

HEOP WORKS



Marymount
Manhattan
College



What is HEOP?

The Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) provides up to ten semesters of academic support and supplementary financial assistance to eligible New York State residents who do not meet the traditional admissions criteria but demonstrate potential for the academic success.

HEOP at Marymount Manhattan College

The Higher Education Opportunity Program has been an integral component of Marymount Manhattan College since 1969. At MMC, HEOP provides all enrolled students with academic, career, financial aid, and personal counseling, as well as tutoring services, specialized academic workshops, and a Summer Academic Institute Program for incoming first year students.

HEOP WORKS is a monthly newsletter from the Higher Education Opportunity Program and made possible by the Office of Academic Affairs.

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Celebrating 50 Years of HEOP

In 1969, New York State assemblyman Arthur O. Eve established the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) to provide access to independent colleges and universities for economically and educationally disadvantaged students from across the state.

When the New York State Legislature established the Program, MMC's preexisting Community Leadership Program (CLP) was immediately awarded a grant and accepted into the State's HEOP, paving the way for a seamless transition to a new funding format. Today, there are 52 independent colleges and universities across New York that participate in HEOP, serving disadvantaged students from every county in the state.



● ● ● A "Golden" Celebration



The College hosted a Golden Jubilee Celebration in October 2019 as part of Family and Friends Homecoming Weekend to celebrate 50 years of HEOP. City Councilor Adrienne E. Adams of Jamaica, Queens gave the keynote address and praised MMC's longstanding commitment to educational access and equity.

In addition, Dr. Eilene Bertsch, the first Grant Writer and Director of the Higher Education Opportunity Program at MMC, was honored for her decades of service at the October celebration.

The "Jubilee" Class

"We pledge to be united as one, make the word 'community' stand, always hold each other accountable, and to improve with our peers. Know that we rise and fall together, remember to stay strong and get to the finish line together."

-The Class of 2023 Pledge



HEOP Student Leaders

HEOP students are active members of the MMC campus community. From leading student organizations and attending off-campus conferences to participating in professional development workshops and academic award ceremonies, our students do it all. In the HEOP office, we place emphases on Leadership, Scholarship, and Service.

Leadership

- Yesenia Adorno** Alternative Spring Break Participant, Marymount Muscle member
Grace Baez January 2019 Costa Rica Study Abroad participant
Jerandy Beato Spring 2019 Alternative Spring Break to Puerto Rico Participant, MMC Community Outreach, National Student Leadership Diversity Convention April 2019, HEOP Special Projects and Events Manager/Intern, HEOP Summer Peer Mentor
Jennifer Benescome Third Street Music School Intern
Melanie Bermudez HEOP Recruitment and Administrative Manager/Intern, Student Government Association: Freshman Class Council
Kayleen Cabrera The Throne, Black Leadership Student Association
Diana Camilo Work Study, Marymount Community Outreach, National Student Leadership Diversity Convention
Brielle Charles Study Abroad: Costa Rica, France, Japan Spring-Summer 2019
Melody Cordero HEOP Summer Peer Mentor
Amanda Cruz Sigma Tau Delta (President), MMC Muscle (Social Media Cohort), Work Study, Reading Partners Intern
Fahima Degia Work Study (Academic Access, HEOP, and Academic Affairs), *The Monitor*, YDSA, Emerging Leaders, HEOP Marketing and Public Relations Intern/Manager, Reading Partners Intern
Amy Fernandez Orellana Marymount Christian Fellowship
Stephanie Galvez HEOP Work Study and Research Assistant
Emmanuel Gonzalez Marymount Muscle member
Julissa Leon HEOP Summer Peer Mentor
Carmen Luna Peer Mentor
Christine Mitchell Senior Marshal, HEOP Special Projects & Events Manager, SocAttack member
Zaheraa Ramasahoye HEOP Community Service and External Partnership Manager/Intern
Molly Ramsaran Work Study
Jayzean Santillana Work Study
Catherine Shimabuku Orbe Work Study, Jump Start Peer Mentor, Study Abroad: Brazil
Jailene Tatis Alternative Spring Break, Work Study
Junior Tucker HEOP Office Manager/Intern., and Young Men's Initiative Delegate

Scholarship

The Dean's list is a celebration of the academic achievements of students who earn a term Grade Point Average of 3.5 or higher.

HEOP Dean's List Awardees 2018-2019

Rebecca Maxwell
Amanda Cruz
Diana Camillo
Fahima Degia
Jerandy Beato
Catherine Shimabuku
Marilyn Gonzalez

Service

Community service is an integral part of HEOP, as we believe in giving back to our communities. During the 2019 Summer Academic Institute (SAI), students volunteered at the Stanley Isaac Neighborhood Center in Harlem, delivering hot meals to the elderly.

