

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:** P042A100615

**Institution:** Ocean County College, NJ

## PROJECT ABSTRACT

Ocean County College (OCC) is a two-year, public community college in Toms River, New Jersey. The college proposes a standard Student Support Services (SSS) project, which will serve 140 students at a cost of \$220,000. OCC has a high number of students who meet the SSS eligibility requirements, and a review of the Fall 2008 enrolled student population showed that 34% (n=3,358) are eligible to participate in the SSS Program. OCC's SSS-eligible students encounter academic and other problems and are less likely to request support services than students who are not SSS-eligible. Their academic deficiencies contribute to a disproportionate number of SSS-eligible students testing into developmental courses. Statistically significant data indicates that there are dramatic differences on every indicator between the SSS-eligible and the non-eligible students in the areas of grade point averages, transfer rates, and retention and graduation rates.

The research based services provided through our project will increase persistence, academic standing, transfer, and graduation rates. Provided through an intensive/intrusive advising model, services include: tutoring resources for SSS participants, Student Success course (ACAD155) modified specifically for SSS participants, workshops and curriculum designed to assist students in applying for financial aid and in developing economic and financial literacy, facilitation with transfer to four-year institutions, cultural activities, and peer mentoring.

The objectives of this project are: **(A) Persistence Rate:** Sixty-seven percent (67%) 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; **Objective (B) Good Academic Standing Rate:** Seventy-five percent (75%) 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; **Objective (C) Graduation / Transfer Rate** (2-year institutions only): **1.** Eighteen percent (18%) of new participants served each year will graduate with an associate's degree or certificate within four (4) years; and **2.** Seven percent (7%) of new participants served each year will transfer with an associate's degree or certificate within four (4) years.

Ocean County College's SSS Project requests Federal funding in the amount of \$220,000 to provide support to SSS-eligible students. The proposed budget is realistic and necessary to achieve our objectives. Eighty-two percent (82%) of the budget is for personnel, including one full-time Project Director, one full time Student Development Specialist and one full-time Administrative Assistant. Personnel costs also include hourly wages for professional tutors. Four percent (4%) of the budget is for travel, including professional development for SSS Program staff and participant travel to attend cultural activities. Seven percent (7%) of grant funds are set aside for supplies, including computers and software for program staff, general office supplies, and instructional supplies to be used for participants. The remaining seven percent (7%) of the budget is allocated to the *Other* category. Items in this category include software to facilitate tracking of data related to program participant's usage of services and academic progress and programmatic progress toward objectives. The *Other* category also includes funds for printing materials to inform the institutional community about the program and for specialized assessments of learning skills for SSS participants.

OCC is committed to implementing a strong Student Support Services project that will help our students achieve their educational goals. OCC has demonstrated this commitment through institutional support for our project.