About TRIO Student Support Services
Student Support Services (SSS) is for high achieving, first generation, low-income students enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, SSS has been at the University of Pittsburgh since 1972. Located in the Academic Resource Center, SSS is a program for all undergraduate students, regardless of school or major. Students who qualify for SSS are either first-generation (defined as parents or guardian not graduating from a four-year institution) or meet the economic guidelines set by the federal government. Last year, more than 95 percent of SSS students had a GPA above 2.0 and more than half of those students had a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The Right Start to College
SSS Right Start courses provide the necessary tools students need to succeed in college. All new SSS participants are required to enroll in these 1-credit courses.

ARTSC 0111 (1 credit, fall term) teaches critical skills such as studying for college-level courses, taking effective notes, managing test anxiety, and working with instructors. The class meets one hour per week.

ARTSC 0112 (1 credit, spring term) focuses on long-term career goals. Students explore options for majors, minors, certificates, and begin mapping their career direction. The class meets one hour per week.

Peer Mentoring, Scholars Network and Academic Support
- SSS Peer Mentors assist peers in adjusting socially and academically to the University. They attend all SSS events and serve as teaching assistants in the Right Start to College courses. Peer Mentors share their experiences in areas ranging from the best places to eat to tips on how to study for exams and how to interact with faculty.
- The SSS Scholars Network is comprised of SSS upperclassmen and alumni who are committed to sharing resources and ideas based on major/career interests, internship/research experiences, and scholarship opportunities.
- In conjunction with the Academic Resource Center, SSS provides individual and group tutoring on a wide range of subjects from statistics to organic chemistry.

Individual Meetings
SSS understands that in addition to coursework, there is a whole life outside of the classroom. Our staff is available to help students meet their academic goals and needs, as well as to help work through any personal concerns and challenges. SSS works closely with other University offices and programs to provide students with referrals to a wide range of campus resources, including the Office of Career Development and Placement Assistance, University Counseling Center, Study Abroad Office, and more than 300 student organizations.

Cultural and Social Events
SSS coordinates local cultural events that include live theater, museums, and a tour of the Pittsburgh Glass Center. In addition, SSS offers free social events such as game and movie nights, Kennywood Fright Night, and outdoor winter activities that provide students with an opportunity to relax with staff, mentors, and other SSS students while connecting with the University and surrounding community.

Workshops
SSS offers academic workshops on topics such as time management, test taking, and finals preparation as well as non-academic workshops addressing areas such as networking, financial management, and coping with stress.