

# Mesa College TRIO Program Annual Report

2008-09

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## **Highlight of the Findings**

#### **Student Headcount**

- During the 2008-09 calendar year, 80% to 99% of the registered TRIO students at Mesa College were low income, and over half were first generation to college (52%-55%).
- During 2008-09, the majority of TRIO students who registered continued their enrollment past census day, with a range of 86% to 99% enrollment.

## **TRIO** and Comparison Group Attrition and Persistence

- Term persistence from Fall 2007 to Spring 2008 was higher for TRIO students than for the comparison groups.
- TRIO students persisted continuously from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008 at a greater rate than the comparison groups.
- In both terms, TRIO students withdrew from their courses at lower rates than did the comparison groups.

## **TRIO** and Comparison Group Outcomes

- TRIO students, on average, attempted more units and completed a higher percentage of the units attempted relative to the comparison groups in both Fall 2008 and Spring 2009.
- TRIO students successfully completed the greatest percentage of their classes in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 relative to comparison groups.
- The general college population had the highest mean term and cumulative GPAs relative to the comparison groups across Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 terms.

### TRIO and Comparison Group Awards and Transfer

#### 2008-09 TRIO Students

- Of the 225 TRIO students who were enrolled past census day in 2008-09, 18 students (8%) received an award or certificate. There were 24 awards conferred to students.
- Of the 225 TRIO students who were enrolled past census day in 2008-09, 3 students transferred in-state and 2 students transferred out-of-state (2% total transfer rate).

#### 2004-05 Cohorts Longitudinally Tracked to 2007-08

- Twenty-six percent of the 2004-05 TRIO cohort earned an award from 2004-05 to 2007-08, which was higher than the graduation rates of the comparison cohorts.
- The 2004-05 TRIO cohort earned a total of 154 awards from 2004-05 to 2007-08. A general trend showed that the number of awards earned by the 2004-05 cohort groups decreased across the four years being reported.
- Thirty-seven percent of the 2004-05 TRIO cohort transferred to a 4-year university from 2004-05 to 2007-08, which was higher than the transfer rates of the comparison cohorts.
- Fifteen percent of the 2004-05 TRIO cohort transferred to a 4-year university and received an award from 2004-05 to 2007-08, which was higher than the transfer and award rates of the comparison cohorts.

## Introduction

#### Overview

This report details the outcomes of TRIO students at Mesa College during the 2008-09 calendar year. Where appropriate, TRIO-eligible students, first generation students, low income students, and the general college population are included as points of comparison. The report contains information about students served, enrollment, attrition, outcomes performance, and degrees conferred to students in 2008-09. Additionally, persistence data are supplied for the Fall 2007 student cohorts, and awards and transfer data are supplied for the 2004-05 student cohorts.

### Methodology

Each of the Mesa College student cohort groups was measured between the 2004-05 and 2008-09 calendar years, including fall, spring, and summer terms. Awards and transfers for each of the 2004-05 cohort groups were subsequently measured at the conclusion of 4 years (2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08). Student persistence data for each of the Fall 2007 student cohort groups were measured at the conclusion of the Spring 2008 and Fall 2008 terms. Only students enrolled past census day at Mesa College were measured. Student data were segmented by term and included duplication of students across terms.

Note that student counts may differ slightly from counts produced in the 2007-08 Mesa College TRIO Program Student Outcomes Performance Summary Report. In the previous report, college affiliation was determined first by TRIO database information and second by SDCCD Information System data based on the students' campus of record. College affiliation in this report was based on SDCCD Information System data only and was determined by the students' college of coursework.

