

PRE-ACADEMIC PROGRAM FOR SENACYT SCHOLARS (PAPSS)
ANNUAL REPORT FY 2015-2016

Graduate School and International Education



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Jorge A. Motta, Executive Secretary of SENACYT
Lynn A. Mosesso, Director of International Recruitment and Admissions

FROM: Mayra G. Torres, Associate Director of Special Programs

SUBJECT: Pre-Academic Program for SENACYT Scholars (PAPSS)
Annual Report FY 2015-16

DATE: June 20, 2016

Introduction

This report describes the work accomplished under the Pre-Academic Program for SENACYT Scholars (PAPSS) during project period June 2015-May 2016. 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: 108 (18 new scholars)
 - Group 1 & 2- 32 students enrolled full-time at the University of Arkansas during the 2015-2016 academic year. We are proud, as five student are on course to graduate December, 2016.
 - Kimberly Alfaro Ortiz
 - David Carballo Rojas
 - Layseen Chen Torres
 - Edgar Escala Calame
 - Jonathan Quiel Madrid
 - Group 3- 25 students enrolled full-time at the University of Arkansas
 - Group 4- 33 students enrolled full-time at the University of Arkansas

Group 5- 16 students enrolled full-time at the University of Arkansas, 1 enrolled part time at Spring International Language Center (SILC) and part time at the University of Arkansas, during the spring 2016 term, and 1 enrolled full time at SILC during the spring 2016 term

2) Partnership and budget management

- Michael Rau was hired as Student Support Coordinator for the PAPSS program.
- Valeria Quiroga served as PAPSS Graduate Assistant.
- PAPSS staff submitted official transcripts, enrollment verification, Pat Walker Health Center insurance receipt, and enrollment summary for summer 2015, fall 2015 and spring 2016 to SENACYT/IFARHU for all scholars.
- Melissa Jean Erwin, financial manager, maintained the program budget, and posted payments on student accounts.
- University of Arkansas provided loans to students who received late SENACYT payments.

Goals for 2016-2017

- Facilitate new PAPSS, cohort 6, enrollment at SILC and the University of Arkansas.
- Assist PAPSS 1 as they prepare to graduate either December 2016 or May 2017.
- Continue to serve PAPSS students and sponsor

3) Scholar orientation and academic adjustment

- Twenty-one (21) scholars attended the University of Arkansas International student Orientation.
- Michael Rau maintained the University of Arkansas PAPSS Program Facebook. The program used an email newsletter "PAPSS Newslink," [University of Arkansas 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: chemistry, calculus I, II and III, physics, business law, data analysis, and principals of accounting.
- PAPSS partnered with the Freshman Engineering Program (FEP) to offer peer mentoring.
- Group 5 scholars were matched with currently enrolled Group 1 and 2 scholars through the PAPSS Peer Mentor Program.
- Valeria Quiroga conducted an Organizational Management and Preparing for finals workshop.

4) Scholar progress and recognition

- Ten (10) Scholars were enrolled in Phase I & II full-time at Spring International Language Center, as of fall 2015.
- Ninety- eight (98) 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 549 hours during the summer term, 2015, 1396 hours during the fall term, 2015 and 1648 hours during the spring term, 2016.
- PAPSS scholars are highly involved on campus. Some have received several awards.

Club Involvement, Awards and Nominations:

Miguel Abrego- National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Kimberly Alfaro- Summer 2015 Internship in Farmazona, Colon

Daniela Arauz- Fall 2015 Panamanian Student Organization Vice president , Panamanian Immersion leader Award, spring 2015 Outstanding Student Mentor Award, fall 2014 Arkansas Traveler Award, spring 2015 International Culture Team Certificate of Appreciation for participation during the 2014 - 2015 academic year, International Culture Team Certificate of Appreciation for participation during Spring 2013

Agustin Caceres- PAPSS student Mentor, Supplemental Instruction Leader

David Carballo- 2015 Outstanding Electrical Engineering Sophomore of the Year, RSO Member of the Month, Supplemental Instruction Leader

