Why join Umoja learning community?

The Umoja learning community at Sierra College is open to all students and is specifically designed to increase the retention and success rates as well as the graduation and transfer rates of African ancestry students.

Umoja (a Kiswahili word meaning unity) is a community dedicated to enhancing the cultural and educational experiences of African American and other students. We believe that when the voices and histories of students are deliberately and intentionally recognized, the opportunity for self-efficacy (self-belief) emerges and a foundation is formed for academic success.

The Umoja Community seeks to educate the whole student—body, mind and spirit. Informed by an ethic of love and its vital power, the Umoja Community will deliberately engage students as full participants in the construction of knowledge and critical thought. The Umoja Community seeks to help students experience themselves as valuable and worthy of an education. The learning experience within the Umoja Community will provide each individual the opportunity to add their voice and their story to the collective voices and stories of the African Diaspora (movement).

With emphasis on topics relevant to the African American experience, the curriculum focuses on improving reading, writing, self-discipline and critical thinking skills. Program counselors also provide assistance with the personal issues that often hinder African American students in an educational setting. The Umoja program is a “family” in which we help and take care of each other in the new experience of learning to navigate college and becoming successful in education.

Benefits of participating in the Umoja program:

- Strong support system and personal attention by counselors and instructors
- Integrated instruction from caring faculty
- Peer tutoring-supplemental instruction tutoring
- Motivational/cultural workshops and campus tours
- Book Loan Program
- Mentorship with campus faculty/staff and community members

The Umoja Learning Community:

Our Umoja Program is a two year Learning Community and student support services program consisting of at least three components: English, counseling, and community building. Classroom discussions, literature, materials and assignments will primarily draw from African/African American social and educational experiences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL Learning Community Classes</th>
<th>SPRING Learning Community Classes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Development 1- College Success = 3 units</td>
<td>Personal Development 6-Career Planning = 3 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English A- Mechanics and Basis Composition = 3 units</td>
<td>English 1A -Introduction and Composition = 3 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional classes: Sociology 1, Math A, History 18A</td>
<td>Social Science 20– African Am. Culture/Exp. = 3 units</td>
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</tbody>
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2nd Year = Optional classes

Enrollment Eligibility:

1. Have not completed any of the classes of our learning community.
2. Assessed in English A for Fall start, or English 1A for spring start.
3. Complete an Umoja application and interview with program faculty.

Contact Information:
Tonya N. Times, Umoja- Lead Counselor/Instructor—ttimes@sierracollege.edu—(916) 660-7415
Website: http://www.sierracollege.edu/student-services/specialized-programs/umoja/index.php
Applications are available on our website and in the Counseling Center—Rocklin Campus—(916) 660-7400

Sankofa: A symbol of the wisdom of learning from the past in building the future.
## Umoja Program

### Course Descriptions

#### Personal Development 1 (PDEV) (Fall 2014: CRN# 81848 — Required: Umoja Learning Community)
Description: Strategies for creating success in college, life and career. Academic methods for test-taking, memory improvement, note-taking, critical thinking, and research skills. Techniques for effective time management, goal setting, increased self-awareness, motivation, communication and stress reduction. (CSU, UC)
This class is reserved for students who would like to enroll in the Umoja Program. Umoja is a one year Learning Community and student support services program consisting of at least three components: English, counseling, and community building. Classroom discussions, literature, materials and assignments will primarily draw from African/African American social and educational experiences. Students must also register for English A (CRN#80957 Tues/Thurs 11:00 am-12:20 pm).

#### English A (Fall 2014 — CRN# 80957 — Required: Umoja Learning Community)
Prerequisite: Completion of ENGL 501 or 571 with grade of "C" or better, or placement by matriculation assessment process. Not open to students who have completed ENGL N. (not transferable) Description: Reviews essay organization and development, sentence structure, usage, punctuation, and mechanics. Includes writing a variety of paragraphs, essays and other assignments to a minimum of 4,000 words. A departmental proficiency essay exam is required for successful completion. For students who need review to become eligible for ENGL 1A.
This class is reserved for students who would like to enroll in the Umoja Program. Umoja is a one year Learning Community and student support services program consisting of at least three components: English, counseling, and community building. Classroom discussions, literature, materials and assignments will primarily draw from African/African American social and educational experiences. Students must also register for Personal Development 1 (CRN#81848 Tues/Thurs 9:30 am-10:50 am).