The criterion for each student cohort group was as follows:

- The *TRIO student group* was composed of new or continuing students currently being served by the TRIO program at Mesa College during the terms being reported.
- The *TRIO-eligible student group* was composed of students that generally met the criteria for TRIO eligibility, but were not currently being served by TRIO, EOPS or DSPS support programs during the terms being reported. TRIO-eligible students must also have been first generation or low income (see low income group criterion), and have had academic need<sup>2</sup>. Additional stipulations included that they had no prior degree or certificate above high school, were not concurrently enrolled in a K-12, and were U.S. citizens or legal residents.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Note that annual general college population counts may not match SDCCD published reports. Most Research and Planning reports contain data based on the academic year; however, for TRIO reporting purposes, this report contains data reported by calendar year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> To be qualified as *academic need*, the student had to fit into one of the following groups: have an undecided major, have a low cumulative GPA below 2.0, failed a class in the previous semester, graduated from high school five or more years ago, have low placements (math, writing, or reading), had a high school GPA 2.5 or lower, had an ESL placement level in college, or were not awarded a high school diploma (may have received a GED).

- The *first generation student group* contained students who self-reported on their SDCCD application that they were the first member of their family to attend college.
- The low income student group consisted of students who received financial aid, had a BOG waiver, or self-reported as low income during the terms being reported. Self-reported financial need was based on a proxy of household income based on household members and the low income standards set forth by the Federal TRIO Programs Annual Low Income Levels for the time period being reported.
- The *general college student* population included all credit students at Mesa College enrolled past census day during the terms being reported.

## **Operational Definitions**

Annual Persistence Rates - The percentage of census enrolled students at Mesa College in a fall term who received a grade notation of A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, I or RD and who enrolled in at least one course at Mesa College in <u>both</u> the subsequent spring and fall terms and received a grade notation of A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, I or RD.

Attrition Rate - The percentage of students who withdraw from a course at Mesa College out of total census enrollments.

*Census Headcount* - The number of students, or unduplicated headcount, as of census day (excludes those students who dropped or never attended prior to census day).

*Success Rate* - The percentage of students who complete a course at Mesa College with a grade of A, B, C, or P out of total census enrollments. (Note: Tutoring and noncredit classes are excluded).

*Term Persistence Rates* - The percentage of census enrolled students at Mesa College in a fall term who received a grade notation of A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, I or RD and who enrolled in at least one course at Mesa College in the subsequent spring term and received a grade notation of A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, I or RD.

## **Findings**

#### 2008-09 Student Headcount

Students Served by TRIO Program (Prior to Census).

Table 1.1 shows the total number of students at Mesa College that were served by the TRIO program, and the number and percentage of TRIO students served that were first generation students, low income, or both first generation and low income.

Please note that students served may include students who registered but dropped from classes prior to census day. All subsequent student enrollment and student outcomes are done with students who continued their enrollment past census day. Also note that students may be duplicated across terms. That is, students who enrolled in both Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 are counted in both terms.

During the 2008-09 calendar year, 80% to 99% of the TRIO students at Mesa College were low income, and over half were first generation to college (52%-55%). During the same time period being reported, between 45% to 55% of TRIO students were both first generation to college and low income.

Table 1.1. TRIO Students Served

	Fall 2008		Spring 2009		Summer 2009	
	Count	% of TRIO	Count	% of TRIO	Count	% of TRIO
TRIO Students Served	215		214		110	
1st Generation TRIO Students	115	53%	112	52%	61	55%
Low Income TRIO Students	172	80%	188	88%	109	99%
1st Generation & Low Income	97	45%	103	48%	60	55%

Source: SDCCD Information System

TRIO Students Enrolled Past Census.

Table 1.2 shows the number of TRIO students who were enrolled past census day annually and by term, and the percentage of registered TRIO students who continued their enrollment past census day. During 2008-09, the majority of TRIO students who registered continued their enrollment past census day, with a range of 86% to 99% enrollment.

Table 1.2. Headcount of TRIO Students Enrolled Past Census

Annual	Fall	2008	Spring	g 2009	Summe	er 2009
Undup		% that		% that		% that
Count	Count	Enrolled	Count	Enrolled	Count	Enrolled
Count	000		000000		0000	

Comparison Groups Enrolled Past Census.

Table 1.3.1 shows the number and percentage of TRIO-eligible students in the 2008-09 calendar year who were enrolled past census. Note that TRIO-eligible students did not receive TRIO services during the time period being reported (see Methodology Section for group inclusion criterion).

The Mesa College TRIO-eligible student population headcount ranged from 31% to 36% of the total credit population at Mesa College between Fall 2008 and Summer 2009. During the same time period being reported, the Mesa first generation to college student population headcount ranged from 23% to 24% of the credit population (see Table 1.3.2) and the low income student population headcount ranged from 41% to 57% of the credit population (see Table 1.3.3). Between 12% and 17% of the Mesa College credit population were both first generation to college and low income (see Table 1.3.4).

Table 1.3.1. Headcount TRIO-Eligible Students Enrolled Past Census

	Fall 2008		Spring	g 2009	Summer 2009	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
TRIO-Eligible	7,294	31%	7,956	33%	4,090	36%
Not TRIO-Eligible	16,029	69%	16,011	67%	7,416	64%
Total	23,323	100%	23,967	100%	11,506	100%

Source: SDCCD Information System

Table 1.3.2. Headcount of First Generation to College Students Enrolled Past Census

	Fall 2008		Spring 2009		Summer 2009	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
First Generation	5,352	23%	5,661	24%	2,719	24%
Not First Generation	17,880	77%	18,244	76%	8,768	76%
Unreported	91	0%	62	0%	19	0%
Total	23,323	100%	23,967	100%	11,506	100%

Source: SDCCD Information System

Table 1.3.3. Headcount of Low Income Students Enrolled Past Census

	Fall 2008		Spring 2009		Summer 2009	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Low Income	9,539	41%	11,242	47%	6,536	57%
Not Low Income	7,718	33%	7,022	29%	2,741	24%
Unreported	6,066	26%	5,703	24%	2,229	19%
Total	23,323	100%	23,967	100%	11,506	100%

Table 1.3.4. Headcount of First Generation to College and Low Income Students Enrolled

	Fall 2008		Spring 2009		Summer 2009	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
1st Generation & Low Income	2,866	12%	3,406	14%	1,933	17%
Not 1st Generation & Low Income	14,391	62%	14,858	62%	7,344	64%
Unreported	6,066	26%	5,703	24%	2,229	19%
Total	23,323	100%	23,967	100%	11,506	100%

#### Fall 2007 Term-to-Term and Annual Persistence

Table 2 shows that TRIO students displayed an advantage in term-to-term persistence and annual persistence. Term persistence from Fall 2007 to Spring 2008 was higher for TRIO students (92%) than for comparison groups who persisted at relatively similar rates (low income students and general college population, 58% each; TRIO-eligible and first generation students, 56% each). Likewise, TRIO students (59%) persisted continuously from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008 at a greater rate than comparison groups. Low income students (31%), TRIO-eligible students (30%), the general college population (30%), and the first generation students (29%) annually persisted at relatively similar rates.

Table 2. Term-to-Term and Annual Persistence

	Term-to-Term	Annual
	Fall 07 to Spring 08	Fall 07 to Spring 08 to Fall 08
TRIO	92%	59%
TRIO-Eligible	56%	30%
First Generation	56%	29%
Low Income	58%	31%
General College Population	58%	30%

Source: SDCCD Information System

### Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 Attrition

Table 3 illustrates the percentage of TRIO students and the comparison groups who withdrew (attrition) from a course during Fall 2008 and Spring 2009. In both terms, TRIO students withdrew from their courses (12% in fall; 14% in spring) at lower rates than did the general college population (17% in fall; 16% in spring), first generation students (18% in fall; 17% in spring), low income students (19% in fall; 17% in spring), and TRIO-eligible students (20% in fall; 19% in spring). The comparison groups withdrew at relatively similar rates.

Table 3. Attrition

	TRIO	TRIO- Eligible	First Generation	Low Income	General College Population
Fall 2008	12%	20%	18%	19%	17%
Spring 2009	14%	19%	17%	17%	16%

## Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 Student Outcomes

Units Attempted and Completed.