Layseen Chen- Certificate for Excellent Evaluations, National Society of Collegiate scholars, spring 2016 Supply Chain 2nd place Denver competition winner, International Student Organization event Leader

Mauricellis Diaz- Panamanian Immersion Leader, University of Arkansas Latin Ensemble Singer (2015), Panamanian Student Organization president fall 2015-spring 2015

Edgar Escala- Supplemental Instruction Leader, PAPSS Peer Mentor

Jonathan Quiel- Tutor, PAPSS Peer Mentor, Case Competition participant in Orlando, Florida

Yahisa Troya- PAPSS Peer Mentor

Isaac Vargas- PAPSS Peer Mentor, Supplemental Instruction Leader, Arkansas Traveler Award

Luis Villareal- PAPSS Peer Mentor

Bolivar Gonzalez- Transportation Leader 21 Centuries Secretary, Undergraduate Research Assistant

Miguel De Lora- Tutor, PAPSS Peer Mentor, Supplemental Instruction Leader

Rolando Morales- PAPSS Peer Mentor, Honor Society of Mechanical Engineers Pi Tau Sigma, Member and Program Chair of the Honor Society of Engineers Tau Beta Pi

Esteban Miranda- Panamanian Student Organization President fall 2015-spring 2016

John Navarro- Panamanian Student Organization Secretary fall 2015-spring 2016

Anazaria Ortega- Supplemental Instruction Leader

Blanca Pereira- Alpha Lambda Beta Honor Society

Hilario Rojas- Spring International Student Council member, 2014 Mentee of the Month for the Freshman Engineering Program

Edgardo Sanchez- Panamanian Student Organization Treasurer

Enrique Sanchez- Tutor

Suellen Ayala- Panamanian Student Organization Social Chair

Rebecca Gonzalez- Recognition of International Ambassador given by the International Culture Team

Leonides Moreno-Selected Emerging Leader Facilitator spring 2016

Jose Santos- Participated in intramurals league 2014

Juanybeth Morales- Spring International Student Council member

Jose Serrano- Spring International Student Council member

Manuel Vega- Lab of memory and communication Research Assistant fall 2015-spring 2016, Alpha Lambda Delta recipient

Dean List Fall 2015

Joel Rodriguez Troncoso
 Julio Torres Solano
 Isaac Vargas Lopez
 David Carballo Rojas
 Layseen Chen Torres
 Katherine Del Cid Palma
 Noelis Gutierrez Lezcano
 Jose Isaac Santos Batista
 Edgar Soriano Somarriba

Honors College

Miguel Abrego
 David Carballo
 Rolando Ortega
 Juan Martinez
 Jean Morales
 Anazaria Ortega
 Hilario Rodriguez
 Ana Guerra
 Roderick Gomez
 Jose Santos
 Edgar Soriano
 Alexis Jimenez
 Agustin Caceres

