

# FACT SHEET

## UCSC EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP CENTER

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Established in 1999, the Educational Partnership Center coordinates new and long-standing outreach efforts of the University of California, Santa Cruz with the goal of increasing access and opportunity to postsecondary education for students across the Monterey Bay and Silicon Valley/San Jose regions. The EPC is a research- and data-driven, umbrella organization for a variety of complimentary, integrated academic preparation programs serving students, teachers, and families from kindergarten through college. The Educational Partnership Center provides an array of direct services, supporting students on the college-going pathway through tutoring, mentoring, academic planning and counseling, leadership training, test preparation, college awareness and enrichment, and teacher professional development.

## MISSION

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The mission of the Educational Partnership Center is to build college-bound communities that improve student learning and increase college-going rates among students from low-income and traditionally non-college-going families in collaboration with school, college, business, and community partners.

## VISION & GOALS

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Through continued work with long-standing policy groups—Monterey Bay Educational Consortium, UC Santa Cruz-Community College Regional Council, Chancellor’s Educational Partnership Advisory Council—the Educational Partnership Center supports students and families in accessing the counseling, information resources, academic support, and early college experiences needed to successfully navigate the path to college. EPC achieves its mission by working toward three primary outcome goals:

1. Building lasting, flexible partnerships with schools, colleges, businesses, and the community to align services, vertically and horizontally, eliminating duplication and inefficiencies;
2. Offering a range of high-quality services to schools and colleges to raise student achievement and improve student learning; and
3. Developing and implementing a range of consistent services to students and families to support success on the college pathway.

## PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

### Assessing Science Inquiry and Leadership Skills

AScILS is a NIH-funded research project aimed at understanding how enrichment programs at universities affect student’s self-confidence, self-definition, and commitment to and success in science.

### Academic Advancement

Summer Advancement Academy is a four to six-week program for middle and high school students centered around a college awareness theme, focusing on increasing student academic performance, and introducing students and families to higher education.

### California Reading and Literature Project

CRLP is one of nine California Subject Matter Projects, which supports professional development opportunities for teachers of reading and literature in K-12 and university classrooms.

### California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science

COSMOS is a four-week summer residential program on the UCSC campus that provides students with an unparalleled opportunity to work side-by-side with outstanding researchers and university faculty, covering topics that extend beyond the typical high school curriculum.

### California Student Opportunity and Access Program

The San Jose Cal-SOAP program works collaboratively with K-12 partners in an effort to support and sustain a college-going culture by providing academic support and advising services and helping students explore and clarify career interests and make the connection between postsecondary education and future career aspirations.

### Early Academic Outreach Program

EAOP provides a variety of year-round services designed to increase the academic preparation, awareness, and motivation of middle and high school students toward higher education and to inform parents about available education opportunities.

### Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

EPC is currently implementing four GEAR UP partnership grants, which are designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education through a variety of school-based academic services.

### Girls in Engineering

The Girls in Engineering program brings middle school girls with an interest in mathematics together for a unique, two-week introduction to engineering on the UC Santa Cruz campus during the summer.

### Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Schools Program

MESA provides academic development for middle school and high school students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds and motivates students by engaging them in fun, hands-on mathematics, engineering, and science activities and by exposing them to career opportunities in those fields.

### Transfer Partnerships Program

TPP identifies and supports prospective community college transfer students and provides several initiatives to strengthen the transfer process and to support individual students in making the successful transition to a four-year institution.



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## HISTORY & ACHIEVEMENTS

The road to the Educational Partnership Center was paved in 1995, when, at the suggestion of a local school superintendent, then-UCSC Chancellor Karl Pister formed the Monterey Bay Educational Consortium (MBEC) to devise a strategic plan with surrounding communities to increase college-going rates. Two years later, the Chancellor's Educational Partnership Advisory Council (CEPAC) was formed as the campus organizing body for outreach. CEPAC brought together all campus departments, solidifying support for outreach across the campus; as a result, the Educational Partnership Center was created to organize all UCSC academic preparation efforts under one roof.

CEPAC and MBEC agreed that university-school collaborations should focus on long-term systemic solutions, targeting outreach not only to high school students, but to elementary and middle school students as well. This approach is influenced in part by UCSC psychology professor Catherine Cooper, whose research shows that the earlier students are exposed to the idea of going to college, the more likely they are to someday attend a college or university.

In 1998, UCSC received its first round of funding for student academic preparation efforts and the Educational Partnership Center was poised to begin its ground breaking work. The largest regional and statewide programs, including the long-standing EAOP and MESA programs were brought together under the umbrella of the EPC, and the UC Santa Cruz-Community College Regional Council was formed to provide policy guidance to the new Transfer Partnerships Program, supporting community college students.

By 2000, EPC had grown by leaps and bounds to serve more than 15,000 students across California's central coast and Silicon Valley. In 2001, leveraging the funds from the UC Office of the President, the Educational Partnership Center implemented GEAR UP and Students Achieving A-G Expectations (SAAGE) programs through successful federal and state grant awards.

Today, the Educational Partnership Center continues to be successful at leveraging funds and in-kind resources to develop and sustain collaborative, intersegmental partnerships that improve student achievement and increase college-going rates across the Monterey Bay and San Jose/Silicon Valley regions. This success results from, in large part, from the unique approach to building college-bound communities through intensive, school-wide services. By leveraging resources across integrated programming, EPC can support targeted efforts and build sustainability.

The outcomes of the Educational Partnership Center's work include the ability to leverage funding and resources to support integrated academic preparation programming, establish and strengthen regional partnerships, raise student achievement levels, build a college-going culture within schools and communities, and prepare students for postsecondary education and the workplace using a research- and data-driven approach and constant iterative evaluation.

In 2005-06, the Educational Partnership Center served more than 41,000 middle, high school, and community college students.

## SERVICE AREA

The Educational Partnership Center serves communities across the Monterey Bay and Silicon Valley/San Jose regions, including: Monterey, San Benito, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties.

- 13 high schools
- 16 middle schools
- 13 regional community colleges
- 9 school districts

