Student Support Services

Student Support Services (SSS) is a federally funded TRIO program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. The SSS program at West Chester University is one of more than 900 Student Support Services programs in the United States and its territories.

About TRIO

- TRIO programs were created under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and expanded in following years by other acts and amendments (1965, 1968, 1972, 1976, 1986, 1990, and 1998) to provide postsecondary educational opportunities to eligible students from middle school through post baccalaureate degree programs.
- The SSS program provides opportunities for academic development, and assists students towards the successful completion of their postsecondary education. The goal of SSS is to increase college retention, and graduation rates of its participants. The West Chester University SSS program serves as a resource and voice for undergraduate first-generation, low-income students and students with disabilities. Within a learning environment which challenges students to grow personally and professionally, we nourish a sense of empowerment and strive to bridge the gap between the dream and the reality of achieving a baccalaureate degree.
- [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html)

SSS Scholarship

SSS has a supplemental grant fund from which to award scholarships for select participants identified as having unmet financial need and having accomplished specific project participation requirements. This Scholarship is awarded on an annual basis. Please contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities for more information.

SSS Program Goals

- The mission of the West Chester University SSS program is to prepare eligible students to achieve an undergraduate degree.
- Our goals are:
  - To increase retention and graduation rates
  - To foster an institutional climate supportive of success
  - To provide services, opportunities, and resources that enhance personal skills and academic competencies
  - To engage students in the process of active learning