Aggie Jumpstart is a student success initiative piloted by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CA&ES) Undergraduate Academic Programs (UAP) in the 2019-2020 academic year. Informed by research-based practices, this program provided first-year freshman and transfer students with mentorship, community engagement, leadership and service opportunities, career exploration experiences, and an identified individualized network of campus resources.

Through an integrated approach, we aimed to mitigate the opportunity gaps experienced by first-generation, low-income, underserved students by facilitating experiences that boost institutional navigation, community building, and a sense of belonging, which are tied to a student’s motivation to engage and persist at the university. Participants enrolled in the Career Discovery Groups (CDG) program worked with academic advisors, engaged in service activities, participated in leadership workshops and joined community building activities hosted by the various Student Affairs Retention Initiatives.

“Overall, Aggie Jumpstart helped me find the community I was seeking. Without this program I would not have found the resources I needed. Thank you, Aggie Jumpstart, for everything!”

—E.F., Major: Human Development

Overall, the average GPA for Jumpstart students increased by 0.2 grade points from fall to spring quarter, similar to CA&ES peers on average.

Fourteen different CA&ES majors were represented in the first cohort of 41 students.

Transfer students in Aggie Jumpstart ended their first year with a higher overall GPA than CA&ES underserved students, on average.

98% of Aggie Jumpstart students enrolled for the fall 2021 academic quarter, a 4.7% higher enrollment rate than the average CA&ES student.