Who are Metro students?

Metro students come from diverse communities and are often the first in their families to attend college. In fact, 91% are either low-income, first-generation college-going, or underrepresented students. 46% of all SF State first-year students enter needing remediation in math and/or English, compared to 64% of Metro students. Despite this disadvantage at the starting line, Metro students outperform their peers in persistence and graduation. The graphs below represent the demographics of the 2017 cohorts and the most recent outcomes for Metro cohorts 2009 - 2016 and their matched comparison groups.

74% of Metro students persist into their senior year. 63% graduate within six years; more than 8 percentage points higher than a comparison group at SF State, matched on ethnicity, income level, needing remediation, first-generation status, start term, and subject enrollment.
Metro is an award-winning program that is scalable and sustainable

"The CSU commits to promoting and expanding on the Metro Academies model of high-intensity student learning communities, bringing it within reach of a greater number of universities and community colleges."

CSU Chancellor Timothy White, White House College Opportunity Day of Action

Metro's 6-year graduation rate is 8 percentage points higher than that of a matched comparison group

- Metro students share two classes per semester for two years
- 74% persist into their senior year
- 63% graduate within 6 years

- Non-Metro comparison students navigate the first two years
- 61% persist into their senior year
- 55% graduate within 6 years

Investing in Closing the Equity Gap:
Why Spend a Little More for a Program like Metro?

By spending a little more on the first two years, we can realize much larger cost reductions per graduate, through reducing attrition and off-path courses, and speeding time to graduation

Comparison group

- $23,486
- $70,707

Metro Academies

- $23,486
- $58,314
- $11,039 cost reduction

Program and academy growth at SF State

2,211 students as of 2017*

2018 Business 2
2018 Health 3
2015 Liberal & Creative Arts
2015 Business
2015 Education
2014 Health 2
2014 Engineering
2014 Liberal & Creative Arts 1
2014 Ethnic Studies
2012 Science
2010 Child & Adolescent Development
2009 Health 1

68 students

*In fall 2016, Metro began a 'lighter touch' upper division program, including transfer students from Metro’s Transfer Academies at City College of San Francisco. An additional 1,1175 Metro students are currently in upper division.

Extra cost of Metro in years 1 & 2
Spending in years 1 & 2
Spending in years 3 on to graduation

Source: A Cost Efficiency Study conducted in partnership with the Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges and the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement.