

## What is Student Support Services?

The mission of Student Support Services is to provide individualized academic resources and advising to eligible students by developing academic plans and goals, enhancing the student's college experience and creating an institutional climate of support.

TRIO is an educational opportunity for low-income and disabled Americans. Congress established a series of programs to help low-income Americans enter college, graduate and move on to participate more fully in American's economic and social life. These initial programs were funded under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

## Is SSS a tutoring program for disadvantaged students?

Students served by the TRIO SSS project at GC receive academic advising and monitoring, mentoring, private tutoring when needed and have access to a technology lab. SSS offers experiences in leadership and personal development for students to prepare them for their futures as a college graduate.

All students admitted to the program have some level of academic need that is based on transcript data, study skills mastery, college and career goals, understanding of financial aid, test scores, college readiness, and/or other issues that can impact their ability to succeed.

Other services:

- Cultural and professional experiences in preparation for life after GC such as: visits to museums, plays and other cultural activities, all free to the students.
- Mentoring and workshops in basic study skills
- Workshops and advising on managing credit and avoiding debt
- Graduation and transfer advising and visits to four-year institutions
- Assistance with the completion of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Information about career options and general life skills

## What are the benefits to the student from a referral to SSS?

Compared to the general student population, students participating in the SSS program are retained each semester in greater numbers, have overall higher GPAs and complete their course of studies more often within 5 years than the general population.

## How do I know if a student qualifies?

To be eligible, a student must be a US citizen and meet one of the following criteria: (1) first generation college student (2) low income; or (3) have a disability. We know that approximately 52% of GC students qualify for the SSS program. You can refer a student to our office and allow us to point the student in the right direction.

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## **How do I know if an SSS student is in my class?**

SSS students have given written permission for our office to monitor their course grades and attendance. If an SSS student is enrolled in one of your classes, you will receive a grade and attendance request form to be completed every three weeks. Feedback from you regarding your SSS students is also welcome on an ongoing basis.

## **When should I refer a student to the SSS office?**

Referrals are accepted all year, and both freshmen and sophomore students are eligible. We look for certificate or degree seeking students, preferable enrolled in at least 9 hours. Students who are the first in their families to attend college and have overall adjustment issues to college life, despite the ability to do the work are excellent candidates. The best candidate is the one whose grade is between a C and a D, yet has the potential to achieve a passing grade for the course with some tutoring or other intervention. Students must apply to SSS which involves an application, interview and assessments prior to being accepted into the program.

## **How should I make the referral?**

Contact the SSS office (located in the Counseling/Advising Center) or submit a Referral Form, on the GC website . If you have any questions, please contact us or suggest the student visit our office.

# **CONNECT WITH US!**

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