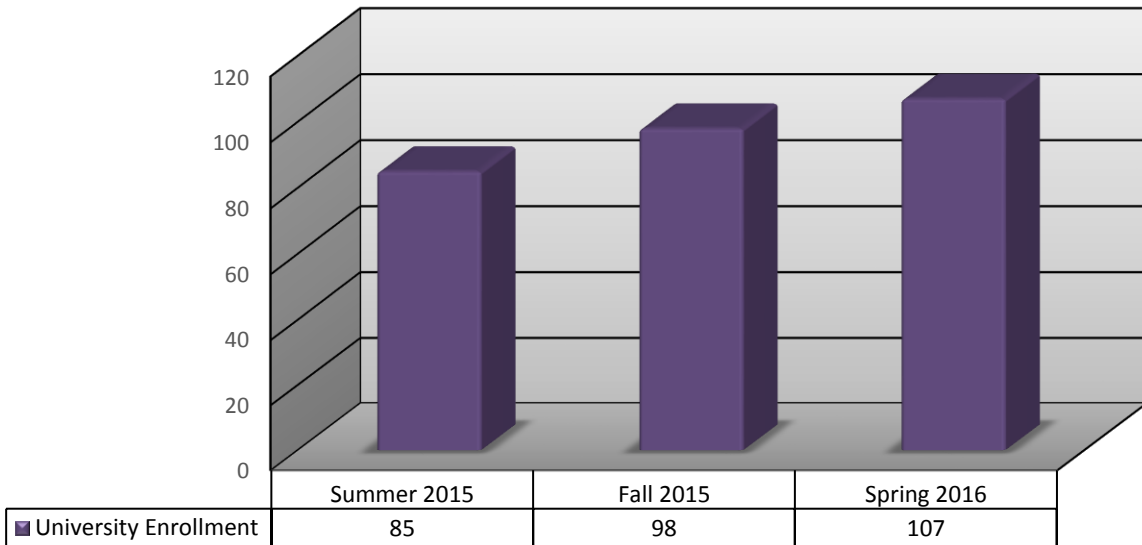
After the end of each semester, all colleges/ schools in the university publish an honor roll of the names of the undergraduate students who achieve a 3.75 to 4.00 grade-point average. Students are eligible for the honor roll if they are carrying at least 12 semester hours normally required for graduation by their college for their respective year. This honor roll is the Dean's List.

Chancellors List

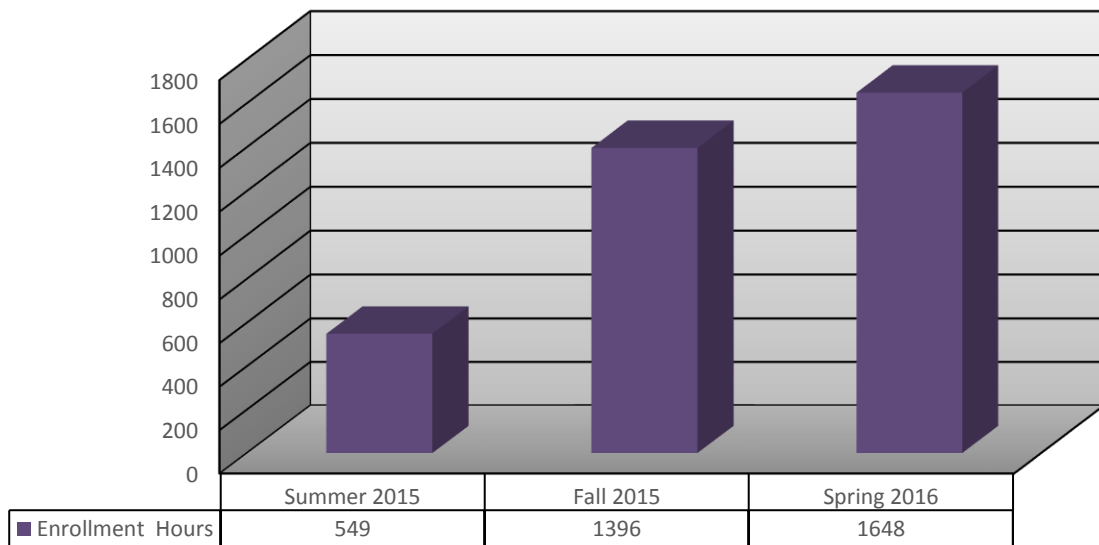
Suellen Ayala Rojas
 David Carballo Rojas
 Layseen Chen Torres
 Roderick Gomez Jimenez
 Kenia Mitre Herrera
 Laury Quiel Lopez
 Jonathan Quiel Madrid
 Joel Rodriguez Troncoso

The **Chancellor's List** is published each semester and recognizes those undergraduate students who achieve a 4.00 grade-point average. Students must also be carrying at least 12 semester hours normally required for graduation to be **eligible for the chancellor's list**.

