

Connections to the Mission of the College
TRIO/ Student Support Services
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“To nurture future leaders in service to the world by providing high quality educational opportunities, which are based in the liberal arts and shaped by the faith and values of the Christian church, by the context of a vital metropolitan setting, and by an intentionally diverse campus community.” -- Mission of Augsburg College

“To increase college retention and graduation rates of eligible students; to contribute significantly to the development of an institutional climate supportive of the success of low-income, first generation college students and students with disabilities.” -- Program Authority of TRIO/ Student Support Services, as legislated by the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The mission of Augsburg College and the legislative authority of TRIO Student Support Services are complementary statements. The most salient point of convergence is in the commitment to support students along their educational and life journeys. TRIO/SSS accomplishes this through a comprehensive developmental advising model, which incorporates collaboration with many academic and co-curricular programs across campus. Services include academic, personal and financial counseling; teaching decision-making, self-advocacy and goal-setting skills; academic and study skill building; academic progress monitoring including appropriate interventions; graduation planning; and an overall understanding of one's place in the world by first establishing one's place as a college student.

Based in the Liberal Arts

The TRIO/SSS program prepares “effective, informed, ethical” citizens of the world through practical skill development as well as the deeper vocation conversations that start with the “why am I here at Augsburg?” and continue with “where is my next step?” Many times low-income, first-generation students are very motivated to achieve their goal of “going to college”, however the self-concept as college student stops with matriculation. TRIO/SSS staff work with students to navigate the college systems, to be purposeful in their academic planning, and to access the services they need to both retain and graduate from Augsburg. Program staff model and encourage life long learning through their own actions: staff members pursue higher education, volunteer and serve in additional capacities in their respective communities.

Shaped by the Faith & Values of the Christian Church

TRIO/SSS is very inclusive of faith differences in both staff and participants. This is evident during discussions in the TRIO/SSS Summer Bridge program, a summer academic program for incoming first year students. Students enroll in two courses, including REL 100: Christian Vocation and Search for Meaning I. In and out of the

classroom students share and discuss their faith journeys and begin to think critically about faith, values and the concept of vocation.

Shaped by the Context of a Vital Metropolitan Setting

Summer Bridge students also participate in an Engaging Minneapolis component of the REL course, visiting various places of worship throughout the city and discussing different faith traditions with experts or elders, within the context of the place of worship. In addition, Summer Bridge students enjoy summer activities in Minneapolis, including a Mississippi river canoe trip, visits to a theater or museum, or even a light rail trip downtown for ice cream.

Shaped by an Intentionally Diverse Campus Community

The TRIO/SSS program attracts, retains and graduates students who clearly reflect the Augsburg mission, and who may best represent the changing populations of Minnesota. TRIO/SSS participants are by nature a diverse group, along socio-economic, ethnic, geographic, faith backgrounds, learning styles and physical abilities. Many are from the cities, and in effect bring the metropolitan setting to the college.