

Pre-Academic Program For Senacyt Scholars (PAPSS)
Annual Report FY 2013-2014

Graduate School and International Education



Memorandum

TO: Dr. Ruben Berrocal, Executive Secretary of SENACYT
Lynn Mosesso, Director of International Recruitment and Admissions

FROM: Patricia Gamboa, Associate Director of Special Programs

SUBJECT: Pre-Academic Program for SENACYT Scholars (PAPSS)
Annual Report FY 2013-14

DATE: June 17, 2014

Introduction

This report describes the work accomplished under the Pre-Academic Program for SENACYT Scholars (PAPSS) during project period June 2013-June 2014. The mission of PAPSS is to prepare participating scholars for college success at the University of Arkansas. Under this mission PAPSS focused on the following areas:

- (1) Enrollment management;
- (2) Partnership and budget management;
- (3) Scholar orientation and academic adjustment;
- (4) Scholar progress and recognition;
- (5) Campus and community programming; and,
- (6) Program evaluation.

1) Enrollment management

- Total PAPSS participants: 91 (59 new scholars)
 - Group 1 & 2- 32 students enrolled full-time as new freshman at the University of Arkansas during the 2013-2014 academic year.
 - Group 3- 26 students enrolled full-time at Spring International Language Center (SILC) for Spring Term 1, January 2014; 2 enrolled full-time as new freshman at the University of Arkansas during the Summer term, 2014.
 - Group 4- 33 students enrolled full-time at Spring International Language Center (SILC) during the Summer term, June 2014
- Fall 2014- Group 3- 26 scholars applied for admission; 26 enrolled at Spring International Language Center.
 - Welcome orientation, Spring term, 2014, University of Arkansas (January 16, 2014)
- Spring 2014- Group 4- 34 scholars applied for admission, 1 deferred admission.
 - Welcome orientation, Summer term, 2014, University of Arkansas (May 29, 2014)

- Patricia Gamboa and currently enrolled PAPSS Scholars conducted Skype meetings with PAPSS Group 3 students, parents and SENACYT sponsor on June 19, 2013 and with Group 4 on February 21, 2014.
- Patricia Gamboa and PAPSS Ambassadors provided assistance with the undergraduate admissions packet, 8 semester plans, communication via SKYPE, email in Spanish/English, budgets, customized orientation and travel guides for Group 3 and Group 4 prior to arrival.
- Patricia Gamboa, and Brian Hill, Assistant Dean, College of Engineering delivered admission letters to scholars in a ceremony held in Panama City, Panama Thursday, October 17, 2013. David Guzman, University of Arkansas graduate, delivered a welcome speech.

2) Partnership and budget management

- Patricia Gamboa and Brian Hill visited Panama City on October 15-18, 2013 and met with SENACYT/IFARHU, EducationUSA Panama, and PAPSS parents and scholars.
- Natacha Gomez and Lidia Castillo, SENACYT representatives, visited the University of Arkansas, March 31-April 4, 2014. The visit included a SILC tour, a visit with the Graduate School and International Education administrators, Panama and Bolivia Carnival student event, visits with SENACYT students, and department visits with the College of Engineering, Sam M. Walton College of Business, Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, Honor's College.
- Through an Alumni endowment, the University of Arkansas established an Educational Assistance Fund in the Spring term 2014, providing financial assistance to students from the Republic of Panama who are pursuing higher education at the University of Arkansas. This fund has enabled scholars to access resources in cases of emergencies and to fully engage in educational opportunities worldwide.
- PAPSS staff submitted official transcripts, enrollment verification, Pat Walker Health Center receipt, and enrollment summary for Fall 2013, Spring 2014 and Summer 2014 to SENACYT/IFARHU for all scholars.
- Patricia Gamboa submitted student budgets to SENACYT representatives for Group 3 Phase I, II & III and Group 4 Phase I and II.
- The program disbursed funds to Group 3 scholars in Spring term, 2014 and Summer term, 2014 for housing related cost.
- Melissa Jean Erwin, financial manager, maintained the program budget, posted payments on student accounts, and established cost centers for new students.

