

**Ibette Valle**

TRIO SSS

My mother had told me early on that girls like me didn't make it to high school, let alone college. I had virtually no support in making the transition from Vancouver to Seattle and I felt utterly lost. I struggled to afford housing, as my family desperately needed financial assistance from me. Being a first-generation college student at the UW came with great anxiety and guilt from leaving my family. Being one of few Latinas only exacerbated those feelings.

I had no idea what I had gotten myself into. Advising programs like TRIO calmed my guilt by reminding me that I was trying to work towards a career that would provide them stability. TRIO also aided me with maintaining stability as I chronically over stressed myself with multiple jobs and a full course load. TRIO gave me the support and challenge that I needed to grow as a student and a leader. Even this year, as I prepared to apply for graduate programs, they provided me with words of encouragement and helped me prepare for interview visits. I owe my admission into a PhD program in Social Psychology to the continued support that I received from programs like TRIO/SSS.

 <https://depts.washington.edu/omads/trio-sss/>

Student Success Services

Through a grant competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. Student Support Services (SSS) projects also may provide grant aid to current SSS participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants (# 84.063). The goal of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants.

All SSS projects must provide: academic tutoring, which may include instruction in reading, writing, study skills, mathematics, science, and other subjects; advice and assistance in postsecondary course selection, assist student with information on both the full range of student financial aid programs, benefits and resources for locating public and private scholarships; and assistance in completing financial aid applications. Education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy and assist students in applying for admission to graduate and professional programs; and assist students enrolled in two-year institutions and applying for admission to, and obtaining financial assistance for enrollment in four-year programs. The SSS projects may also provide individualized counseling for personal, career, and academic information, activities, and instruction designed to acquaint students with career options; exposure to cultural events and academic programs not usually available; mentoring programs, securing temporary housing during breaks for students who are homeless youths and students who are in foster care or are aging out of the foster care system.

TRIO