



Strategic Retention Initiatives

The three strategic retention initiatives, and the culturally specific student success centers attached to them, were the first of their kind in the UC system, and are designed to specifically target retention and graduation rates for underrepresented students. The strategic retention initiatives aim to increase retention and graduation rates via academic excellence. The centers and the initiatives together are focused on increasing the retention, persistence and graduation rates of students in a culturally relevant manner. The centers themselves provide a sense of community for students, and they offer support services that facilitate the transition, retention, persistence, and graduation of students in their respective student communities. Each center has dedicated full time staff and programming designed to promote student success and offer a sense of belonging in ways relevant to their specific student community.

Center for Chicana and Latina Academic Student Success (CCLASS)

CCLASS is dedicated to retaining, empowering, and graduating Chicana and Latina students at UC Davis, provide authentic and culturally relevant opportunities for academic and personal growth. It is a space for students to find community and familia and for students to thrive as scholars and unique individuals. Center practices and services are grounded in Retention-Academic Support, Empowerment, and Access -Early Support.

Location: Memorial Union 2nd Floor

Website: <https://cclass.ucdavis.edu/>

Native American Academic Student Success Center (NAASSC)

NAASSC is focused on creating a sense of belonging for Native American students in a culturally appropriate way. The center aims to build connections and strengthen community with programming focused on academic success and resiliency. NAASSC provides a space for students to explore identity, create a sense of belonging, find cultural legitimacy, and develop academic resilience for their success at UC Davis and beyond.

Location: University House

Website: <https://naassc.ucdavis.edu/>

Center for African Diaspora Student Success (CADSS)

CADSS is a space for African and African American students to engage together in all aspects of life on campus. The center provides tools and resources that support students' developmental transformation, empowering them to maximize their potential and positively impact the UC Davis

campus. CADSS is a liaison between campus resources and African diaspora students via implementation of strategies that supports the retention and persistence of African diaspora students, and promotes a sense of community for African diaspora students through its services and programs.

Location: 270 South Silo

Website: <https://cadss.ucdavis.edu>

Supporting Students

The centers work collaboratively and promote and provide tools and resources that support student success and retention (students' academic endeavors and personal growth and development) including, but not limited to: academic and professional advising; academic tutoring; graduation; transitional support seminars; faculty mentorship; internship and employment opportunities; academic probation and subject to disqualification advising; and networking events. The centers, and initiatives that guide them, currently collaborate with a number of departments and offices on campus including but not limited to: Undergraduate Admissions, Undergraduate Education, Student Housing, Internship and Career Centers, Counseling and Psychological Services and the Community Advisory Network, the Office of Student Support and Judicial Affairs, Student Academic Success Center, and Center for Student Affairs Assessment. We look forward to strengthening these partnerships and developing opportunities for further collaboration on and off campus as we continue to work towards addressing barriers to access and retention of underrepresented students in the communities we serve.

The strategic retention initiatives serve a critical role in advancing the University of California, Davis' commitment to equity and the Division of Student Affairs' vision of supporting all students and members of the campus community in their academic, social, cultural, personal, and civic engagement. UC Davis remains positioned to becoming leaders in the field addressing gaps in academic outcomes for students from underrepresented communities. To accomplish this the retention initiatives will:

Goal 1: Retention & Student Success—Promote pathways to success and support the retention of African diaspora, Chicax/Latinx, and Native American students through the development of programs and services that facilitate students' transition, persistence, graduation, and overall success.

Goal 2: Collaborative Partnerships— Develop and strengthen partnerships and collaborations on and off campus that support African Diaspora, Native American, and Chicax/Latinx retention and student success at U.C. Davis and beyond.

Goal 3: Data Driven Approach— Maintain a culture of informed practice that supports African diaspora, Chicax/Latinx, and Native American retention and student success through ongoing engagement with data and research.