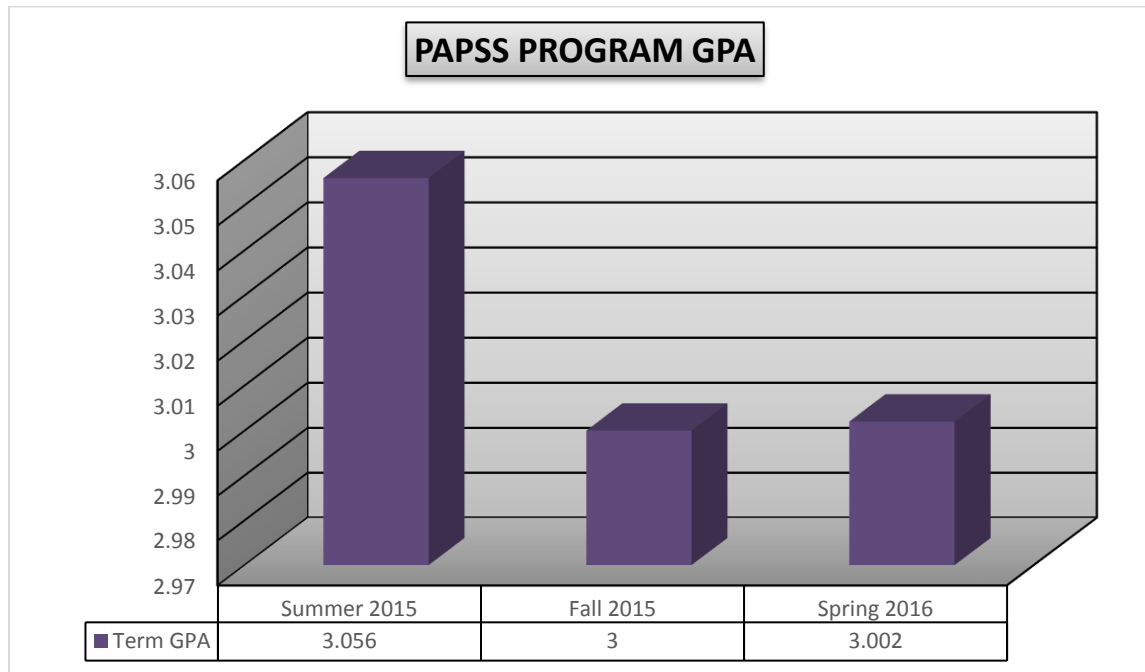
PAPSS ENROLLMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY



ENROLLMENT HOURS



- PAPSS scholars maintained an average 3.02 GPA. PAPSS Scholars maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.12 for the spring term, 2016. 35.5% maintained a 3.50 GPA or higher (38 of 107); while 20.5% have lower than a 3.50 but higher than a 3.00 cumulative GPA (22 of 107) after the spring term, 2016.



- Scholar academic progress was monitored using UA Success, 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, supplemental instruction or SILC helpdesk.

5) Campus and community programming

- Eighteen (18) scholars attended the fall break socio-cultural activity to Branson, Missouri, November 24, 2015. The trip was coordinated by Michael Rau and included the Butterfly Palace and Silver Dollar city.
- Thirty (30) scholars attended the spring break trip to Atlanta on March 22, 2016. The trip included the World of Coca-Cola, Sky view Atlanta, Georgia Aquarium, National History museum and Civil Rights museum.
- PAPSS Scholars performed Panamanian Folkloric dances in traditional costumes and hair ornaments at various functions and events.
- PAPSS Scholars engaged in the following activities:
 - Lazer Tag- Sept. 19, 2015 and Nov. 7, 2015
 - Painting with a Twist- Dec. 12, 2015 and Feb. 20, 2016
 - Nightmares Haunted House- Oct. 9 & 16, 2015
 - Drive Thru Safari- March 5, 2016
 - The Escape Room- Jan. 30, 2016 and Mar. 12, 2016
 - Ride the Ducks & Branson Landing- April 9, 2016

6) Program Evaluation

Scholars filled out a survey to determine overall satisfaction after the spring term, 2016. This evaluation will direct continuous improvement for the 2016-17 academic year. Data was captured using Survey Monkey online via an email and web link sent directly to 108 scholars with a return rate of 56% (61 complete).

