



MESA ENGINEERING PROGRAM (MEP)

The MEP is an academic program that supports educationally disadvantaged students to attain four-year degrees in engineering or computer science. The MEP's rigorous academics, leadership preparation, and collaborative problem-solving training produce highly skilled graduates who meet industry's technology workforce needs and who help drive the state's economy. MEP centers are located at UC, CSU and independent university campuses.

The MEP establishes a peer community for its students to help reinforce academic achievement. This community provides students, most of whom are first in their family to go to college, with mutual support and motivation. The academic peer community is a major element that sets MEP apart from other programs.

Given its state budget cutbacks, MESA has been unable to fully fund the MEP. However, MESA received a one-time grant from the California Utilities Diversity Council that provides for some college retention support and paid internships. MESA continues to seek additional resources for this important program and is hopeful that state funding will be restored to the MEP in the future. Meanwhile, MEP centers receive the majority of funds from their host institutions and receive additional support from local industry partners.

The main components of the MEP include:

The Student Study Center, a dedicated multipurpose space for study and special workshops.

Academic Excellence Workshops, where students are clustered in the same core math and science classes, then taught how to deepen their understanding of complex key concepts through group study.

Orientation courses for freshmen and transfers that teach college survival skills to incoming majors.

Career advising for students to learn more about different engineering opportunities. Field trips, job fair information, job shadowing exercises, and industry mentors are available to students.

Links with student and professional organizations such as the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), which provide mentors, guest speakers and industry support.

Professional development workshops that include mock job fairs, resume preparation, interview skills, and how to find part-time, full-time and summer employment.

An Industry Advisory Board, a valuable connection between students and industry leaders. The board provides scholarships, strategic planning, special summer internships, field trips and other resources.

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