The number of units attempted is higher for TRIO students than for those in the comparison groups. Table 4.1.1 shows that TRIO students, on average, attempted 3 more units than did the comparison groups in Fall 2008 and approximately 3.5 more units than the comparison groups in Spring 2009. The comparison groups attempted a relatively similar number of units.

Table 4.1.1. Average Units Attempted

	TRIO	TRIO- Eligible	First Generation	Low Income	General College Population
Fall 2008	12.98	9.85	9.76	9.92	9.89
Spring 2009	13.59	10.00	9.94	10.16	9.99

Source: SDCCD Information System

Table 4.1.2 shows the number of units that students completed. The percentage of the units attempted is displayed in Table 4.1.3. This table reveals that TRIO students completed a higher percentage of the units they attempted (76% in fall; 73% in spring) relative to the comparison groups in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009, while TRIO-eligible students completed the least percentage of units they attempted (65% in fall; 66% in spring). First generation students (68% in fall; 69% in spring), low income students (69% in fall; 71% in spring), and the general college population (71% in fall; 72% in spring) completed a relatively similar percentage of the units they attempted during the same time period being reported.

Table 4.1.2. Average Units Completed

	TRIO	TRIO- Eligible	First Generation	Low Income	General College Population
Fall 2008	9.88	6.48	6.63	6.99	7.13
Spring 2009	10.19	6.80	7.01	7.38	7.36

Source: SDCCD Information System

Table 4.1.3. Percent of Attempted Units Completed

	TRIO	TRIO- Eligible	First Generation	Low Income	General College Population
Fall 2008	76%	65%	68%	69%	71%
Spring 2009	73%	66%	69%	71%	72%

Successful Course Completion.

TRIO students successfully completed the greatest percentage of their Fall 2008 (70%) and Spring 2009 (68%) classes, followed by the general college population (67% in fall; 68% in spring), low income students (64% in fall; 66% in spring), and first generation students (63% in fall; 64% in spring; see Table 4.2). TRIO-eligible students successfully completed the least percentage of their classes across both terms (60% in fall; 61% in spring).

**Table 4.2. Successful Course Complation Rates** 

	TRIO	TRIO- Eligible	First Generation	Low Income	General College Population
Fall 2008	70%	60%	63%	64%	67%
Spring 2009	68%	61%	64%	66%	68%

Source: SDCCD Information System

#### GPA.

The mean cumulative GPAs of the target groups were measured among all SDCCD courses taken and are displayed in Table 4.3.1. The cumulative GPA of TRIO students (2.73) is comparable to the cumulative GPA of the general college population (2.72) in Fall 2008, and higher than the low income student group (2.65), the first generation student group (2.62), and the TRIO-eligible group (2.49). In Spring 2009, the general college population had a higher mean cumulative GPA (2.76) than did the TRIO student group (2.68), the low income student group (2.68), the first generation student group (2.65), and the TRIO-eligible student group (2.51). In both terms, TRIO-eligible students had the lowest mean cumulative GPAs compared to the other groups.

Table 4.3.1. Average Cumulative GPA at SDCCD

	TRIO	TRIO- Eligible	First Generation	Low Income	General College Population
Fall 2008	2.73	2.49	2.62	2.65	2.72
Spring 2009	2.68	2.51	2.65	2.68	2.76

Source: SDCCD Information System

Note 1. Cumulative GPAs are based on all SDCCD courses taken and are not exclusive to Mesa College courses.

The mean GPAs of the target groups were measured among courses taken at Mesa College in the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 terms and are displayed in Table 4.3.2. Across both terms, the general college population had the highest mean term GPAs (2.61 in fall; 2.69 in spring) and TRIO-eligible students had the lowest mean term GPAs (2.36 in fall; 2.40 in spring).