The survey included six multiple choice questions and three 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 2014-2015

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

We are overcoming the communication barrier and every day we see more PAPSS involve in on/off campus activities

their patience

opportunities of getting involved in many activities

The organization

The trips that are organized by Michael.

Meetings

The opportunity to meet people and get involved in activities.

I like that The University of Arkansas is very inclusive and accepts diversity which allows International students to develop ideas in diverse areas.

They are always willing to help

I like its people.

Is the best opportunity someone can have.

The availability and helpfulness of the program

Their hard work to assist all PAPSS students

It's has been helpful to have support and that makes you feel that you are not alone.

advising

The understanding about our failures.

Mentor Program, but it should be improved

To improve communication with students. Before any change that affect us ask for our opinions

I like the Supplemental instruction and tutoring since they help me to understand the material of my classes.

Mike's cookies

The effectiveness and fastness with you provide help

I feel support by awesome people that I know I can go and ask question and seek for advise

PAPSS: Activities. UofA: Diversity, organizations, activities.

I like the coordination

I like that I can always go to Mayra for advice or just talk about how things are going with my academic life.

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

Try to put together students with the same affinities. Introduce professionals that studied the same careers that PAPSS are talking so that we can be in touch with people who have succeeded in the same careers we chose

to have more workshops

more tutors for junior year students

making meeting with Americans

Since my Freshman year I have been insanely trying to get an internship, but since I'm not American, my options for internships are exponentially reduced. It'd be really cool if you guys could like set networking events with companies interested in hiring international students

The PAPSS needs to improve the communication with SENACYT/IFARHU, which is our sponsored. Due to different reasons, I consider that this improvement is an urgent necessity.

To look more after student's academic work

Mandatory one time/semester one to one meetings

Create more interesting activities

Having mentors for "the hardest" courses in each major.

more trips with different people because everyone who sign first are always the same, and there are others like me that have only been in one trip during the whole semester. So, I don't think that is fair, and also there should not be preferences when choosing the people that are going to participate.

Please pay account on times this system is very bad. You wait until the last minute to pay even though SENACYT already gave you the money.

papss has to improve how they select people to big trips. They are not distributed fairly. Many people just went to one trip and others more than 2.

make peer mentor selection a more transparent process and make sure if they do their work

Taking into account all students whenever there is an activity no matter their grades

Ways to keep students engaged with study. Help them love study

I think that the program is in the right path

More tutors for engineering classes

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

A class in which all the terminology was new for me

to manage my time

organizing

Social elective classes

Being able to prioritize, I was house manager in my fraternity, Freshman engineering program peer mentor, Spanish conversation partner, as well as I'd go to meeting of societies and rso's. While doing all this I tried to get as many A's as possible. I kind of know that did very well, but I would have gotten straight A's if I prioritized since the beginning of the semester

Keep up with my classes and the challenges my professors have been throwing at us as engineering students

My junior and senior classes. There is not tutor.

My biggest challenge this semester has been taking two sophomores courses regarding my major and being actively participating in extracurricular activities. Furthermore, I could not find tutors or help for those course in the enhanced learning center (Class +). Although those course are about my major, it would have been better to have tutors or SI while taking these courses.

To get used to the University

being more involve

Writing papers

Manage my time properly

Communication with other people

Waking up or staying awake in class

math

Keeping up with all the responsibilities that I put on my plate.

Health issues

Computer organization class.

Organization. Time management. Motivation.