3) Scholar orientation and academic adjustment

- PAPSS staff coordinated with SILC to provide new scholars airport pickup, temporary housing, dorm move-in, and orientation for fifty-nine (59) scholars. Fifty-nine (59) scholars attended SILC Orientation.
- Thirty-five (35) scholars completed the Compass Exam.
- Fifty-six (56) scholars resided in UA housing and had an American roommate during the academic year. Thirty-three (33) scholars resided in UA Conference housing for the summer 2014.
- Michael Rau maintained the University of Arkansas PAPSS Program Facebook. The program used an email newsletter "PAPSS Newslink," Blackboard Learn Announcements, [University of Arkansas](http://www.universityofarkansas.edu)

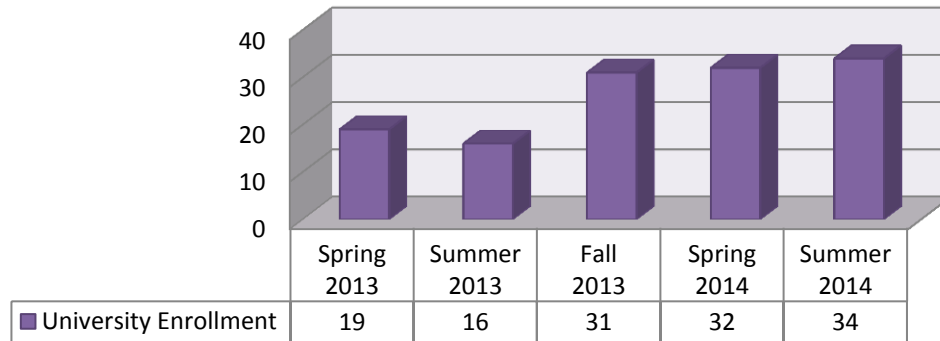
[PAPSS Program Facebook](#), and UARK email to disseminate information to scholars, parents, and partners.

- PAPSS partnered with the Enhanced Learning Center to offer basic study skills training, personal tutoring and supplemental instruction for high demand courses, some include: math, chemistry, English composition, physics, business law, data analysis, and principals of accounting.
- PAPSS partnered with the Freshman Engineering Program (FEP) to offer peer mentoring.
- Group 3 and Group 4 scholars were matched with currently enrolled Group 1 and 2 scholars through a Peer Ambassador Program.

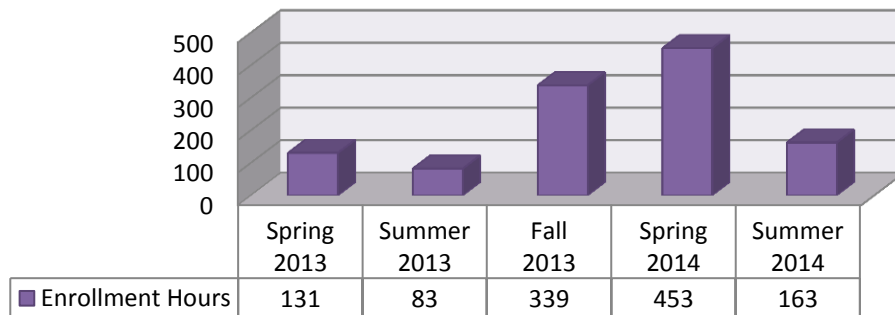
4) Scholar progress and recognition

- Fifty-seven (57) Scholars are enrolled in Phase I & II full-time at Spring International Language Center.
- Thirty-four (34) Scholars are enrolled in Phase III, full-time degree seeking undergraduate students at the University of Arkansas. The retention rate for the program is 100%. The scholars enrolled in 453 hours during the Spring term, 2014.

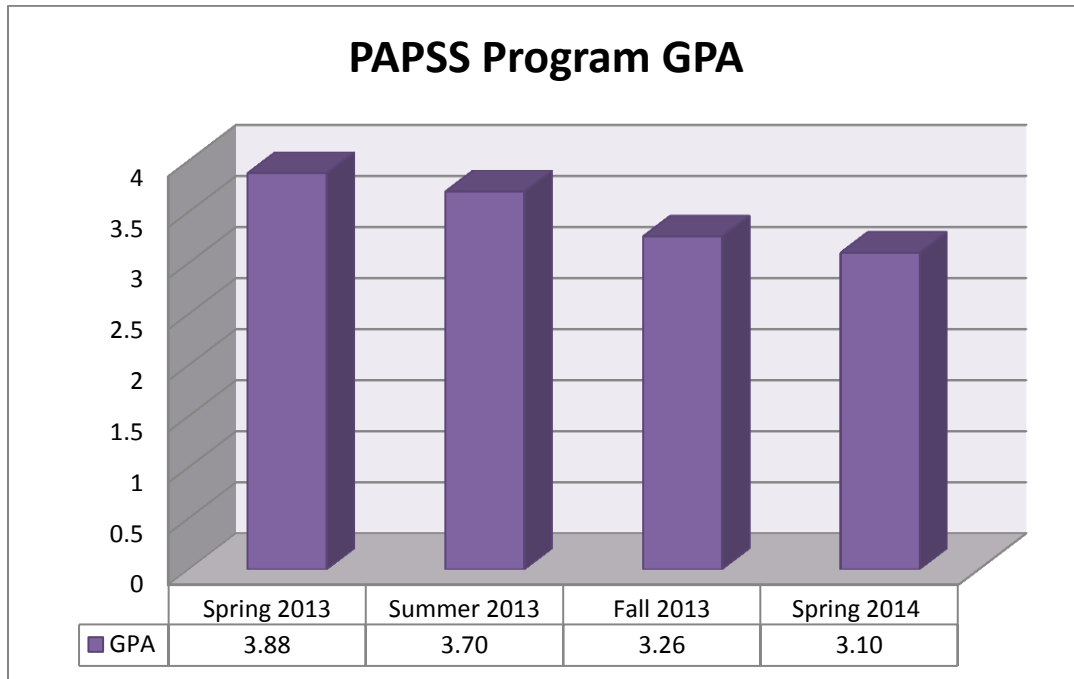
PAPSS ENROLLMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY



ENROLLMENT HOURS



- The average GPA for new freshmen at the University of Arkansas for Fall 2013 was a 2.93, while PAPSS scholars maintained an average 3.26 GPA. PAPSS Scholars maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.10 for the Spring term, 2014. 43.75% maintained a 3.50 GPA or higher (14 of 32); while 66% have 3.00 or higher cumulative GPA (21 of 32) after the Spring term, 2014.



- Scholar academic progress was monitored using UASuccess, an advising and tracking software package that enables faculty and staff to view student progress. In addition, the 6 week progress reports and SILC mid-term progress reports were used as early indicators of progress. Students with C or lower in any course were encouraged to attend tutoring or SILC helpdesk.
- The PAPSS program recognized the accomplishments of several scholars:
 - i. Members of the Honors College: Sandra Amador Sanchez, Artiom Lezcano Koretski, Mauricellis Diaz Garcia;
 - ii. Fall 2013 Dean's List and Chancellor's List, College of Engineering: Sandra Amador Sanchez, David Carballo Rojas, Issac Vargas Lopez;
 - iii. PAPSS Scholars were elected to serve in leadership positions of the Panamanian Student Organization: President, Yahisa Troya Cortez, Vice-President Edgar Escala Calame, Social Chair Bolivar Gonzalez Caballero;
 - iv. Yahisa Troya, was awarded a summer internship with New England Biolabs working with Dr. Ivan Correa, Senior Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts.
 - v. Hog W.I.L.D Crew: Esteban Miranda Pinzon, Jean Carlos Morales Orocu;
 - vi. Kimberly Alfaro and Sandra Amador completed the Emerging Leaders program, sponsored by New Student & Family Programs.

