



Making Waves College & Career Success Program Update

MWA Board Meeting | June 10, 2024

Making Waves Education Foundation College and Career Success Program



What are the benefits of the college and career success program?



Wave-Makers get personalized support with a college coach. Our college coaches provide inspiration and guidance for navigating the college journey – from choosing a major and mapping a path to timely graduation to setting goals and building relationships.



Wave-Makers earn their college degree, debt free. Our college financial coordinators help keep scholarship, financial aid, and college budgeting on track. Program participants from MWA are awarded an annual \$5,000 need-based scholarship for up to six years following high school graduation.



Wave-Makers get hands-on guidance to launch their career. Our career advisors help students hone their skills, explore career options, network, pursue internships, prepare job/ grad school applications, and practice interviews.



Wave-Makers join a community of college Wave-Makers. With over 400 college students and 750 alumni, students get connected with a network of peers who are passionate about their education, careers, and communities.

How do students join the program?

All MWA students who are interested in attending four-year college or community college after high school can apply to join the program during their senior year of high school. The application opens in February, and students are selected based on the following criteria:

Category	Criteria
Academics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum 2.0 High school GPA• On track to complete A-G requirements (completion verified post-program selection)• On track to earn high school diploma (completion verified post-program selection)
College Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submitted application(s) to 2-year and/or 4-year colleges for the upcoming academic year.• College admittance (verified post-program selection)
Financial Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAFSA completion
College Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Purpose</u>: A compelling personal “why” for pursuing college• <u>Resilience</u>: Passion and perseverance for long-term goals, including managing through failure
Program Fit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Interdependence</u>: Student reflection on how they think they could benefit from the program, including college coaching, scholarship and financial planning support, and career preparation• <u>Self-Awareness</u>: Student reflection on their own needs, feelings, and motivation as it relates to college



MWA College Graduation Outcomes by School Type



Estimated College Completion (ECC) Rates

What is it?

An ECC rate is a weighted average of the graduation rates of the colleges in which a cohort of students enroll the first fall following high school graduation. In our context, we use the colleges' **Pell Grant recipient graduation rate** within 150 percent of normal time, as a representation of the graduation rate of students from low-income backgrounds.

Why is it important?

ECC rates provide an indication of the quality of a college and enable us to predict the likelihood a group of students will graduate from the colleges in which they enroll. They also provide a quasi-counterfactual against which we can assess the impact of our program.



MWA College Graduation Outcome Data Trends

- **MWA-12 and MWA-13 students who started at a 4-year college have great outcomes** – both compared to their ECCs and benchmarking nationally. Nationally, 40% of low-income, first-gen students who start at a 4-year finish in 6 years; and these two Waves graduated at a rate over 25 percentage points higher.
- **We start to see a dip in outcomes for students who started at a 4-year college starting with MWA-14.** Based on Waves' progress to date we are projecting further declines with MWA-15 and MWA-16, too. Important to note, these are Waves whose experience was heavily impacted by COVID-19 as they were in their 1st, 2nd, 3rd year in college when the pandemic hit.
- Except for MWA 13, **community college cohorts have a harder time persevering through attainment of either an AA or a BA degree.** This is a nationwide challenge with community college students, and our program continues to implement new strategies to foster greater success.



MWA Waves ECC v. Graduation Rates: Wave-Makers who Started at 4-Year Colleges

MWA students who completed the college and career success program AND students who started but exited the college and career success program before college graduation – earned BA degree within 6 years

Wave	Wave Size	# Grads	Grad Rate	ECC	Points Above ECC	Cumulative Grad Rate	Cumulative ECC	Points Above ECC
MWA-12	46	31 + 1	70%	61%	9 pts	70%	61%	9 pts
MWA-13	45	31 + 3	76%	65%	11 pts	73%	63%	10 pts
MWA-14	57	30 + 3	58%	57%	1 pt	67%	60%	7 pts



Wave-Makers who Enroll at Community Colleges

Piloting group coaching with incoming MWA-21 community college students

Why? Students' sense of belonging is associated with improved academic outcomes, accessing resources, persistence, and is protective for mental health. This is particularly important for first-gen students from low-income backgrounds who might question whether college is for them.

Programming Focus: Partnering with your Coach and Peers towards Community Building and Persistence

- Setting an educational goal and mapping out courses to achieve it within 2-3 years
- Building a sense of belonging and community amongst each other, to MWEF, and on their campus
- Career exploration and preparing for work experience

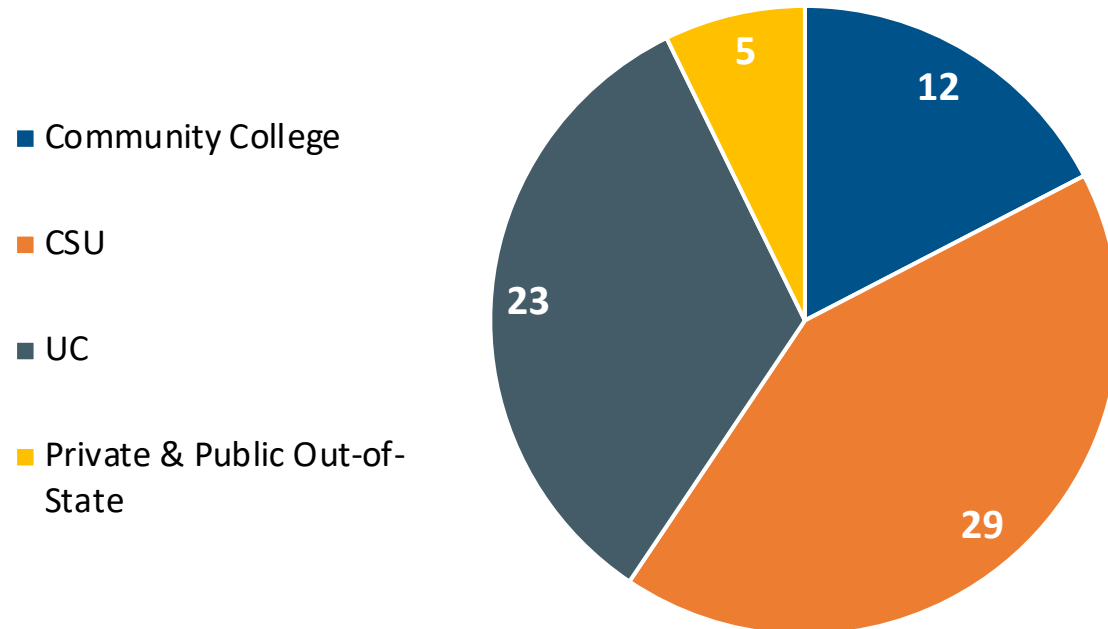


Welcoming Incoming Wave MWA-21!



Incoming MWA-21 College and Career Success Program Cohort

69 Wave-Makers accepted, representing 86% of the eligible graduating high school class



- 45% committed to **Hispanic Serving Institutions**
- **2 Ivy League commitments to Columbia University and Harvard University**
- **3 committed to UC Berkeley, 6 committed to UC Davis, 1 committed to UCLA, 7 committed to UC Santa Cruz**
- **8 committed to CSU Sacramento, 6 committed to San Francisco State, and 6 committed to Cal State East Bay**
- **10 committed to Contra Costa College**



Thank you