Trying to find a job on campus

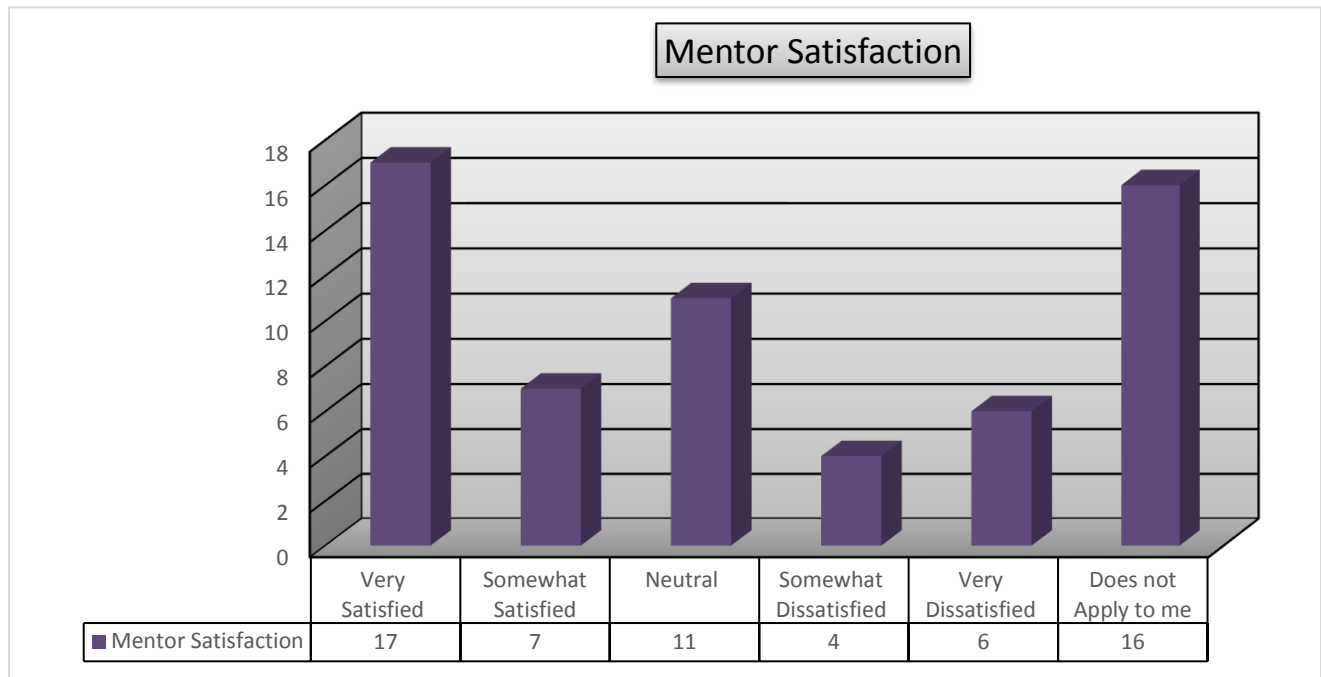
Work in groups with Americans

Keep good grades

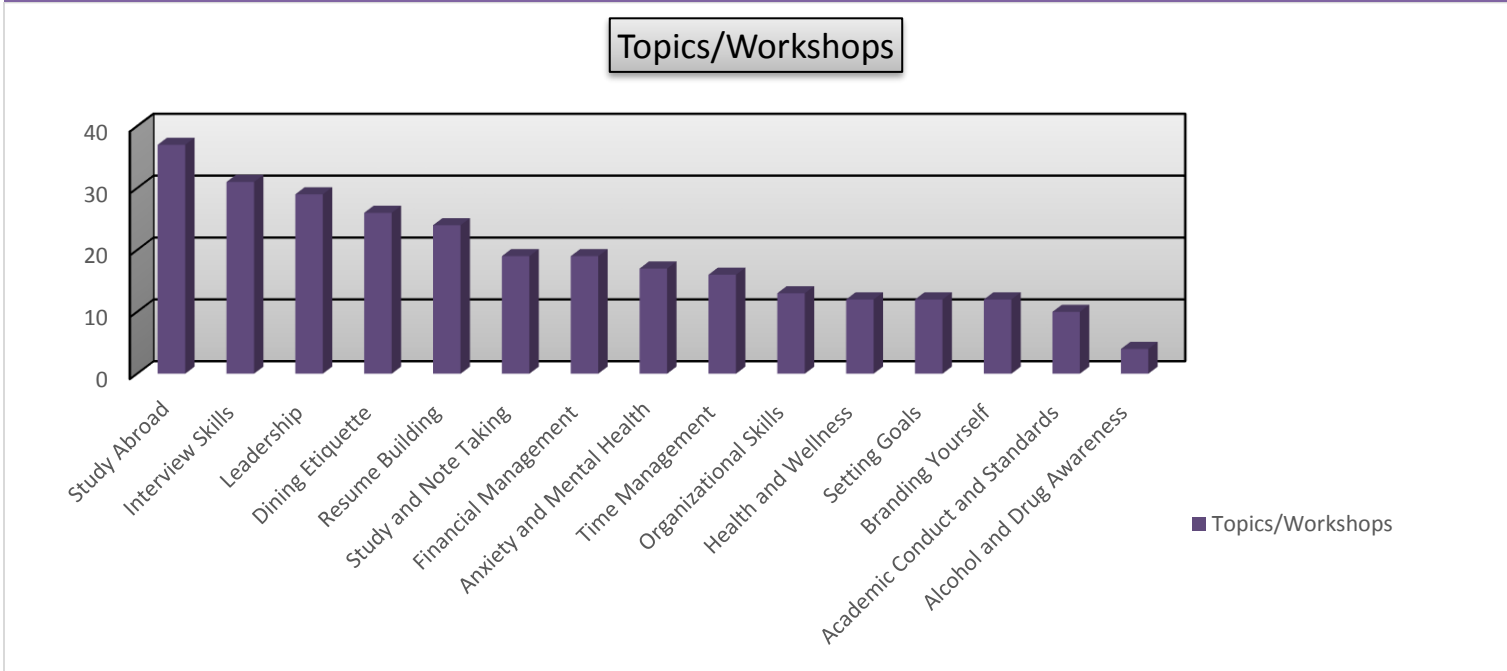
Organic Chemistry II

Time

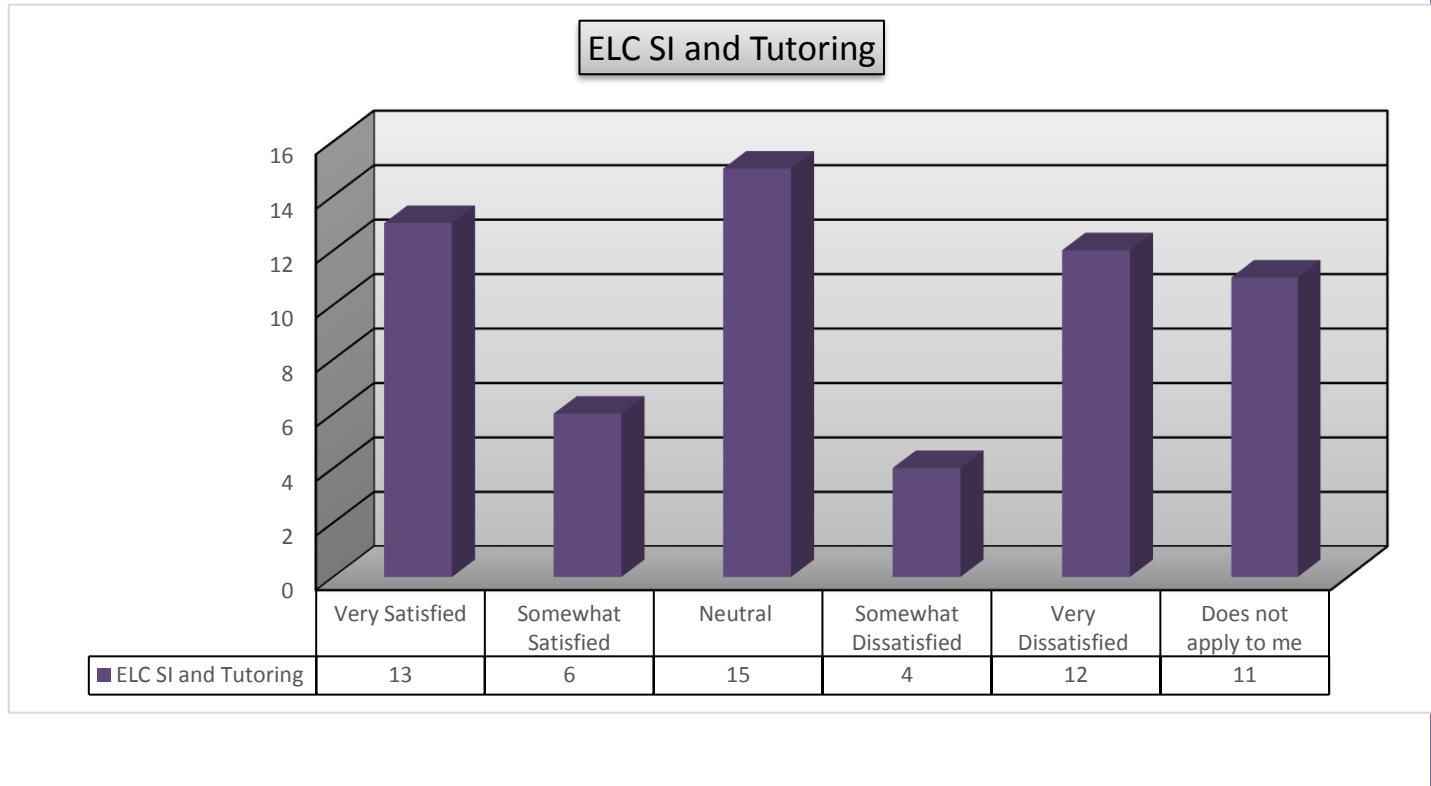
Q4 (PAPSS University Students) Please rate your level of satisfaction with your Mentor



Q5 What topics would you prefer for PAPSS group meetings?



Q6 (PAPSS University Students) Please rate your level of satisfaction with Supplemental Instruction and Tutoring managed by the Enhanced Learning Center (ELC).



PAPSS DEMOGRAPHICS

PAPSS Enrollment	Group 1 (26)		Group 2 (6)		Group 3 (25)		Group 4 (33)		Group 5 (18)	
	Total	Credit hours	Total	Credit hours	Total	Credit Hours	Total	Credit Hours	Total	Credit Hours
University of Arkansas										
Term 1156	26	157	6	48	3	15	0	0	0	0
Term 1159	26	341	6	77	18	172	0	0	0	0
Term 1163	26	320	6	72	23	307	12	188	0	0
SILC Enrollment	Total	Term 1/Term 2	Total	Term 1/ Term 2	Total	Term 1/ Term 2	Total	Term 1/ Term 2	Total	Term 1/ Term 2
Term 1156	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	Full Time	18	Full Time
Term 1159	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Full Time	9	Full Time
Term 1163	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Full Time
Major	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Agriculture Crop Science	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Animal Science	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Biological Engineering	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Biology	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Biomedical Engineering	1	4	0	0	2	1	0	2	2	1
Chemical Engineering	4	1	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	0
Civil Engineering	0	1	1	0	3	3	4	3	1	3
Community Health Promotion	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Computer Engineering	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	0
Communication	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Electrical Engineering	2	0	0	0	2	0	6	2	1	3
Environmental, Soil and Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Food Human Nutrition and Hospitality	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Science	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Engineering	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Information Systems	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mechanical Engineering	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Music Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Psychology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Physics	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Supply Chain Management	2	4	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	1
	13	13	3	3	15	10	19	14	7	11