



## Bridge Program

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Mt. San Antonio College, CA  
[www.mtsac.edu/bridge/](http://www.mtsac.edu/bridge/)

Year started: 1998      At an HSI?: Yes  
Issue area: Support Services      # of students served: 367  
Program focus: Summer bridge      Estimated annual budget: \$641K

### DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The Bridge Program was initiated to address the educational and support needs of incoming, first-time freshmen who place into the lowest basic skills levels at Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC). The program supports basic skill students to successfully progress to college level courses. The program utilizes culturally sensitive learning communities to organize students into cohort groups by linking course instruction, with counseling courses. Program components include supplemental instruction, peer mentors, counseling, bilingual parent orientations and culturally relevant guest speakers. The program creates a strong partnership between student services and instruction, as well as a pro-active counseling approach, which includes academic progress monitoring and electronic educational plans. Between 1998 and the most recent 2015-2016 year, the fall and spring Bridge learning communities has served over 1,000 students.

### GOALS AND MISSION

The program's mission is to provide basic skills students with the academic tools and self-confidence to succeed in college. Goals include:

- 1) Students will pass gatekeeper courses in basic skills.
- 2) Faculty will utilize effective, culturally sensitive practices.
- 3) Persistence and successful pass rates will exceed other students.
- 4) Students will experience a successful transition into college and receive an educational plan to reach their goals.
- 5) Student success rates will rise.

### EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

From its first cohort of 82 students in 1998, the Summer Bridge Program served 367 students in 2015 (92% Latinos). Of the 2015 cohort:

- Almost all (97%) completed an abbreviated educational plan and 97% persisted to fall 2015.
- The course success rates (93%) and retention rates (99%) were high, especially among Latino students.
- Cohort students achieved higher success (73%) and retention rates (92%) in Bridge courses, than in non-Bridge courses (62% and 87% respectively).
- Latino cohort students earned higher success rates in Bridge courses (73%) than in non-Bridge courses (61%).

2010 Cohort Tracking Project indicates:

- Fall to spring persistence was higher for Summer Bridge students than other freshmen. At the end of their freshman year, 70% of Bridge students were in good standing compared to only 57% of other freshmen students.
- Bridge students' progression to college level English (73%) was higher than the control group (57%).
- Achievement of associate degree/certificate/transfer to four-year combined, Summer Bridge students earned higher completion rate at a faster pace than the control group students; by winter 2015, 16% of Summer Bridge students reached the transfer ready status while 10% of the control group students attained as such.

### POINT OF CONTACT

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