

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM (SSSP)

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SERVICES
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
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WHO WE ARE

The Student Support Services Program (SSSP) is a small, community-oriented program, funded by a federal TRIO grant from the U.S. Department of Education. SSSP is dedicated to working with students who are among the first-generation in their families to go to college and those who have overcome significant barriers to attend college. Our program promotes academic success by providing students advising, tutoring, peer mentoring, off-campus activities and workshops. We affirm students' personal goals and career aspirations as they strive to dream, persevere and succeed in college and beyond.

HOW WE HELP

- **Academic Achievement:** Our academic advisors offer individualized support, recognizing that success looks different to everyone, to help you navigate Brandeis. We offer tailored services including: academic advising, career/graduate school planning and financial education. We also provide comprehensive academic support with free peer tutoring and interactive workshops.
- **Campus Connections:** We cultivate students' sense of belonging within the Brandeis community by encouraging you to establish meaningful relationships with your peers and professors. We also serve as a bridge to University resources and link students with campus faculty and staff who can meet their needs. Our peer mentors provide personalized support to guide you through your first semester or year in the program.
- **Community Engagement:** We aim to broaden students' horizons by exposing them to new cultural, social, and professional experiences, interactive workshops, and leadership opportunities. Our Student Leadership Board evokes pride in our diverse community by celebrating students' achievements and endeavors.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Our team of advisors can assist you with course selection, major exploration & selection, understanding the University's academic policies & processes. We help you identify your interests, values, and academic skills, and connect with resources on campus. You can schedule an appointment by contacting an SSSP Staff Member.

OUR TEAM

Chelsea Green

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DREAM. PERSEVERE. SUCCEED.

MENTORING

SSSP students entering their first semester or year at Brandeis are matched with an upper-class SSSP student who has committed to assisting you as you acclimate to the academic rigors and campus culture at Brandeis University. Your peer mentor will serve as a coach, support system, resource guide, and most importantly, a friend. Their guidance is helpful as they too, were once a first-year.

TUTORING

We hire more than 20 Peer Tutors, and Graduate Assistants to help you in writing, math, science, world languages, study skills and other challenging classes. Students in SSSP request tutors at the beginning of each semester, and they are matched with a peer who tutors them to their individualized needs and learning styles. This is done in a one-on-one, or small group session format. A free service that can help you reach your fullest potential!

CAREER PLANNING

In SSSP, we have systems in place to help you strategically think about your career trajectory based on your interests, strengths, and abilities. We encourage you to talk with your SSSP Advisor for assistance with:

- Developing a resume
- Cover letter writing
- Identifying internship and job opportunities
- Mock interviewing

COMPUTER LAB

Our computer lab is a space reserved for study and meeting for SSSP students. In the lab you will have access to:

- Mac computers
- Free printing
- A device charging station
- Individual white boards

Laptops are also available to borrow for an extended period of time. The lab is open from 6:30AM-1:30AM via card access. This is a shared space with the Myra Kraft Achievers Program.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

We provide answers to questions about everyday financial literacy topics, financial aid, finding scholarships, and can connect you with Student Financial Services for textbook assistance and applying for financial aid.

GRADUATE SCHOOL PREPARATION

In addition to planning trips to schools within the New England area, and visits from graduate school representatives, SSSP staff can help you:

- Decide which educational path is right for you
- Research and apply to programs
- Compose a personal statement
- Provide resources for GRE, MCAT or LSAT
- Understand/complete admission requirements
- Apply for graduate school financial aid
- Request recommendations
- Attend professional school/graduate school fairs

RESOURCE LIBRARY

Our Resource Library is located in the SSSP Computer lab and includes a variety of textbooks, novels and graduate test taking prep books, including GRE, GMAT, MCAT and LSAT. All of our books are available for sign out.

CULTURAL & ACADEMIC TRIPS

We foster student's knowledge and broaden their horizons by offering them opportunities to attend cultural enrichment activities such as dance performances (Alvin Ailey Dance Theater), world-renowned plays, local museums, conferences, rock climbing, kayaking, and much more! We understand the importance of providing our students experiences to develop them into well-rounded scholars and people. These activities are always free of charge.

WORKSHOPS

Our program offers SSSP scholars a variety of workshops including, but not limited to:

- Professional networking
- Academic studying skills
- Financial Literacy
- Interviewing skills

WHAT IS TRIO?

TRIO is a network of programs funded through grants from the U.S. Department of Education. TRIO programs were established in 1965 to promote access to and success in higher education for first-generation and low-income students. Nationwide, there are over 1000 Student Support Services Programs. Other TRIO programs include the McNair Scholars Program, Upward Bound, Talent Search, and more. Eligibility for programs is determined by federal guidelines.