



# All Things Ignatian



# Student Support Services

## The Program

Student Support Services (SSS) is grant funded through the U.S. Department of Education to provide comprehensive services to help students achieve a successful college experience by increasing academic performance, retention, and graduation rates. SSS also works to foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of low income, first generation students and students with disabilities. The strength of the SSS program is providing comprehensive support to under-represented students at Creighton University who have the ability and desire to succeed but would benefit from additional advocacy, academic, personal, financial and career support. SSS provides personalized and comprehensive support services for eligible participants.



## Mission

The SSS program is integral to the fulfillment of Creighton University's mission especially as it relates to the "intellectual, social, spiritual, physical and recreational aspects of student's lives and to the promotion of justice" and "appreciation of ethnic and cultural diversity as core values of Creighton." The mission of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of participants and enhance student academic achievement.

## Program Benefits

SSS provides a comprehensive system to enhance each participant's overall college experience by providing services to help each participant realize his or her full potential. Some of the services SSS provides to eligible participants are:



- ❖ Foster camaraderie among students, faculty and SSS staff
- ❖ Writing/Reading Specialist, Science Specialist, Math Specialist, Supplemental Instruction and peer tutors provide academic support
- ❖ Assist with academic advising, personal assistance, graduate/professional school assistance and career advising
- ❖ Financial Aid for eligible SSS students
- ❖ Peer mentoring through the Peer 2 Peer mentoring program for first-year SSS participants

## Objectives & Outcomes

The SSS staff is acutely aware that building trust and friendships among students is vital to first generation college students' comfort at Creighton University. SSS events such as the ropes course, potlucks and the soiree assist in this mission. Inviting faculty and SSS staff members lets the students know that peers, staff and faculty are willing to be part of their support system throughout their college experience. Through SSS students learn first hand the meaning of *Cura Personalis* and *Magis*. These values are put into action through SSS activities thereby internalizing the Ignatian values.

Since 1980, SSS has served approximately 4,650 students. Annually SSS exceeds program objects and the success with students is evident in the spring 2010 student achievements:

- ❖ 12 (7%) students earned a 4.0 GPA
- ❖ 47 (27%) students were on dean's list
- ❖ 99 (57%) students earned a 3.0 or higher
- ❖ 36 students graduated



According to 2009-2010 SSS Evaluation of Services participants (172 respondents), 98% rated their overall satisfaction with program services as very satisfied (123) or satisfied (45) with 0 dissatisfied. When asked about the helpfulness of SSS staff 100% strongly agreed (138) or agreed (34). When students were asked if the program helps them improve their grades 100% either strongly agreed (88) or agreed (84). When asked if the SSS program helped them stay in college and complete a degree 98% either strongly agreed (108) or agreed (61).

## Impact on Students

*"I joined SSS because I heard many good things, and as a first generation in my immediate family I had no clue about the college process. Karen, and all of the SSS staff is very informative about things that will help me move toward success. I also like how everything is free, there is good advice given here, and the people are down to earth and understanding. They go out of their way to help me."*

Audri Edmonds, Junior



*"Since being in SSS, I have benefited by getting help with practically everything. The SSS staff saves your day! I have made friends, got help with financial aid, and help with registering for classes from SSS."*

Willie White, Junior

Contact Karen Thurber: [kthurer@creighton.edu](mailto:kthurer@creighton.edu)