Program History

In 2011, the Board of Governors convened a Student Success task force with the aim of identifying strategies to increase student success in the California Community College system. The group produced several key recommendations: mandating orientation, assessment and student education plans at all institutions; development of a centralized diagnostic assessment and enrollment priority system; and, re-naming the previously titled Matriculation program as the “Student Success and Support Program” (SSSP). These recommendations formed the foundation of the Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012, which mandated and established funding for the SSSP.

Program Description

This program enhances student access to the California Community Colleges (CCC) and fosters student success. Core services include orientation to the college and assessment to place students in appropriate courses as well as counseling and advisement to assist them in identifying educational and career goals, preparing for transfer to a university or advanced training, and connecting with additional supportive services. SSSP services also assist students with early identification of academic difficulties and support for improvement. These services are essential to ensure that students make steady progress to successfully meet their goals.

Colleges must ensure that their SSSP plans are coordinated with student equity plans. Colleges must conduct related research and evaluation of services to ensure their value and also to ensure that services are provided in a manner that supports all students. In addition, colleges must train staff and faculty in the provision and awareness of these services.

Students Served

SSSP services are available to all students, whether enrolled in credit or noncredit programs. Exemptions are granted for students that have already completed degrees, have previously completed SSSP services, or are enrolled in courses required for continued employment, e.g., to maintain a professional license.

Appropriations

The 2013-14 state budget provided funding of $98,608,000. The credit SSSP funding level was $89,227,000 and the noncredit funding was $9,381,000. The Governor’s Budget for 2014-15 allocates $199,193,000 for SSSP. The specific amounts for credit and noncredit programs have not yet been determined.

Initiatives

Common Assessment Initiative: The Common Assessment System will contain test preparation, test delivery, test administration, data collection, and course placement
guidance, and will use centralized and integrated technology solutions to support assessment and placement. http://cccassess.org

**Education Planning Initiative:** The goal of this initiative is to provide transcript, articulation, and curriculum inventory elements to colleges with existing Education Planning and Degree Audit Systems; a low cost/no cost solution to those colleges without an Education Planning and Degree Audit system; a centrally managed student services portal; and assistance to college counselors to leverage technology to reach more students. http://cccedplan.org/

**Critical Issue**

**Matching Funds:** Colleges are currently required to provide a 3:1 match for SSSP funds. Colleges may include Admissions and Records and SSSP-related technology and research expenses in this match. Due to proposed increases in the SSSP appropriation for 2014-15 as well as challenges the colleges face in meeting the match requirement, the Chancellor’s Office is considering a proposal to maintain the 3:1 match for the first $100 million allocated, reduce it to 2:1 for the next $100 million, and reduce it further to 1:1 for any funding above $200 million. Colleges that clearly demonstrate an inability to make the match may be exempt.