5) Campus and community programming

- Twenty-five (25) scholars attended the fall break socio-cultural activity to Branson, Missouri, November 16, 2013. The trip was coordinated by Michael Rau and included visits to Lambert's Café, shopping at the outlet malls, and Christmas lights tour and shows at Silver Dollar City.
- Forty-five (45) scholars attended the Spring break socio-cultural activity to New Orleans, Louisiana, March 25-28, 2014. The trip was coordinated by Michael Rau and included visits to a Jazz Riverboat Cruise, Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Tour of the City, visit to the Mardi Gras Warehouse, and dinner at Emeril's restaurant.
- PAPSS scholars attended the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce- NWA Hispanic Heritage Festival and Health Fair, September 27 & 28, 2013 at the Washington County Fairgrounds and attended a Kick-off dinner at the Fayetteville Botanical Garden.
- PAPSS Scholars performed Panamanian Folkloric dances in traditional costumes and hair ornaments various functions and events.
- PAPSS Scholars engaged in the following activities: the Ozark Corn Maze and Haunted house; International Education Week; ISO International Women's Day Latino RSO Expo; Korean Immersion Program; International Student Night; Razorfest Red-White Spring Game; The Conversation Club; Ifriend Program; International Culture Team; International Education Week; Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Distinguished Lecture Series; the Chinese New Year Banquet; NWA Naturals Baseball game; Eureka Springs and War Eagle trip; Tulsa, Oklahoma trip; Cleanup of Lake Elmdale in Fayetteville, AR; SILC singing group; and ice skating at the Jones Center, Springdale.
- Patricia Gamboa maintained office hours at SILC to foster effective relationships with incoming scholars.
- PAPSS staff held regular meetings through the Undergraduate University Success Series. The topics included: Welcome to the 2013-2014 Academic Year, Academic Conduct and Standards, Honor's College, Holiday Celebration, and Etiquette Dinner with Denise Marcia, an etiquette coach.

6) Program Evaluation

Scholars filled out a survey to determine overall satisfaction after the spring term, 2014. This evaluation will direct continuous improvement for the 2014-15 academic year. Data was captured using Survey Monkey online via an email and web link sent directly to 91 scholars with a return rate is 5.06% (Sixteen complete, two incomplete).

The survey included five open-ended questions which allowed scholars to elaborate on their responses. We find that scholars are mostly satisfied with the Enhanced Learning Center Supplemental Instruction (SI), tutoring, and mentoring. The students enjoy seeing new places and would like to continue socio-cultural trips.

PAPSS Survey Results for FY 2013-2014

Q1 What do you like best about the Pre-Academic Program for SENACYT Scholars (PAPSS) and/or the University of Arkansas?

Great opportunity to provide students of public schools in Panama to a leading university

Que es una beca completa, me pagan todo, y a mis padres no les cuesta. (This is a great scholarship. They pay for everything and it does not cost my parents anything.)

I like that they are always concerned about our welfare and always are willing to help us.

I have to say that this program is a blessing since it is the first program I have seen is full for students not only in private schools but also public. What I like the most is the support that the SENACYT give us all the time. They always are aware of how we are doing. In addition, the excellent coordinator Dr. Patricia Gamboa and Michael Raw who are always there for us to give any advise. In brief, I have not word to describe how proud i feel to study abroad since it was my dream since I was child. It is privilege to say that i am studying in one the University where one of the president of Panama graduated. I feel so thankful with this program and all the people behind this project.

I like that they give us the opportunity to study! And at the same time learn another idiom!

To get ready at SILC

All the support that you guys bring us in all the aspects.

This Program for SENACYT Scholars (PRESS) and the University of Arkansas is for me. I think that is fantastic because it give us an opportunity for: learn English, share with other people and grow how person.

I liked this Program because I can study and complete my career in the same time I can visit and meet other people and new culture. It's perfect for me.

The experience of getting information Panamanian fellows belonging at the University of Arkansas and who have gone through the steps of the scholarship or are carrying out is beneficial for those who are starting this new experience. Comments, recommendations and anecdotes from other scholars are critical. It is best to live with other people in a program that prepares us for everything is just take the challenge. And if one is a beneficiary of this Pre-Academic Program for SENACYT Scholars must be for something.

The recreation events. We all have to study, but also we all need to prevent stress.

everything

Everyone is very kind person

I like all the activities and the organization.

buena organizacion; excelente comunicacion entre todos. (Good organization! Excellent communication amongst each other.)

It is very helpful and I receive orientation every time I need it.

PAPSS always gives us support in whatever we need related with academic issues.

I like that the staff is always willing to help us with anything that we need. The trips to get to know more about the United States have been awesome.

Answered: 18

Skipped 0

Q2 What can we do to improve the program or your experience at the University of Arkansas?

Make a week of induction and rather complex explanation of how life in college, bus routes, among others

As far as I'm concerned, don't have to improve anything.

Aun no he pasado por eso pero espero que los pagos no se atrasen. (I have not experienced this but I hope that payments are not delayed.)