HEOP Student Volunteers

Grant Gomez, Service Guide for American Standards Association
Jennifer Hernandez, Shepard's on Halloween
Persis Quicoe, Sunday School Teacher, Food Pantry, Sheentooth Event

Summer Academic Institute

The Summer Academic Institute (SAI) is a six-week academic and social orientation that assists incoming students with the transition to college-level studies. The curriculum emphasizes the strengthening of writing and math skills, and also includes cultural trips, guest speakers, volunteer activities, and workshops on library research. Students earn three credits at the completion of the program.



HEOP pre-first year students follow a very rigorous schedule throughout the summer program. Students are required to be in the HEOP office no later than 8:59 am to promote timeliness! If one person is late then, whole group is considered late – a motto which encourages self accountability and team building. In addition to classes, the the students engage in various ice-breaker games (top right) to encourage cohesion amongst the group.

After a successful completion of the summer program, students were rewarded with a trip to New Roc City in Westchester (right).



“Classes during the summer program were challenging, yet thought provoking. The heavy work load and the rigorous schedule definitely prepared me for my first semester of college.”

-Junior Tucker '23

Professional Development

Young Men's Initiative (YMI)



The Young Men's Initiative (YMI) was formed by former HEOP Counselor Keith Windsor to assist with recruitment for the Program. HEOP has since expanded the mission to include retention and graduation of the self-identified men of HEOP. The YMI cohort meets on a regular basis to discuss various topics, which are led by Michael Salmon, Assistant Vice President and Dean of the Center for Academic Excellence.

Current Young Men's Initiative Members

- Emmanuel Gonzalez '21
- Grant Gomez '23
- Zoh Gouin '20
- Cesar Pinos '23
- Franklyn Rodriguez '23
- Roberto Sanchez '23
- Jayzean Santillana '21
- Jose Tavares '22
- Junior Tucker '23

HEOP Leadership Council



The HEOP Leadership Council, founded by HEOP Director Harmony Cross, is a newly created group of HEOP interns who have been appointed by the Director to lead and manage specific projects. The purpose of the Leadership Council is to provide intentional professional development opportunities for students to gain practical experience and transferrable skills, to encourage career-readiness.

Current Leadership Council (L-R)

- Christine Mitchell '20, Special Projects & Events
- Zaherra Ramsahoye '23, Community Service & External Partnership
- Melanie Bermudez '23, Recruitment & Administrative
- Jerandy Beato, '22 Special Projects & Events
- Fahima Degja '21, Public Relations & Marketing

HEOP Office Manager/Intern

The HEOP Office Manager/Intern Position was created to allow interested candidates to learn basic managerial, operational, and programmatic skills, while also collaborating with other HEOP para-professional staff members on specific projects.

Work Study and Research Assistant

The HEOP Work Study and Research Assistant is not new to the HEOP Department, but has been integrated into the new HEOP Para-Professional Staff cohort, to receive the same training and professional development as the other staff members. The WS/RA student works on tasks including reaching out to HEOP Alumni and other tasks as assigned.

Student Engagement

San Pedro de Poás, Costa Rica

During the 2019 January session, five HEOP students took part in a travel course to Costa Rica, studying economic development and sustainability while visiting important sites of the ecotourism and conservation movements.



Chicago, Illinois

HEOP students traveled to the Windy City to participate in the National Student Leadership Diversity Convention (NSLDC), the largest national gathering of student leaders and advisors to address diversity and social justice issues on college campuses today.



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HEOP students attended the annual Inclusive Leadership Conference at Temple University in spring 2019, enhancing leadership skills through presentations, workshops, and panel discussions on topics related to inclusivity and social change.



Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

In April 2019, two HEOP MMC students traveled to Puerto Rico for a series of volunteer projects focused on hurricane relief as part of the College's annual Alternative Spring Break trip.



The HEOP Office

“HEOP at Marymount Manhattan is highly successful because of the sense of community, and the sense of belonging students feel. As an institution, MMC has been very intentional about the support we give to this student population. We have a large, comfortable, welcoming HEOP center, directly across the hall from the library, for students to call home. The space includes computers and areas for studying, as well as private rooms for counseling, and couches for downtime between classes.”



-Harmony Cross, HEOP Director

Workshops



Mental Health Awareness



Coach, Inc. Guest Speaker



Nike Guest Speaker

HEOP Bonding Events

 @heop_mmc



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