Table 4.3.2. Average Term GPA at Mesa College

	TRIO	TRIO- Eligible	First Generation Low Income		General College Population
Fall 2008	2.54	2.36	2.47	2.53	2.61
Spring 2009	2.50	2.40	2.55	2.57	2.69

Source: SDCCD Information System

Note 1. Term GPAs are based on courses taken at Mesa College.

#### **Awards Conferred**

Awards Conferred to 2008-09 TRIO Students.

Table 5.1 shows the number of 2008-09 TRIO students who were awarded a degree or certificate during the 2008-09 calendar year. Because some students earned more than one degree or certificate, the table also shows the number of degrees or certificates awarded to TRIO students. Of the 225 TRIO students who were enrolled past census day in 2008-09 (see Table 1.2), 18 students (8%) received an award or certificate (see Table 5.1). There were 24 awards conferred to students.

Table 5.1. Degrees and Certificates Earned by the 2008-09 TRIO Cohort

Award Recipients	Awards Conferred
18	24

Source: SDCCD Information System

Graduation Rates of 2004-05 Student Groups.

Table 5.2 displays the number of Mesa College students who were enrolled as of census day in each of the 2004-05 cohort groups and tracks the number and percentage of the cohort who received an award from SDCCD across four years (2004-05 to 2007-08). The count of students represent those Mesa College students who graduated (received a degree or certificate). Graduation counts are unduplicated counts of students who received an award within a given calendar year (i.e., a student was counted once, regardless of the number of awards received in that year.) Graduation counts across 4 years are provided in a total count of each year (Students in the cohort were duplicated across individual years if they received additional awards in subsequent years) and an unduplicated 4-year count.

Results indicate that out of a total of 475 students in the 2004-05 TRIO cohort, a total of 124 TRIO students (unduplicated) earned an award from 2004-05 to 2007-08. This yielded a 26% 4-year graduation rate for the 2004-05 TRIO student cohort, which was higher than the graduation rates of the TRIO-eligible cohort (10%), the low income student cohort (10%), the first generation student cohort (9%), and the general college student population (9%).

Table~5.2.~Mesa~College~2004-05~Student~Cohort~Who~Received~an~Award~from~SDCCD~Across~4~Years~Algorithm and Algorithm and Alg

		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		4-Years		
Cohort Groups	2004-05 Cohort Count	Count	% of Cohort	Total Student Count	Undup Student Count	% of Cohort						
TRIO	475	44	9%	43	9%	25	5%	17	4%	129	124	26%
TRIO-Eligible	12,520	451	4%	391	3%	280	2%	150	1%	1,272	1,230	10%
First Generation	8,442	251	3%	224	3%	186	2%	109	1%	770	747	9%
Low Income	17,606	691	4%	593	3%	413	2%	214	1%	1,911	1,847	10%
General College Pop	38,196	1,196	3%	1,100	3%	784	2%	465	1%	3,545	3,443	9%

Source: SDCCD Information System

Note 1. Mesa College 2004-05 student cohorts may have obtained a certificate/degree from any college in SDCCD.

Awards Conferred to 2004-05 Student Groups.

Table 5.3 provides a count of the degrees/certificates earned by students. Note that some students obtained more than one award in a given calendar year. Thus, the number of students who received an award (see Table 5.2) and the number of awards earned (see Table 5.3) were not the same.

The 2004-05 TRIO cohort earned a total of 154 awards from 2004-05 to 2007-08. A general trend showed that the number of awards earned by each of the 2004-05 cohort groups decreased across the four years being reported. In particular, the low income student cohort decreased the most (-68%), followed by the TRIO-eligible cohort (-66%), the TRIO cohort (-64%), the general college student population (-59%), and the first generation student cohort (-55%) from 2004-05 to 2007-08.