We should create a group where at least one or two members of the program who already had experience living at the UofA to talk and meet the new students before coming to the UofA since there are some important things that they need to know once they come here but because the lack of skills to communicate at the beginning, they struggle with some things such as bank accounts. Also we should show them a brief screenshot of how the education system work online since everything here is via online and we know that our education system in Panama does not work like that. You might think that what I just said should be The University job and it is, however; the UofA does not address all questions and doubts that we as international student have when we come here since it is something that they think we should already know. I would like to highlight that i am not saying Dr. Gamboa is not doing her job, by the contrary, she is one the best coordinator i have never seen, she very enthusiastic and willing to help us at any time. However, I think it would be a great idea to help her in any way to help other students to be more comfortable. I offer myself as a volunteer to help them i already have experience living here I came as the first Papss group and i will be more than happy to be part of this project without being paid to contribute with this amazing program.

You should record some videos about the students' life here!

To improve this program is better if we could take special classes for math, to enter to the University of Arkansas. Also, special classes for TOELF or something like that if someone prefer to take it to enter to the university already.

Maybe more meeting and something to encourage us to keep going cause sometimes we really need that.

I think that nothing because in this place is wonderful all

I think that the work to you doing is excellent and I'm so satisfied. Thanks for all.

I think I just have a little more preparation and organization.

The program is good right now. We have grown quantitatively since last year. Everyone is responsible for his/her development and performance in studies. But constant advice can help to prevent bad grades.

nothing

You can do more meetings or activities where all the international students participate together.

The schedule of the payments

continuar como van (Continue the way it is.)

Maybe make more sessions about special programs the university offers, such as honor college, engineering societies and clubs.

In my opinion, everything has been great. Keep on doing what you are doing!

I have no complaints about what PAPSS has done so far.

Answered: 18

Skipped 0

Q3 What has been your biggest challenge this semester or year?

learn english

Be so away of my family, in a new country with different culture.

Aprender Ingles (Learn English)

to prove my professors and all the business stuff that i came here to prove them i can be as good as Mr.Walton and I am proud to say that it is incredible when the professor call me by my name in a class with 300 hundreds students without even look at the list paper. That means i am doing something good.

My biggest challenge this semester have been studied math for the math placement test and Compass trough computer without professional help like a professor.

Well, my bigger challenge will be write english, understand english, speak english, read english.

Definitely learn English in SILC, but I want to learn it so good.

To pass a really hard class for me.

Acclimatize to live in the United States of America.

Last semester was my second semester in the University. The time management during tests was my biggest problem. It took me too much time to solve problems that I couldn't finish the test completely

nothing

I am just studying at silc. I haven't felt a big challenge

My biggest challenge is speaking and writing very well to start my career.

to learn English

My biggest challenge this semester balancing my time to spend the right amount of time on each course.

To get adapted to the American lifestyle.

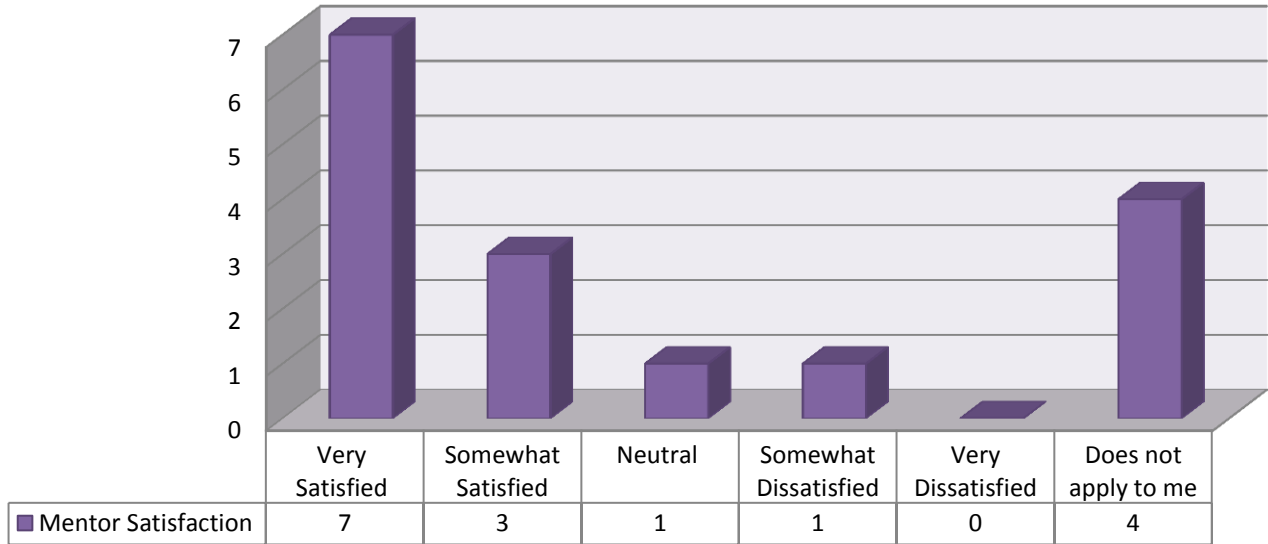
The biggest challenge for me has been to start taking more difficult classes that are related with my major.

