

Brief Grant Description

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Santa Barbara City College is submitting for this Title V Part A competition an individual development grant: ***Student-Ready: Degree Completion for the Flexible Learner***. The underlying idea for the project is that as colleges and universities continue to lament low success and retention rates for underserved student populations, especially Hispanic students, the strategies to meet these pervasive challenges miss the mark because they focus on streamlining part-time students to full-time status. We must reject this focus, because part-time status is a dominant demographic characteristic of Hispanic college students nationwide, and 66-69% of Hispanic students at SBCC. Acceptance and adaptation to this reality is imperative, because as part-time students, Hispanics are, on average, 30% more likely to drop out of SBCC. Through internal systems analysis, we have also learned that few students complete their education without fluctuating between full and part-time status. These *flexible* students make up about two-thirds of SBCC's population and are therefore the majority, calling for a change in how we serve them.

If we continue to focus funding structures and support systems only on students who have full-time status, we will disenfranchise the majority of our students and nullify our community college open access mission. It is imperative that we acquire the necessary support to create programs, services, and pathways for flexible students so that they succeed in achieving their academic goals. It is also important that we understand the reasons students become flexible so that we can support them in moving back to full-time status whenever possible, as well as to support them to persist and succeed when they are part-time. We believe that many part-time students can complete a bachelor's degree within six years if our systems, support services, and educational culture are adapted to serve these students. In this way, we break the old formula of demanding that students come "*college ready*" to SBCC, and instead, we determine to become a college that is "*student ready*."

Student-Ready: Degree Completion for the Flexible Learner will include five components:

1. Pathways and Support for Flexible Students: SBCC will utilize internal and external research in addition to focus groups to gain a clear picture of the needs of flexible students. This information will be used to create programs specific to their needs.
2. Professional Development and Faculty Support for Curriculum Redesign for Maximum Impact: SBCC will utilize best practices in working with underserved populations to create a culture of flexible student belonging on campus through extensive faculty professional development.
3. The Creation of a night-time college for working adults
4. Educational plans and transfer pathways that accommodate a part-time schedule.
5. Student Learning support including tutoring and supplemental instruction designed for the flexible student.

The budget request is \$2,701,696 over a five-year period. This represents 42% for salaries; 9% for fringe benefits; 10% for travel; 11% for supplies; 12% for contractual; and 16% for other. Project management represents 16% of the budget.

