

# Frequently Asked Questions about EOP

## **What is the function of EOP?**

The CSU Educational Opportunity Program provides educational opportunities to students who have been historically excluded from higher education. The primary goal of EOP is to improve access of California's low-income, first generation and historically disadvantaged students with potential for academic success by making higher education a possibility.

## **What type of student does EOP look for?**

EOP provides access and opportunity for low-income and educationally disadvantaged students from California, whom are first-generation college students. An EOP student may be a special or regularly admissible student who has the potential to perform satisfactorily in curricula offered by CSU, but who has not been able to realize their potential because of economic, educational or environmental barriers.

## **What services are provided by EOP?**

A comprehensive program of support services that include, but are not limited to, academic advising, learning skills development, tutoring, mentoring, personal/professional development, social/cultural experiences, safe space, and a summer bridge program to help students build community and smoothly transition into the university. EOP can also provide an EOP CA state grant to students who are eligible and meet all financial aid priority deadlines.

## **Who is eligible for EOP consideration?**

The following eligibility criteria are specified in the CSU Educational Opportunity Programs Regulations and Guidelines. An EOP student:

- Is a CA resident or eligible AB540 participant.
- Is a first-generation college student (neither parent has a degree from a four year institution).
- Has a history of low family income (verified through the FAFSA or CA Dream Act App.).
- Is an undergraduate who has no prior CSU units on a transcript as a non-EOP student.
- Meets regular admission requirements or needs admission assistance as a special admit.

## **How do you apply for EOP?**

Interested applicants should start by checking the appropriate EOP box on the [Cal State Apply](#) application and completing the EOP supplementary questions.

**How does EOP determine who will be accepted into the program?** Students are evaluated based upon motivation, past academic performance, need for services and potential for success in college. A committee reviews and evaluates complete applications. A complete application consists of a CSU application, EOP supplementary questions, and (2) letters of recommendations from academic professionals from previous educational institutions.

## **Is EOP able to accommodate all students who do not meet regular admission criteria?**

No. Current CSU admission policy limits the number of students admitted as special admits to a small percentage of the total number of undergraduate students admitted. EOP receives at least four times as many applicants as it is able to admit by exception.

**Are EOP students automatically eligible for an EOP grant or other financial aid?**

No. EOP students are eligible to receive an EOP grant if they qualify for financial aid, however they are not guaranteed to receive one. Students must complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or CA Dream Act Application by the priority filing deadline, and other documents as required by the Financial Aid Office at the campus they have been admitted to.

**Will a student who does not need financial aid still qualify for EOP?**

Probably not. However, although low family income is a major consideration, the decision for admission is not made entirely on the basis of financial need. An applicant who comes from a historically underserved neighborhood or school district, has the potential to succeed, and meets the other EOP eligibility requirements will be taken into consideration.

**Do EOP applicants automatically qualify for an application fee waiver?**

No. Applicants must demonstrate financial need to be considered for a fee waiver. Determination of eligibility is made by the Financial Aid Office based on a review of the applicant's fee waiver application information

**Do students in CA Community College EOP&S (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services) programs automatically qualify for CSU's EOP (Educational Opportunity Program)?**

No. They must submit an application and follow the same procedure as other applicants. However, special consideration will be given to EOP&S program students in an effort to enhance the transfer and graduation rates of these students.

**Are only ethnic minority students admitted through EOP?**

No. Any CA student who is low income and first generation, needs academic assistance, and meets other program admission criteria may be admitted through EOP. It is not an ethnic or race-based program.

**Can CSU students participate in EOP once they have enrolled?**

No. EOP is an admission and retention program. Students must be evaluated and admitted to EOP the same semester they are admitted to the university and before they begin classes.