

2022-23 Peninsula Bridge Outcomes Report

Program Overview

Peninsula Bridge empowers motivated, under-resourced students to achieve college and career success through individualized support and transformational educational opportunities.

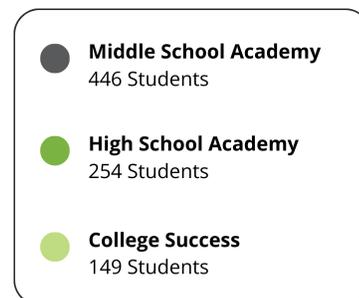
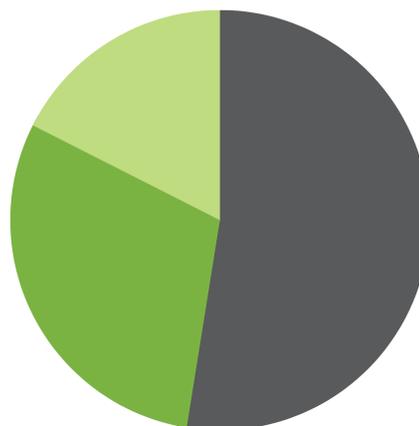
Peninsula Bridge identifies motivated students with strong academic potential and college aspirations, but who are at risk of being limited by financial or environmental constraints. Our holistic, 13-year program model equips students to thrive in school and life, providing essential academic preparation, career readiness support, social-emotional learning, mental health support, and parent education.

This document summarizes the 2022-23 outcomes for each of our core programs.

Cross-Program Student Demographics

In the 2022-23 academic year, **Peninsula Bridge served 849 under-resourced students from 4th grade through college.**¹

- 100% of students are from low-income households²
- 89% of students are LatinX, 3% are Asian, 3% are Pacific Islander, 1% are African American, 1% are White, and 3% identify with another race/ethnicity
- 44% of the students live in Redwood City, East Palo Alto, or Menlo Park; 29% live in San Mateo; and 21% live in Mountain View³
- 182 students are enrolled at an independent middle or high school



¹ Includes both middle school and summer programs, serving primarily the same students. Middle School Academy includes students from 4th to 7th grade.

² Based on household income figures at student intake.

³ Six percent live in other cities in the San Francisco Bay Area including but not limited to San Carlos, Hayward, Sunnyvale, and Burlingame.

Cross-Program Results

Across our 2022-23 programs, we have seen consistently high rates of participation and respectful engagement of students:

- 87% program attendance
- 92% annual retention rate
- 97% of students said they feel respected by Peninsula Bridge staff

Peninsula Bridge takes a holistic approach to personal development, equipping students with social-emotional learning and mental health services throughout their Peninsula Bridge journey. Through Project Wayfinder programming, students receive culturally-responsive, comprehensive mental health and social-emotional learning curriculum. Additionally, through a partnership with Acknowledge Alliance, Peninsula Bridge students in need of mental health support receive evidence-based, early-intervention mental health services.

As a result of Peninsula Bridge's support, students demonstrated robust social-emotional and personal development in the annual Holistic Student Assessment (n=556).⁴ In particular, **students across all age groups showed growth in mindsets and skills connected to academic success:**

- 82% of all students surveyed (n=556) strengthened their ability to think critically, examine information, and explore new ideas
- 77% of Middle School Academy students (n=282) experienced an increase in academic motivation
- 76% of High School Academy students (n=153) experienced an increase in their interest in learning
- 91% of College Success students (n=84) experienced an increase in their perseverance

Furthermore, a subset of 40 Peninsula Bridge students receiving counseling services have demonstrated significant improvements in psychological, social, and school functioning during the 2022-23 academic year, despite challenges associated with the pandemic.⁵ Upon intake with a counselor, students presented with "persistent" mild mental health symptoms, but by the follow-up assessment, students improved to having "transient" symptoms. When asked to report on their counseling experiences, **Peninsula Bridge students (n=19) shared growth in their understanding and management of their feelings/behaviors, as well as their well-being.**

- 95% of students said they learned more about themselves and their feelings
- 79% of students said counseling helped to them to express their emotions constructively and deal with frustrating things (e.g., school, work, home)
- 78% of students said they felt less stressed and less anxious

"I've learned how to set boundaries, stop anxious spiraling, open up about my feelings, ask for help, and communicate better."

