

FRISCO Day



FRISCO Day (FRIday = Successful College Opportunities) is an annual event held in April to help all San Francisco Unified School District graduating seniors' enroll in college and learn how to be successful once in college. In 2013 more than 1,600 SFUSD seniors participated at four locations: City College of San Francisco for students who were City College bound, San Francisco State University for California State University-bound students, University of California San Francisco for UC-bound students; and a fourth site for out-of-state and private college-bound students.

Each event is intentionally held at a college campus so students can get a feel for college life. Students also attend workshops throughout the day to learn about budgeting and financial aid, registration and enrollment processes for their respective institutions, building relationships with other students, and resources available to students once in college. FRISCO Day emphasizes that there is a post-secondary option that will work for every graduating senior in San Francisco, particularly to prepare local youth for the type of jobs that are growing in San Francisco. The event exposes students to college life and teaches students to navigate their college experience.

FRISCO Day began in 2010 as not only a way to prepare students for college, but also to help those without a plan to make steps towards enrolling in City College of San Francisco. With the goal of enrolling every SFUSD student in a post-secondary path, FRISCO Day makes the matriculation process as easy and accessible to students as possible and helps them prepare for a setting that is very different from high school.

At City College's event, students are provided campus tours, learn about the various degree programs offered, meet with counselors, and are provided workshops on orientation, registration, and financial aid. Students are

also exposed to student groups, community organizations, and other Bay Area community colleges to see the many opportunities available to them as college students. At UCSF and SFSU, students meet current students, SFUSD alumni, and also participate in similar workshops as the students at City College.

WHAT STUDENTS LEARN

FRISCO Day ensures that all SFUSD high school seniors who attend college in the fall know the tools and pathways to success in college. At each of the four locations, workshops are provided to encourage the following:

College knowledge: Students will learn how to "work the college system" - whether they are off to a UC, CSU, City College or another college, the event will expose students to the ins and outs of how to get what they need, including how best to manage their financial aid.

"I didn't have a college plan. But now I'm so excited about coming to City College. I have four classes for this fall and I even memorized the registration date. It's June 26 at 4 PM."

- FRISCO Day participant, 2012

Persistence: Students will learn how to persist in their education. Studies show that students who get a degree or certificate before the age of 26 will be self-sufficient. But sometimes life gets in the way of school and the event teaches students not to give up but to seek out resources to assist in their effort.

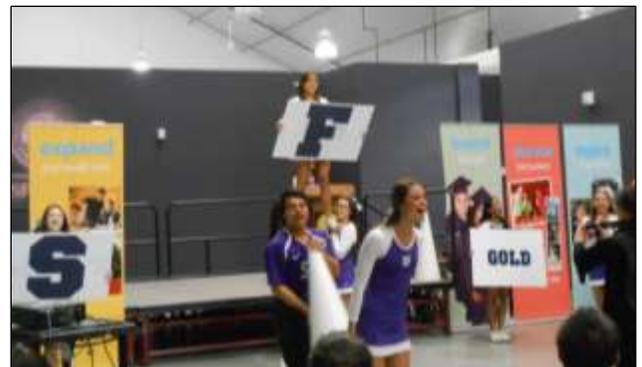
Options: Students who do not yet have a plan will learn about programs City College and other community colleges offer. In today's economy students need training and City College has more than 100 certificates to enter skilled jobs in the workforce and programs to transfer to four year universities.

Self advocacy skills: The ultimate goal is to guide students to be effective self-advocates for his or her education.

SUCCESS AND IMPACT

Participants have rated FRISCO Day highly each year. Below are some highlights from 2013 participants' survey responses about the event:

- 83% rated the event as "excellent" or "good."
- About 80% of the participating students reported that the event was helpful in making them feel welcome on the campuses and learn about financial aid.
- While only 19% of students reported having high confidence in their ability to transition from high school to college before FRISCO Day, 46% reported high confidence after the event. 26% percent reported low confidence in the same area, which dropped to 6% after FRISCO Day.
- Among students who attended City College's FRISCO Day, it was the first visit to the City College campus for 53% of students. Furthermore, perceptions of City College campus, students, and staff all increased after FRISCO Day – from 22-23% viewing each positively before FRISCO Day to 53-60% viewing those categories positively after.
- At City College, half of the students reported meeting at least one new faculty/staff member they would stay in touch with because of FRISCO Day. 41% said they met at least one new student with whom they would stay in touch.



Scenes from 2013 FRISCO DAY, held April 19, 2013

TOP: Students are welcomed to UCSF
MIDDLE: Students arrive at City College
BOTTOM: SFSU Cheerleaders excite the crowd

Bridge to Success is a partnership between the City and County of San Francisco, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco State University and the San Francisco Unified School District to double the number of youth, particularly African American and Latino youth, who achieve college credentials. This effort invests in changing policies, practices, and partnerships to ensure that more San Francisco youth earn a college degree or credential.

For more information, visit www.sfbridgetosuccess.org