



Office of Supportive Services

Fall 2016

Director's Welcome

Greetings Students, Colleagues, Friends and Advocates of the Office of Supportive Services (OSS), also home to TRIO Student Support Services (SSS)! OSS Program Specialists are proud and privileged to welcome the 2016 cohort of TRIO SSS participants. Incoming TRIO students are joining a community of scholars who are motivated and committed to preparing themselves professionally, culturally, and globally to bring technical expertise and unique approaches to problem solving on local, national, and global levels.



Summer 2016 Student & Professional Staff

Remarkably, this year marks 45 years that the Office of Supportive Services has provided continuous service to students. Our efforts support highly capable, low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities. Guided by The Higher Education Act (HEA), as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315) (HEOA), we are mandated to provide specific, required services to eligible participants and provide an Annual Performance Report (APR) of program services that documents student success according to defined objectives. For example, in the 2015-2016 academic year, ninety-five percent (95%) of students served attained good academic standing, ninety-four percent (94%) persisted and seventy-seven percent (77%) graduated within 6 years!

The TRIO SSS program provides, in accordance with the Department of Education, academic tutoring, advice and assistance in post-secondary course selection, assistance with information on student financial aid programs, and resources for locating public and private scholarships; assistance in completing financial aid applications; services designed to improve financial and economic literacy and assistance in applying for admission to graduate and professional programs. The TRIO SSS program also provides individualized counseling for personal, career, and academic information, activities, and instruction designed to acquaint students with career options; exposure to cultural events and academic programs not usually available; mentoring programs and helping students secure temporary housing during breaks for students who are homeless youths and students who are in foster care or are aging out of the foster care system.

We applaud all OSS students on their decision to advance their education. We are committed to providing the resources they may need to prepare for their future. We encourage our colleagues and partners across campus to direct students to stop in the office if they have a need we can meet. We'll be glad to assist!

- Dr. Aurles U. Wiggins, Director

2016 TRIO SSS Excel Summer Program

20 highly motivated first-year students joined the 2016 TRIO SSS Excel Summer Program. This 9-week hybrid model provides participants with the opportunity to experience both on-campus living and face-to-face instruction while managing independent online learning throughout the summer before their freshman year at MSU. Excel has an intensive academic schedule focusing on mathematics, reading, writing, success seminars, skills workshops and professional development. Students who successfully complete Excel have an opportunity to retake both the MSU Math and Writing Placement Exams to earn a higher score which could save both time and money on tuition, fees, and university requirements!

2016 participants lived in Phillips Residence Hall and learned about college life as they explored campus and community with guidance from 6 dedicated TRIO students who served as residential peer mentors. The students selected as peer mentors are often student leaders who have successfully completed Excel or a similar program in previous years. During the residential program, the peer mentors attend classes and workshops with students, as well as, facilitate small group discussions and team-building activities in the evenings and on weekends. The distance learning portion of the program is supported by online access to instructors and tutors. Additionally, face-to-face tutoring was available on campus and at MSU Detroit. There were three Saturday workshops at MSU Detroit that gave participants and their families an opportunity to engage with the program staff, assess their academic progress and preparedness for the fall semester. Participants are selected based on an application process and the program is most beneficial for a student who has placed into a developmental course in math and/or writing. Excel students always share that they enjoy the professional development days which include building resumes and profiles, job search tips and interview skills.



2016 TRIO SSS Summer Excel Participants

Writing for McNair

TRIO

RONALD E. MCNAIR
POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is a U.S. Department of Education funded grant competition under the TRIO umbrella whose purpose is to increase the number of students who are first generation, low income, or underrepresented in doctoral study programs through guided undergraduate research and other scholarly activities.

Michigan State University has been home to McNair for several years until the most recent grant cycle. We believe McNair is a great opportunity for TRIO students to pursue graduate work and are currently seeking refunding.

This also means we are looking for dedicated faculty partners! Faculty are encouraged to be mentors and help guide McNair students in their pursuit of scholarly research towards doctoral degrees. If that faculty member is you, please contact us!

Ongoing Projects & Events

TRIO UGS 101 and MTH 1825, MTH 100E, MTH 103, MTH 103E

Each semester we offer courses in Math and an Undergraduate Seminar course specifically for students who are a part of the TRIO SSS program. If you have students who are TRIO/TRIO coded, please encourage them to take the TRIO designated Math or UGS courses!

McNair/SSS Graduate School Retreat

A group of 20+ TRIO students will be traveling to Wisconsin Dells to attend the McNair/SSS Graduate School Retreat this Fall to learn about choosing the correct graduate school, financing your graduate education, completing the graduate school application process, and attend a graduate school fair. A similar opportunity will be available to TRIO students in the Spring. Please encourage your TRIO students to attend!

What is TRIO Student Support Services?

“Through a grant competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education . . . All SSS projects **must** provide: academic tutoring, which may include instruction in reading, writing, study skills, mathematics, science, and other subjects; advice and assistance in postsecondary course selection, assist student with information on both the full range of student financial aid programs, benefits and resources for locating public and private scholarships; and assistance in completing financial aid applications.”

-U.S. Department of Education

TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) is designed for students who have the potential to achieve and maintain high levels of academic excellence. SSS participants are recognized leaders and are involved in professional development, personal growth experiences, and community engagement activities.

Through the SSS program, students are introduced to university resources, faculty and administrators, dedicated peer mentors and committed program professionals. SSS offers tutoring, academic skills development, and specialized services to assist students in developing necessary skills and strategies to succeed in college.

All services are free and available to any student who completes the application, qualifies under federal guidelines, and is invited into the program.

Any student can apply at any time while enrolled at MSU by navigating to our website (trio.oss.msu.edu) and completing the application.

Connect with MSU TRIO SSS



Benefits and Services

- Employment and Professional Development Opportunities
- Academic Assistance/Tutoring
- Weekly Coaching & Individualized Counseling
- Resource Referrals
- Course Selection Assistance
- Technology Skills Development
- Course Specific Resource Help
- Academic Skills Workshops
- Financial Literacy
- Assistance with Financial Aid & Scholarship Applications
- Academic Support for Veteran Students
- Services for Homeless Youth & Students Aging Out of Foster Care
- Graduate & Professional Program Application Assistance
- Cultural & Educational Events

Office Staff

Dr. Aurles U. Wiggins,
Director

Ryan Barr,
Office/Account Manager

Michael Brown,
Academic Specialist/
Tutoring Coordinator

Mitchelene Bush,
Academic Specialist/
Community Liaison

Julie Cioni,
Math Instructor

Jamillah Gross-Caldwell,
TRIO SSS Coordinator

Felicia McAllister,
Academic Specialist/
Advisor

Floyd Pouncil,
Academic Specialist/
Advisor

Pa Nhia Vang,
Administrative
Assistant

Dr. Ira J. Washington,
III, Data & Statistics
Specialist

MSU TRIO SSS History and Purpose

Michigan State University's TRIO Student Support Services (TRIO SSS) provides preparation, orientation, and academic support programming for first-generation students, students from low-income backgrounds, and students with disabilities.

SSS was first implemented on MSU's campus in 1974, and since then, thousands of students have received significant academic tutoring, mentoring, financial guidance, personal counseling, and help with applying for graduate school. These services provide support for students outside of the classroom while also encouraging student success in the classroom.