Answered: 17

Skipped 1

Q4 (PAPSS University Students) Please rate your level of satisfaction with your Mentor

Mentor Satisfaction



My mentor guided me completely and very well explained aspects of the university I hope you continue with this program

I'm completely satisfied.

Ella me ha orientado mucho. (She has provided a lot of orientation)

Patricia is the best.

Because, I did not receive a lot of information about the University of Arkansas.

I had a mentor from the FEP. She was nice, but we just developed a relation completely "mentor-student". Just 10 min every session and no more.

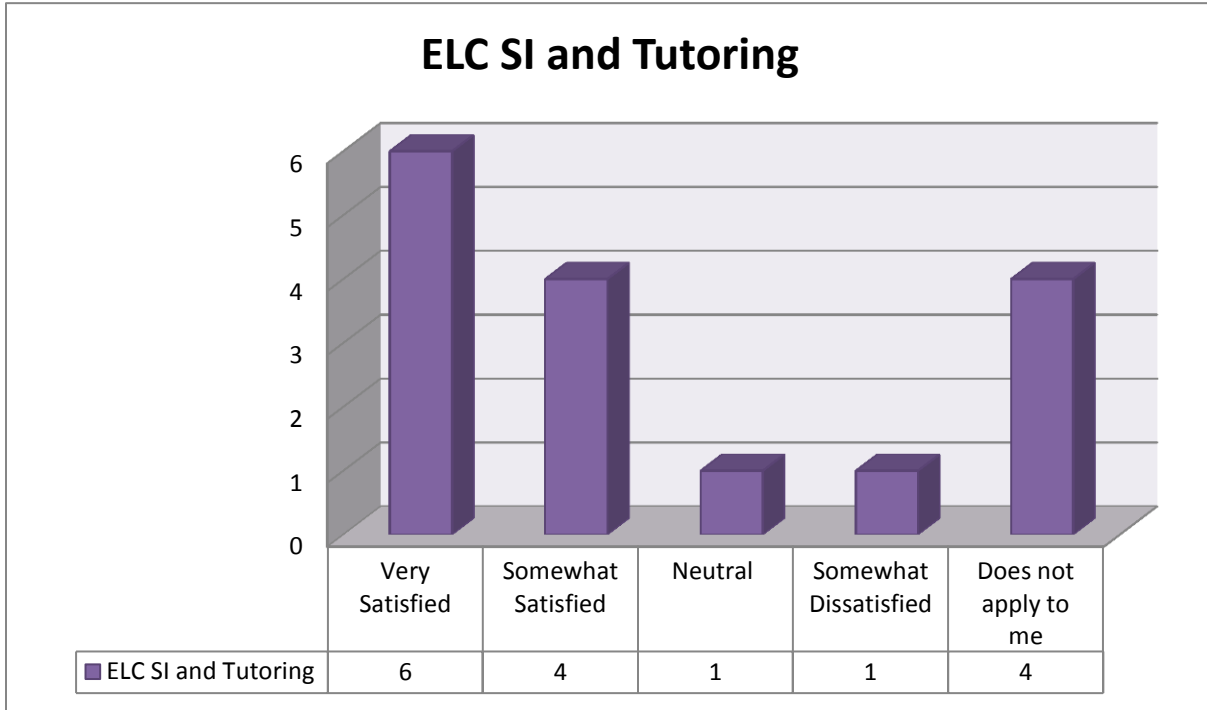
I got help when I needed and it was always available.

He was very nice and helpful to me.

Answered: 16

Skipped 2

Q5 (PAPSS University Students) Please rate your level of satisfaction with Supplemental Instruction and Tutoring managed by the Enhanced Learning Center (ELC).