#### Personal Development 6 (PDEV) (Spring 2015 — CRN# 41855 — Required: Umoja Learning Community)
Description: Individual assessments of personality, interests, values, and skills to help identify appropriate careers and college majors. Occupational research, research on educational requirements, goal setting, decision-making, and job search strategies; including resume writing and interviewing. (CSU transferable) Classroom discussions, literature, materials and assignments will primarily draw from African/African American social and educational experiences. Students must also register for English A (CRN#41017 Tues/Thurs 11:00 am-12:20 pm).

#### English 1A (Spring 2015— CRN# 41017 — Required: Umoja Learning Community)
Prerequisite: Placement by matriculation assessment process OR completion of ENGL A, ENGL N or ESL 30W with grade of "C" or better. Description: Writing, reading and critical thinking skills necessary for successful completion of a four-year college program. Includes reading, discussion, and analysis of selected non-fiction texts. Writing assignments (6,500 words of formal writing) teach students to summarize, explain, analyze, synthesize, and organize information logically and to propose and defend original ideas. Instruction in research, MLA documentation and completion of a fully-documented paper using multiple sources. (CSU, UC transferable) Classroom discussions, literature, materials and assignments will primarily draw from African/African American social and educational experiences. Students must also register for Personal Development 6 (CRN#41855 Tues/Thurs 9:30 am-10:50 am).

#### Social Science 20 (SSCI) (Spring 2015 — CRN# 44384 — Required: Umoja Learning Community)
Description: Introduction to the study of African American culture and experience in the United States. Places the African American experience at the center of the discourse and incorporates methodology from other disciplines that serve as a foundation for integrative and comparative perspectives. A critical examination of the African American experience and its antecedents.

#### Sociology 1 (Fall 2014- CRN# 82302) — Optional 1st or 2nd year course
Description: Sociological analysis of social interaction and behavior, including concepts such as culture, socialization, social organization and disorganization, collective behavior, deviance, conformity, and social stratification. (CSU, UC transferable) This New Legacy Sociology 1 course is designed to help students excel in a college sociology course that includes the sociocultural experiences of Latino/a, African American, and Native American/Alaska Native cultures as related to sociology.

#### Math A (Fall 2014—CRN# 81561) - Optional 1st or 2nd year course
Prerequisite: Completion of MATH 582 with a grade of "C" or better or placement by the matriculation assessment process Description: Real numbers and their properties, first degree equations and inequalities, graphs of linear equations in two variables, systems of linear equations in two variables, properties of integer exponents, polynomial operations, basic operations, radical expressions, quadratic equations, and applied problems and problem solving. (not transferable) With special attention given to the creative application of ethno-mathematics, the New Legacy Math A course is designed to connect culture with the learning of algebra. Course includes the historical traditions and sociocultural experiences of Latino/a, African American, and Native American/Alaska Native cultures as related to math.

#### Math D (Spring 2015- CRN# 41621) - Optional 1st or 2nd year course
Prerequisite: Completion of MATH A with a grade of "C" or better or placement by matriculation assessment process Hours: 72 lecture (4 units); 90 lecture (5 units) Description: Exponents, radicals, complex numbers, factoring, linear and quadratic equations and inequalities; linear, quadratic, exponential and logarithmic functions; graphing, and systems of equations. (not transferable) With special attention given to the creative application of ethno-mathematics, the New Legacy Math A course is designed to connect culture with the learning of algebra. Course includes the historical traditions and sociocultural experiences of Latino/a, African American, and Native American/Alaska Native cultures as related to math.

#### Sociology 15 (Fall or Spring) — Optional 1st or 2nd year course
Prerequisite: Two years of high school algebra or MATH D with grade (s) of "C" or better, or placement by matriculation assessment process Description: Application of statistical methods to sociological data. Topics include: descriptive and inferential statistics including levels and types of measurement; measures of central tendency and dispersion; normal, t, and chi-square distributions, probability and hypothesis testing, correlation and regression. Statistical software will be applied to sociology and/or other social science data.

#### History 18A/18B (Fall and Spring) — Optional 2nd year courses
Description: History of African Americans from the pre-European West African city state kingdoms to the end of Reconstruction; major events in America's development emphasizing the role of people of African descent in the political, social and economic life of the United States; the institution of slavery; free blacks in the North and the abolitionist movement.