrolled in the Educational Opportunities Program are provided with supportive services designed to help students who need assistance in academic, financial, social, or personal matters. Specifically, the following services are provided to EOP students by a staff of professional counselors and departmental faculty members:

• Developmental coursework in reading/writing, math and study skills

• One to one personal/academic counseling

• Free one to one tutorial assistance

• Five week EOP mandatory Pre-College Summer Residential Program

• Monthly EOP newsletter

• Financial aid packaging

• EOP Computer User Room and an EOP Writing Center

• Peer tutorial and peer advisement services

• Career and personal growth workshops

• Study skills materials

• Graduate school advisement and EOP graduate school tuition waiver.

Project Excel:

Providing academic supportive assistance designed to increase the retention and graduation rates of two hundred low-income, first generation, and disabled students is the primary intent of the Project Excel Program. Funded by a four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Project Excel is a Student Support Services Program (A TRIO Program). Project Excel will strive to achieve its goal of a graduation rate of 80% of its participants by offering the following services: supplementary academic advisement, personal counseling, career planning, financial aid planning and information; peer mentoring; study skills workshops; instruction in pre-college biology; tutoring; professional and graduate school speakers; graduate school seminars; and field trips to local industries.

Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement/AGEP/LSAMP/C-STEP Program:

The premise of this program is to provide students from historically underrepresented groups (African-American, Latino, and Native American) and low-income backgrounds and who are first generation college students, with an opportunity to pursue M.D. and/or Ph.D. degree in science and technology. The program seeks to recruit second year undergraduate students who are majors in science and/or technology including (but not limited to) mathematics, chemistry, biology, pre-med, public health, physics, economics, or computer science with a cumulative GPA of at least a 2.8 or higher. These participants are provided with faculty research opportunities during the summer. In addition, there is other programming to assist students with their eventual goal of securing the undergraduate degree, as well as the Ph.D.

Academic Talent Search Program:

The Academic Talent Search Program, a federally funded TRIO project, provides lower income middle and high school students and adults with programming to encourage them to attend school. Residents in the Capital District (Albany, Schenectady, and Troy) are eligible to participate. Programming includes tutoring in the schools, field trips to colleges, senior seminar series to prepare students for college, personal, academic and career advisement, SAT/PSAT review sessions, mentoring programs, cultural trip programming, and GED advisement.

Undergraduate Bulletin 2004-2005

Youth Construction Initiative Program:

The Youth Construction Initiative Program, funded by the New York State Department of Transportation, is a comprehensive partnership between the NYS Department of Transportation and the University at Albany. Its major goal is to prepare motivated high school students (11th and 12th graders) for careers in highway construction. There are eight high school sites throughout the state and each has a site coordinator preparing these students. These pre-apprenticeship students are exposed to career counseling, computer and other technological training, summer job internships, field trips to the colleges of technology, safety training, study skills workshops, etc.

Pre-College Summer Component

Each summer, incoming EOP Frosh students participate in a 4-week residential experience on the college campus. The program begins in July and ends in early August. The full cost of tuition, fees, room and board, and books is paid for through an EOP Grant. Small classroom instruction is offered to remediate, enrich, and provide a better start for university courses that will be taken in the fall semester. Students are also exposed to numerous academic and nonacademic survival skills, extensive individual and group counseling sessions, and personal and educational advisement. Other priorities during the summer include extensive study skill enrichment and career awareness sessions.

The summer instructional staff includes university lecturers who exclusively teach our EOP students during the academic year. The academic subjects involve pre-college work in writing, reading, and mathematics. EOP counselors who coordinate the extensive counseling sessions are experienced and trained. They develop a unique personal relationship with students, and this relationship continues during the matriculation years. In addition to the instructors and counselors, student assistants are also totally involved in the pre-college summer experience. These peer tutors and lay counselors not only live in the residential halls with the students, but also assist in the instructional process.

University at Albany

EOP Supportive Service Unit

It is the obligation of an educational institution to contribute to the development of the "total" individual. As such, the EOP staff insures that all channels of supportive service are available to the members of the EOP population. The EOP Office is the hub from which all EOP services radiate. Inherent in the agreement to accept students into the EOP Program is the understanding that the EOP staff commits its energies to the positive academic and social adjustment of the individual students who select the program.

Academic Services

The EOP Complex serves as the administrative unit through which academic assistance is provided to all EOP students. EOP seeks to promote scholarship and to insure the graduation of those students. The EOP Program incorporates basic social and educational techniques to meet the different needs.

