A Record of Success

Retention. SSP participants are more likely (87%) to persist in school from one academic year to the next when compared with peer U of M students.

Good Standing. Through a well-structured academic monitoring plan, participants in SSP are more likely not to fall victim to being placed on academic warning or probation when compared with peers.

Graduation. SSP participants are more likely to graduate from U of M when compared with peers. Additionally, these students will graduate with less burdensome student loan debt as a result of interventions which include a financial literacy component.

Supportive Environment. SSP participants can expect encouragement and support from a caring, friendly and knowledgeable professional staff.

Eligibility

As a federally-funded program, SSP targets participants who fit a specific demographic profile:

First-Generation Student. Neither of your parents have a bachelor’s degree.

Low-Income. If you receive a Pell Grant, you MAY qualify in this category.

A Student with a disability. You must be registered with Disability Resources for Students.

Applications can be downloaded at memphis.edu/ssp. You can also stop by our office in Mitchell Hall, room 405 to pick up an application. We encourage you to apply as soon as possible due to the limited program slots available each year.
Mission

Our mission is to increase retention and graduation rates of University of Memphis students who are first generation, low-income, and/or have a documented disability. We work to foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of a diverse group of students who have an academic need by providing educational opportunities, giving attention to individual needs, and emphasizing academic excellence.

Goals

- Maintain a program enrollment of 320 students each project year (200 TRIO Classic/120 TRIO STEM).
- Build a supportive, welcoming environment with a sense of community
- Encourage participant involvement and engagement in U of M organizations, activities and mentor relationships.
- Provide an intrusive, structured program to set participants up for success and prevent early participant discouragement and failure.
- Cultivate services that promote academic, personal, career and social development.
- Provide financial incentives to help participants work less hours, live on campus and stay enrolled and successful in school.
- Forge key relationships and develop partnerships to support SSP mission.

Services

- **Counseling.** Provide academic, financial aid and career counseling in exploring interests, aptitudes and skills to make informed decisions when selecting majors or career paths.
- **Walk-In Lab.** A state-of-the-art computer lab is available exclusively for participant use.
- **Financial Assistance.** Assist participants in securing adequate financial aid packages with an emphasis on minimal reliance on burdensome student loans.
- **Themed Workshops.** Participants have an opportunity to learn about graduate schools, hone time management skills, enhance critical thinking skills, network with employers, maximize use of cutting edge technology, etc.
- **Cultural Activities.** We offer access to FREE cultural activities and social events throughout the year to enhance cultural/educational and social awareness. These activities are designed to bring students, family, SSP staff and the general campus community together informally.
- **Academic Monitor.** Participants can expect intrusive monitoring of academic performance with the overall goal of graduation from the University of Memphis within six years.
- **Graduate/professional school referrals.** Participants are eligible to receive high quality and credible recommendations for applications to graduate and professional schools.
- **Grant Aid.** Participants who are in their first two years of college may be eligible for financial aid assistance beyond the Pell Grant. Special conditions apply.