

2.3 *The institution's expectations for learning and student attainment are clearly reflected in its academic programs and policies. These include the organization and content of the institution's curricula; admissions and graduation policies; the organization and delivery of advisement; the use of its library and information resources; and (where applicable) experience in the wider learning environment provided by the campus and/or co-curriculum.*

Evidence:

- The [Advising Center](#) is responsible for advising all undeclared students as well as those who qualify for the educational opportunity program ([EOP](#)), which is geared to assist economically and educationally disadvantaged students. The Advising Center offers a range of programs and services to help students receive a rewarding academic and co-curricular experience at Sonoma State. We describe some of these programs below.
- The [Educational Mentoring Team](#) (EMT) is a program that attempts to increase student retention through assisting students in their transition to college life. The heart of the program is the Freshman Seminar (University 102), which is team taught with one faculty member, a student services professional and a peer mentor. In the seminar, students receive information regarding a range of topics, such as, identifying and accessing campus services for students (counseling, library, information technology) and the nature of university culture. Acquisition of basic learning skills is emphasized.
- [Sonoma Orientation, Advising and Registration](#) (SOAR) is held every summer for first-time freshman and their parents. SOAR helps students make new friends, introduces students to essential campus services and eases their transition to campus life through facilitating early registration of classes.
- [Summer Bridge](#) is a program designed specifically to help EOP students make the transition to being a successful college student. It provides academic and financial advising, class registration, campus orientations and an opportunity to establish a learning community with other EOP students and peer mentors.
- [Testing services](#) is a program that assists students with admission, placement and graduation requirements. It assists students with special testing needs as well.
- [Academic departments](#) are responsible for advising students who have declared their major. Each department determines how best to meet this responsibility. Some assign a faculty member to the task. Others request that students select a faculty member to guide them through the major. [Program review](#) includes assessing how well departments satisfy their advising obligations. Advising policy expects all faculty to assist students with their General Education courses. The Advising Center provides periodic workshops to assist faculty in this area.

- The [Jean and Charles Schulz Information Center](#) houses the University Library, [Information Technology](#), the [Center for Distributed Learning](#), the [Writing Center](#), and the [Center for Teaching and Professional Development](#). Opened in August, 2000, the Information Center represents a state of the art regional facility to support the academic mission of the University. It contains an automated retrieval system, a 24 hour computer lab, hundreds of computers with internet access, wireless networking, an art gallery and exhibition space, five acres of floor space, over 1,000 study seats, 12 group study rooms, two multimedia viewing rooms, a campus meeting room and a campus lab. The library offers workshops and instruction to teach students how to access information, technology and knowledge sources.
- [Information Technology](#) supports all IT services for students, faculty and the administration. It offers instruction, guidance and leadership to the campus community. SSU/IT maintains a technology infrastructure that includes networking, telecommunications, servers, and workstations. It supports six compute labs on campus, with one open 24 hours. SSU/IT provides all students with their private email accounts and offers them instruction in using information technology. SSU also maintains and supports twelve state of the art 'tech classrooms' that contain data projectors, computers and ELMO access. SSU/IT includes a media services division that provides A/V and computer delivery, digital camera and camcorder checkout, media preview and editing rooms. SSU/IT also supports faculty in developing WebCT for classroom instruction.
- The [mission statement](#) of SSU communicates its overall expectations for student learning and achievement. Through its ongoing reform of general education, SSU is working to insure that all of its baccalaureate programs align with its stated mission and student demographic. The office of institutional research ([IR](#)) provides statistical support and analysis for this effort.