Developmental Course Programming

Incoming freshmen admitted to EOP are evaluated, their weaknesses and strengths defined, and their special needs established.

As mentioned above, the developmental course curriculum offers developmental courses in mathematics and writing. If needed, students are required to take a maximum of two levels of developmental courses during their pre-college summer program and during their first two semesters. During the academic year, along with the developmental courses, students also choose university courses. Although students receive transcript credit (not graduation credit) for enrollment in the developmental courses, the individual growth acquired can insure success in regular university courses.

The curriculum in writing is designed to develop and increase student awareness of the value of writing, and to encourage participation in the experience through writing in various modes and across the curriculum. The course work consists of a two semester sequence in which students increase their confidence and fluency in writing, learn to cope with writing in the academic world, and learn the essentials of how to structure and write a college-level essay.

Counseling Services

EOP seeks to offer its students a multidimensional approach to individual development. Fundamental to each student's successful adjustment is the availability of comprehensive, competent counseling. Because the University at Albany presents a very demanding, competitive, and in most cases unfamiliar environment, the EOP staff counselors make every endeavor to reduce anxiety and to help students in adapting to university life. Counseling staff members advise and counsel students in academic, social,

emotional, and vocational areas in order to help resolve student problems. Consultation links are sustained between the EOP counseling unit, the Advisement Services Center, the Campus Health Center, and other university service offices.

Peer Tutorial Program

The tutorial program aims to provide a well structured peer tutorial support system to assist student academic progress in University at Albany course work. This tutorial program plays a vital part in contributing to the academic success of the University's EOP population. Recommended by university faculty members, upper-class and graduate students are selected to tutor undergraduates in the University's many departments. To insure more effectiveness, tutoring is usually done on a one-to-one basis. Although tutoring is optional, it is strongly urged that students take advantage of this service before any academic difficulty is incurred. Tutors will usually work as many hours as needed.

Other Student Services

Computer Lab

EOP students have access to the Office's own computer lab usage room. Staffed at all times with a computer specialist, EOP students can receive technical assistance for word processing purposes.

Personal/Career Growth Workshops

A number of personal growth workshops are held yearly to aid EOP students with career choices and personal enrichment. Facilitated by the EOP counselors and University personnel, these career workshops improve a student's understanding of the academic departments and of prospective career goals. Also, personal workshops focus on coping skills, study skills, time management, financial aid, and graduate school entrance.

Liaison Relationships

To assist the EOP staffers with a better understanding of individual academic departments, the EOP Office has a list of key faculty members who act as liaisons with EOP and that particular department. In addition, the faculty members periodically update the EOP staffers on departmental changes.

University-Wide Services

The EOP student is also encouraged to take full advantage of all academic and student services campus-wide.

University Developmental Courses

This instructional component consists of university developmental courses and is open

to any matriculated student seeking help in writing skills and mathematics skills. These courses do not carry graduation credit because they foster the development of skills required for regular university courses.

O Eop 12 Written World (0)

Basic course in essay writing and critical reading skill. Offered only to EOP pre-college students during the summer. *S/U* graded.

O Eop 12A Writing Skills I (0)

Students gain competence and confidence through extensive writing practice with informal and formal assignments. Course work is highly individualized through extensive revision and frequent student/teacher conferences. Attention is paid to all aspects of the writing process. *S/U* graded.

O Eop 12B Writing Skills II (0)

Students gain competence and confidence in academic writing through reading based assignments and practice with standard academic discourse conventions. Students explore the connection between personal expression and public discourse. Final course project is a research paper and research based class presentation. *S/U* graded.

O Eop 13A Math I (0)

Primarily a review course in basic arithmetic and elementary algebra. It stresses the fundamental operations and application of whole numbers, decimal numbers, directed numbers, fractions (both numerical and algebraic), percent algebraic expressions, solutions of various types of first-degree equations, and some verbal problems. Other selected topics from algebra are also treated. *S/U* graded. [MS]

O Eop 13B Math II (0)

A terminal course in intermediate algebra with additional topics in trigonometry, logarithms and selected topics from analytic geometry. Mastery in solving linear and quadratic equations, graphing, and performing the fundamental operations with fractions, exponents, and radicals are included. The aim of this course is to prepare students for the math courses and math-related courses offered by the various departments at the University. *S/U* graded. [MS]

O Eop 13C Math III (0)

Another terminal course in trigonometry and pre-calculus topics. Satisfactory completion of the course will prepare the students for the Mathematics 101 sequence. Only offered in the summer to pre-college EOP students. *S/U* graded. [MS]