

SDES RETENTION BRIEFINGS

PRIME STEM

Department Overview: *PRIME STEM/Student Support Services is a federally-funded TRiO program (U.S. Department of Education). The program supports college students pursuing STEM majors (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) who are first-generation, demonstrate a financial need, and/or have a documented disability. The project offers academic support services and resources to assist PRIME STEM scholars to successfully complete a STEM degree.*

Mission: *To provide the support necessary to empower participants in developing and achieving academic goals.*

PRIME STEM Best Practices

- ❖ **Appreciative Advising Model:** PRIME STEM Coordinators work with scholars to develop Individualized Academic Plans (IAP). The IAP maps and tracks course selection and monitors course progression toward graduation. Additionally, it assists scholars to develop STEM career goals, to explore a variety of career pathways and to prepare for graduate/professional school. Scholars also receive priority registration.
- ❖ **Academic Support:** Scholars receive comprehensive academic support from highly-qualified PRIME STEM staff members, peer tutors and mentors, and campus partners:
 - **Tutoring**—Scholars can receive one-on-one tutoring (primarily in science, engineering and math courses). Tutoring occurs by appointment, walk-in, virtually, and/or via a partnership with SARC (that provides tutoring in additional coursework). The program is designed to provide scholars with the potential to master coursework and to realize significant grade improvement.
 - **Mentoring**— Scholars who are freshmen, sophomores or new transfers to UCF receive deliberate and comprehensive peer mentoring. Mentoring occurs one-on-one, by appointment or walk-in, virtually and through social media. The PRIME STEM peer mentoring program is nationally certified through the International Mentor Training Program Certification (division of CRLA). PRIME STEM has the only certified program at UCF, one of two in the state of Florida and one of 59 programs in the nation.
 - **Life Management & Academic Success Workshops**—PRIME STEM has partnered with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and Multicultural Academic Support Services (MASS) to provide a number of workshops designed to increase student success (time management, critical thinking, test taking, transitional skills, diversity, and goal setting).
 - **Graduate/Professional School Assistance**—Workshops and information is provided to assist scholars prepare for graduate/professional exams and to assist them to apply for admission to graduate/professional schools.
- ❖ **Financial Literacy:** Scholars are encouraged to create a Financial Literacy Plan. PRIME STEM has developed a Canvas Webcourse (PSP 1000) to deliver a variety of financial and economic literacy workshops (some in partnership with the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance) and to provide assistance/information in applying for federal student aid.

Student Development and Enrollment Services

**Scholar Quote**

PRIMESTEM mentoring program provides personalized attention that has motivated me to apply to medical school and to earn my TEFL certificate. My experience with PRIME STEM mentors has encouraged me to become a PRIMESTEM mentor where I have the pleasure of helping my fellow scholars. PRIME STEM has improved my confidence to strive for excellence and prepare for the future today.

-Chemika St. Juste

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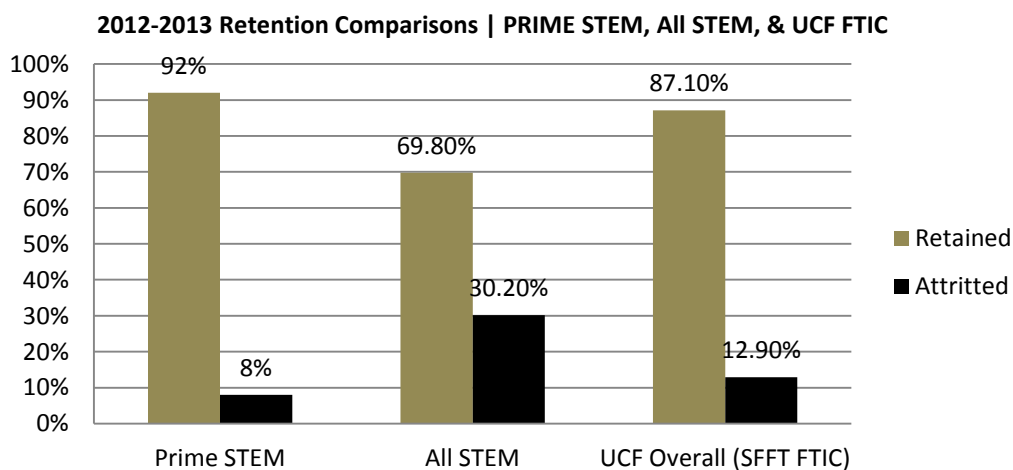
PRIME STEM Undergraduate Student Demographics

- ❖ 180 undergraduate students have participated in the PRIME STEM Program.
- ❖ Of the 180 students, 115 (64%) were female and 65 (36%) were male.
- ❖ PRIME STEM Undergraduate Students by Ethnicity:

UGRD Ethnicity	PRIME STEM Students		UCF Total	
	Count	%	Count	%
Asian	14	7.8%	2,750	5.9%
Black	69	38.3%	4,970	10.7%
Hispanic	52	28.9%	9,447	20.4%
White	37	20.6%	30,463	66%
American Indian	1	.5%	168	.3%
Multiracial	7	3.9%	791	1.7%
Total (ALL)	180	100%	46,089	100%

Evidence of Impact on Student Retention and Success

- ❖ The most recent cohort's retention rate was 92% (166/180). This is 22.2% higher than the overall STEM retention rate (69.8%), and 4.9% higher than the University's overall SFFT Freshmen retention rate (87.1%).



- ❖ The average GPA of PRIME STEM scholars were 3.245.
- ❖ Thirty-three scholars received academic honors; 26 were on the Dean's List and 7 were on the President's Honor Roll
- ❖ Thirty-one scholars have engaged in research opportunities; thirteen have presented their research and one was named the Undergraduate Researcher of the Month.
- ❖ Scholars have been admitted to graduate, medical and/or pharmacy school; have earned paid internships; have received external scholarships; and have studied abroad.



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