Table 5.3 Awards Conferred to Mesa College 2004-05 Cohort Across 4 Years

Cohort Groups	2004-05 Awards Count	2005-06 Awards Count	2006-07 Awards Count	2007-08 Awards Count	4-Year Total Awards Count	% Change 2004-05 to 2007-08
TRIO	56	49	29	20	154	-64%
TRIO-Eligible	537	464	329	185	1,515	-66%
First Generation	297	273	218	135	923	-55%
Low Income	813	690	483	257	2,243	-68%
General College Population	1,400	1,296	919	575	4,190	-59%

Source: SDCCD Information System

Note 1. Mesa College 2004-05 student cohorts may have obtained a certificate/degree from any college in SDCCD.

## Transfer to a 4-Year University

Number of 2008-09 TRIO Students who Transferred to a 4-Year University.

Table 6.1 shows the number of 2008-09 TRIO students who transferred to an in-state or out-of-state 4-year university in the 2008-09 calendar year. Of the 225 TRIO students who were enrolled past census day in 2008-09 (see Table 1.2), 3 students transferred in-state and 2 students transferred out-of-state (see Table 6.1), yielding a 2% transfer rate.

Table 6.1. Transfers to a 4-Year University by the 2008-09 TRIO Cohort

In-State Transfers	Out-of-State Transfers
3	2

Source: SDCCD Information System and National Student Clearinghouse

Transfer Rates of 2004-05 Student Groups Across 4 Years.

Table 6.2 displays the count and percentage of the 2004-05 student cohort groups tracked across 4 years (2004-05 to 2007-08) who transferred to a 4-year university. Yearly transfer counts and the 4-year total were unduplicated counts of students.

Out of 475 students in the 2004-05 TRIO cohort, a total of 174 TRIO students transferred to a 4-year university from 2004-05 to 2007-08. This yielded a 37%, 4-year transfer rate for the 2004-05 TRIO cohort. TRIO transfer rates were higher than the transfer rates of the general college student population (31%), the low income student cohort (29%), the first generation student cohort (28%), and the TRIO-eligible cohort (25%).

Table 6.2. Mesa College 2004-05 Student Cohort Who Transferred to a 4-Year University Across 4 Years

2004-05		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		4-Year	Total
Cohort Groups	Cohort		% of		% of		% of		% of	Total	% of
	Count	Count	Cohort	Count	Cohort	Count	Cohort	Count	Cohort	Count	Cohort
TRIO	475	20	4%	60	13%	62	13%	32	7%	174	37%
TRIO-Eligible	12,520	693	6%	1,005	8%	816	7%	614	5%	3,128	25%
First Generation	8,442	759	9%	734	9%	488	6%	375	4%	2,356	28%
Low Income	17,606	1,251	7%	1,836	10%	1,254	7%	809	5%	5,150	29%
<b>General College Pop</b>	38,196	3,239	8%	4,318	11%	2,625	7%	1,842	5%	12,024	31%

Source: SDCCD Information System and National Student Clearinghouse

## 2004-05 Students Who Transferred and Received an Award

Table 7 displays the 2004-05 cohort counts, and the total count and percentage of the 2004-05 student cohort groups tracked across 4 years (2004-05 to 2007-08) who transferred to a 4-year university <u>and</u> received an award.

Out of 475 students in the 2004-05 TRIO cohort, a total of 73 TRIO students transferred to a 4-year university and received an award from 2004-05 to 2007-08. This yielded a 15% 4-year transfer and award rate for the 2004-05 TRIO cohort. This was higher than the transfer and award rates of the comparison groups. The TRIO-eligible cohort (5%), the low income student cohort (5%), the general college student population (4%), and the first generation student cohort (4%) had relatively similar transfer and award rates.

Table 7. Mesa College 2004-05 Student Cohort Who Transferred and Received an Award Across 4 Years

Cohort Groups	2004-05 Cohort Count	4-Year (04/05-07/08) Total Count	4-Year (04/05-07/08) % of Cohort	
TRIO	475	73	15%	
TRIO-Eligible	12,520	617	5%	
First Generation	8,442	342	4%	
Low Income	17,606	958	5%	
General College Population	38,196	1,644	4%	

Source: SDCCD Information System and National Student Clearinghouse