

EOP

History

EOP made a difference in my life, it...made me a better person, a better citizen, and a better counselor because they encouraged me to go out and make a difference. Thank you EOP!

-Delma Garcia, EOP Alumni



EOP is like my second family because when I am having problems, I know they are the shoulder I can lean on. EOP is all about communication, meeting new people, getting involved, and of course, pushing students to become successful.

-Maria Orozco-Barajas



California State University, Fresno



Educational Opportunity Program

5150 N. Maple Avenue M/S JA62 Fresno, CA 93740

(559) 278-1787

www.fresnostate.edu/eop/

FRESNO STATE

Educational Opportunity Program

The Beginning

EOP at California State University, Fresno emerged from a casual discussion between three faculty members (of which one was Black) over coffee in July, 1967. Their discussion centered on concerns about a recent “disturbance” in West Fresno and for the racial troubles which were occurring in large cities throughout the country. This discussion raised questions about the limited number of minority students at the then Fresno State College and how the College could play a more active role in reducing some of the tensions which gave rise to violence.

As a result of this conversation, five faculty members and five administrators met on July 24, 1967, to discuss what Fresno State College could do about the complex problems in West Fresno. The initial planning to bring more minority students to the College began. The seeds for EOP were planted!

The group worked diligently to design a program which would recruit disadvantaged youth from West Fresno schools who had the intellectual potential for college work and who showed indications of eventual self-reliance in college. Financial aid and other necessary individual and group help to ensure success in college were important aspects of the program. The plan was originally entitled the “Spontaneous Project”.

In the fall of 1967, twenty (20) Black and Mexican American students were admitted to Fresno State College through the Spontaneous Project. Seventeen of the admitted students enrolled and hence the name was changed to Project 17.

The planning committee was reorganized in the spring of 1968 and officially adopted the name Educational Opportunity Program Committee and was made a subcommittee of the Academic Senate’s Academic Planning and Policy Committee.

In the summer of 1968, the first summer program was implemented with 75 EOP students who would enter the College in fall 1968. Hence, the birth of Summer Institute the now Summer Bridge Program. The official Educational Opportunity Program enrolled its first class in fall of 1968.

Today

The Educational Opportunity Program at California State University, Fresno has a rich history of success. The program has an enrollment of nearly 1600 students. On the average, students in the program consistently perform at levels equal to that of the general student body. They are represented in all phases of campus life, receive academic achievement awards, are on the President and Dean’s lists, participate in the travel abroad program, and provide countless hours of community service.

EOP staff and students have continuously shown leadership in working to make changes which will benefit the campus and Fresno communities. Many of the strategies developed by EOP have been used to shape university initiatives such as peer advising and orientation programs. Staff members serve on university committees, are advisors to student clubs and organizations, are mentors to students, and work diligently to impact the community through their involvement and service. EOP students are represented in all aspects of campus life.

EOP alumni can be found in a wide array of careers: education, government, politics, medicine, law, social work, psychology, engineering, technology, business and so on.

EOP has made and continues to make a difference at Fresno State!



Decades of Student Service