

**U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education,  
Student Support Services Program**  
(<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/triostudsupp/awards.html>)

**Award Year:** FY 2010 (2010-2011 Project Year 1)

**PR Award Number:** P042A100700

**Institution:** University of Bridgeport, CT

**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

The University of Bridgeport (UB), a private, not-for-profit, four-year institution located in Bridgeport, Connecticut, proposes a regular Student Support Services project, serving 140 students. UB has both a high number and percentage of students who meet the SSS eligibility requirements. An analysis of the Fall 2008 population of undergraduate students who meet the citizenship requirements of the SSS program (n = 1,772) indicated that 49% (n = 865) of UB's undergraduate population meet SSS low-income requirements; 36% (n = 635) are first-generation college students (FGCS); and 1% (n=23) have self-identified as disabled. Thus UB has a total (unduplicated) SSS-eligible population of 1,119 students, or 63% of the total undergraduate population.

SSS-eligible students at UB demonstrate academic and other problems which could be addressed by establishing an SSS Program. SSS-eligible students begin with an educational disadvantage, as demonstrated by lower SAT scores and higher placement into developmental courses than Non-eligible students. SSS-eligible students are less successful in developmental courses, and more likely to end up on academic probation than their Non-eligible counterparts.

UB's proposed SSS program will address the needs of SSS-eligible participants with a number of services in order to assist participants in persisting and ultimately graduating with a post-secondary degree. Services provided will include: (a) intensive advising, provided by a full-time SSS Project Director and a full-time Academic Coordinator; (b) academic tutoring for SSS participants; (c) Supplemental Instruction for SSS participants; (d) an enhanced version of the required First Year Seminar course; (e) advising assistance for postsecondary course selection; (f) information and assistance regarding Federal, public and private sources of financial assistance; (g) hands-on workshops to help students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid; (h) workshops and one-on-one instruction in financial and economic literacy; (i) workshops and one-on-one advising regarding graduate and professional programs.

Through the provision of these services, UB intends to achieve the following objectives: (A) Persistence Rate: Sixty-two percent (62%) of all participants served by the SSS project will persist from one academic year to the beginning of the next academic year or graduate and/or transfer from a 2-year to a 4-year institution during the academic year; (B) Good Academic Standing Rate: Eighty-five percent (85%) of all enrolled participants served by the SSS project will meet the performance level required to stay in good academic standing at the grantee institution; and (D) Graduation Rate (4-year institutions only): Thirty percent (30%) of new participants served each year will graduate within six (6) years.

The proposed budget for this project is \$220,000. Of this amount, 88% is budgeted for personnel (one FT Project Director; one FT Academic Coordinator, one half-time Learning Specialist, one half-time Administrative Assistant, and hourly tutors); 2% is budgeted for professional development travel for SSS professional staff; 5% is budgeted for supplies; and 5% is budgeted for other, including specialized software to assist in tracking participant progress and collecting data needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the project.