

This Month's Topic: Use of Priority Registration by Students in Categorical Programs

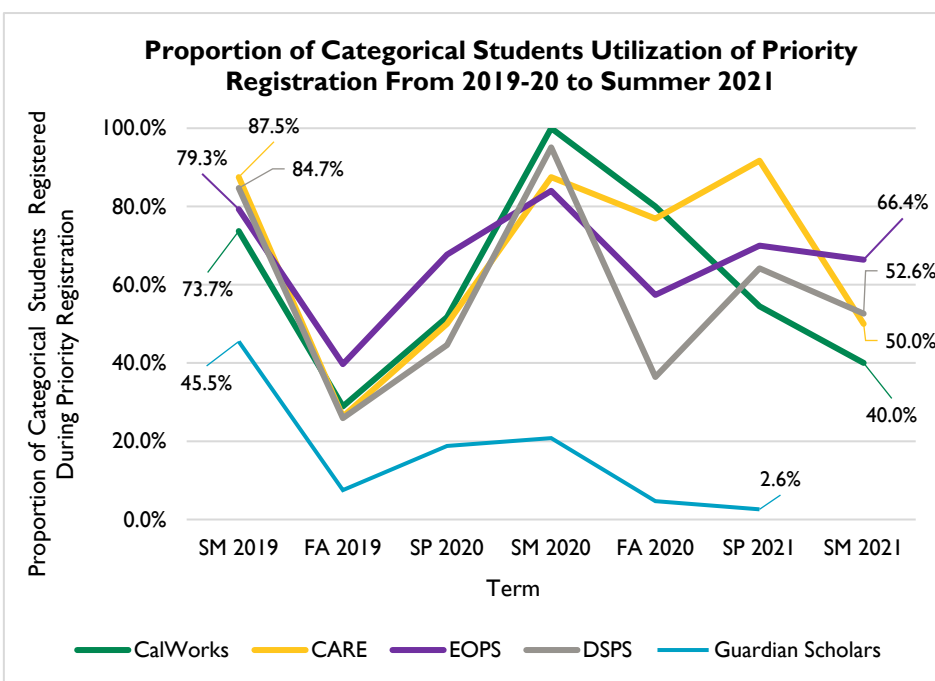
The Dean of Student Equity and Success submitted a request to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research & Planning aimed to answer the research question, "How many categorical program students are taking advantage of priority registration?" This DYK covers the proportion of categorical students that registered during the priority period for the past seven terms (i.e., 2019-20 through Summer 2021) for the following five categorical programs: California Work Opportunities & Opportunities to Kids ([CalWorks](#)), Cooperative Agencies Resource for Education ([CARE](#)), Extended Opportunity Programs and Services ([EOPS](#)), Disabled Student Programs and Services ([DSPS](#)), and [Guardian Scholars](#) (i.e., Foster Youth). For tables including the number of categorical students that registered during priority registration and the total number of categorical students in each program please see the [research brief](#) related to this request.

Methodology

Informer was used to report on the number of categorical program students that registered during the priority period for each term. Informer was also used to report on the total number of categorical students in CalWorks, EOPS, and CARE. [California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Data Mart](#) was used to report on the total number of categorical students for DSPS and Guardian Scholars (i.e., Foster Youth). Data was pulled from these sources on the following days 10/19/21, 10/28/21, 10/29/21, and 11/01/21. Please note student involvement in these categorical programs is not mutually exclusive (e.g., DSPS student can also be Guardian Scholar).

Findings

- CalWorks, CARE, EOPS, and DSPS all observed an increase in the proportion of categorical students that registered during priority registration when comparing Fall 2019 to Fall 2020 and Spring 2020 to Spring 2021.
- Specifically, the proportion of categorical students for CalWorks that registered during the priority period increased from 29% in Fall 2019 to 80% in Fall 2020, a 51-percentage point difference.
- Additionally, the proportion of categorical students for CARE that registered during priority registration increased from 50% in Spring 2020 to 92% in Spring 2021, a 42-percentage point difference.
- CalWorks, CARE, EOPS, and DSPS' proportion of categorical students that registered during priority registration for Summer 2019 ranged from 74% to 88% (with an average of 81%). The exception to this was Guardian Scholars (i.e., Foster Youth) which observed the lowest proportion of categorical students that registered during priority registration for Summer 2019 (46%).



Next Steps

- The Dean of Student Equity and Success has shared plans to focus on increasing the number of categorical students who take advantage of priority registration, particularly with respect to the Guardian Scholars program. In fact, the efforts to track and respond to these findings will constitute a Service Area Outcome (SAO) for each of the aforementioned categorical programs, helping to ensure that a greater proportion of students participating in these programs are able to take full advantage of priority registration.