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# **Chaffey College**

## **Opening Doors Project**

### **MDRC Grant Funded Program**

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# **Fact Sheet**

- ❖ Mission Statement: Chaffey College's Opening Doors program, a collaborative initiative enhancing instructional and student services, will provide probationary students with pathways to develop successful academic and life strategies.
- ❖ MDRC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social policy research organization that for the past 30 years has been designing and evaluating programs and policies for low - income individuals, families, and communities. MDRC project areas include school reform, higher education, welfare reform, job training and workforce development, and community initiatives.
- ❖ The target group for Chaffey College's Opening Doors program is probationary students ages 17- 35 years old, low income, and less than 30 units completed.
- ❖ Chaffey's Opening Doors program will provide enhanced learning and student support through a 2 unit mandatory college success guidance course and a 1 unit co-requisite guidance seminar. The guidance seminar is specifically designed to serve as a practicum for students to actively apply success skills learned in the co-requisite guidance course. In addition, students will be evaluated for basic skills proficiency using transcripts and assessment results. This evaluation will be used by the counselor/instructor as part of a guidance class assignment requiring students to utilize a Success Center to address low functioning basic skills. Participating students will also benefit from prescheduled mandatory advisement and be required to complete an assignment to identify and utilize a student support service program. In the second semester of the program, participants will be required to complete a 1 unit independent study guidance course where assignments direct students to implement learning principles and study skills mastered in the previous semester are applied to other enrolled courses.
- ❖ A book grant will be provided for participating students.
- ❖ MDRC will conduct research on the success of program interventions. They will invite targeted students to complete a comprehensive data collection process. All invitees will receive some form of incentive to participate in the study. Students will randomly select for the program group and a control group. The program group will benefit from the structured guidance course based program and enhanced counseling and tutoring while the control group will not be required to participate in any of the program interventions nor receive the book grant. The study will evaluate the impact of the interventions on improving student performance toward removal from probation. Approximately 1050 students will participate in the study over a one and a half year period.
- ❖ Success Centers will receive additional funding to provide orientations and additional support to program participants. Counseling and Success Center faculty and staff will utilize the Strengthsquest program as a common approach to providing support and developing success strategies for participating students.
- ❖ Counseling, Success Center, English, and Math faculty are collaborating on developing assignments for the guidance seminar course, an orientation to bridge students in the use of the Success Centers, and appropriate placement of students in foundational skills courses.
- ❖ Phase I of the Opening Doors program will begin spring of 2005. Two hundred targeted students will be invited to participate in the enrollment process for a pilot of the program. Fifty students selected to participate in the pilot program.
- ❖ Phase II of the program will be open to all financial aid students on probation that meet the target criteria. During spring and summer 2005, 1000 students will be targeted for the program. Five hundred students will be randomly selected to participate in program activities and another 500 will serve as the control group for program interventions scheduled for fall 05 and spring 06.
- ❖ MDRC will collect and analyze follow up data on these students including a series of surveys conducted after 12 and 36 months. They will publish their findings in their national research journal.