It is very good at teaching alone than when you were performing activities should cover all papps
 SILC is the best place to learn Academic English well.

well, it is not satisfactory, because the people that given us the instruction. they are a little disordered.

I didn't attend that much to the ELC. The times that I went they help me, but sometimes they couldn't answer my questions.

Patty is the best

Patty has always been great at assigning tutors to those who need extra help with classes. This is really important for our success.

Answered: 16

Skipped 2

Q6 What topics would you prefer for PAPSS group meetings?

housing, academics, economics

Life in USA.

Que nos expliquen bien el modo de pagar las atenciones del lugar (Please clearly explain how to pay for accommodations.)

Culture shock

I would like to talk more about how to meet Panamanian culture better in the U.S.A

How to success or maybe how to improve as a college students. Topics that contain motivation.

about of education, ,environment, and project

I would prefer for PAPSS group meetings topics about our experiences and how we got here?.

Improvements and strategies to magnify this group of fellows and publicize our Panamanian culture.

Encouragement for a good performance

I dont have a specific topic

Culture

relacionado a juegos , actividades culturales , cenas etc (games, cultural activities, dinners, etc.)

Honor College American societies clubs at the university

PAPSS' upcoming activities that are concern of everyone would be a good topic tot alk about.

Upcoming trips. Internship opportunities.

Answered: 16

Skipped 2

Q7 Please let us know what social events and recreational field trips you prefer to participate in.

Walk I like to see new places, important places to go, meet traditions and cultures of a country, I would like to visit other states and learn more about the United States, mainly the White House in Washington

Trips to other cities and states.

Giras a otros estados (Trips to other states)

all of them lol

I prefer to participate in involving Panamanian culture here in the U.S.A to meet to another people how is my culture

Outdoor trips.

I love volunteering, sports, arts and Olympics

Tours around US, where we can visit other states and why no, make panamanian activities or events.

Cultural folklore Activities, social work, donations. Meet new states and learn more about the history and geography of the United States.

I would like to participate in trips around US with PAPPs groups

Trips Meeting

en todos despues que halla hermandad y convivencia (Everything as long as there is brotherhood and coexistence.)

I would prefer cultural and recreative trips

Traveling through the U.S. to know other interesting places.

I prefer to participate in trips.

Answered: 16

Skipped 2

PAPSS Demographics

PAPSS Enrollment 1139-1146		Group 1 26			Group 2 6			Group 3 26			Group 4 33		
University of Arkansas	Term	Total	Credit Hours		Total	Credit Hours		Total	Credit Hours		Total	Credit Hours	
	University of Arkansas	1139	20	12-18 Hours		2	12-18 Hours		0	-		0	-
		5	7 Hours		4	7 Hours		0	-		0	-	
1143		26	12-18 Hours		6	12-18 Hours		0	-		0	-	
1146		26	3-12 Hours		6	3-12 Hours		2	3-12 Hours		0	-	
SILC Enrollment	Term	Total	Term 1	Term 2	Total	Term 1	Term 2	Total	Term 1	Term 2	Total	Term 1	Term 2
	1139	5	Part Time		4	Part Time		0	-		0	-	
		1	Full-Time		0	Full-Time							
	1143	0	-		0	-		26	Full-Time		0	-	
1146	0	-		0	-		24	Full-Time		33	Full-Time		
Major		Group 1	Male	Female	Group 2	Male	Female	Group 3	Male	Female	Group 4	Male	Female
	Animal Science	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-
Biological Engineering	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biomedical Engineering	5	1	4	-	-	-	3	2	1	3	1	2	
Chemical Engineering	5	4	1	1	-	1	2	2	-	3	1	2	
Civil Engineering	2	-	2	1	1	-	6	3	3	8	5	3	
Community Health Promotion	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	
Computer Engineering	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	
Electrical Engineering	3	3	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	5	3	2	
Food Science	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	
Industrial Engineering	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	2	1	-	-	-	
Information Systems	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	1	
Mechanical Engineering	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	
Music Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Psychology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Physics	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	
Supply Chain Management	7	3	4	-	-	-	3	-	3	2	1	1	
Undeclared/ Engineering	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	2	
		26	13	13	6	3	3	26	16	10	33	19	14