⁴ The Holistic Student Assessment measures resilience, relationships, and learning and school engagement.

⁵ Findings in this section come from Acknowledge Alliance's Collaborative Counseling Program (CCP). CCP provided counseling and related services to 40 Peninsula Bridge students from July 2022- May 2023. On average, each student received 18.5 hours of support. There was a statistically significant improvement in students' psychological, social and school functioning—from an average score of 63.1 to 72 (n=27)—on the 100-point Children's Global Assessment Functioning Scale, an illness-health continuum used by mental health clinicians working with children ages 6-17.

Middle School Academy

Peninsula Bridge's Middle School Academy provides expanded-learning, after-school programs for 4th through 7th graders. In line with Common Core Standards, the program helps build creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication skills.

Peninsula Bridge also offers a unique 8th grade program to help students successfully transition to high school. Students in the 8th Grade Academy attend Saturday workshops to develop skills in advocacy, public speaking, critical thinking, problem solving, and time management.

In 2022-23, Peninsula Bridge served 446 students through our Middle School Academy.

Pre- and post-assessments found **considerable skill growth among Middle School Academy students (n=234):**

- 89% of students improved their reading comprehension skills;
- 90% of students improved their writing skills; and
- 80% of students improved their math skills.

Additionally, an annual survey (n=317) found that **most students reported positive social-emotional outcomes:**

- 82% of students reported that Peninsula Bridge provided skills to achieve success in school;
- 96% of students said they felt respected by Peninsula Bridge teachers and teaching assistants; and
- 86% of students feel a sense of belonging at Peninsula Bridge.

High School Academy

Peninsula Bridge's High School Academy aims to equip our students with the academic success, skill development, and opportunities they need to stay on the path to college enrollment and explore future careers. The High School Academy program provides 1:1 academic advising, interactive group sessions, workshops, summer programming, and leadership development opportunities.

Throughout the 2022-23 school year, Peninsula Bridge served 254 high school students, who accomplished robust academic and social-emotional outcomes:

- Students earned an average 3.2 high school GPA.
- 93% of students agreed that Peninsula Bridge offers helpful information to students and families to prepare for the transition to college
- 89% of students reported that Peninsula Bridge helps them have a clear vision for their future
- 83% of students felt more confident in speaking and asking questions because of the skills learned at Peninsula Bridge
- 88% of students felt that Peninsula Bridge has given them skills and knowledge to improve

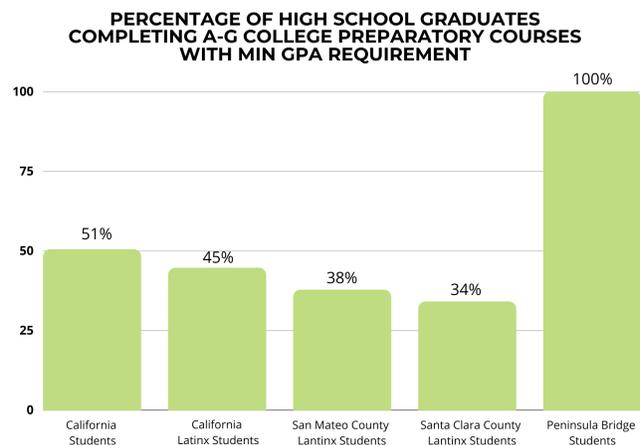
their career readiness skills, including resume & interviewing skills

- 72% of students felt that Peninsula Bridge had increased their interest in pursuing a STEM track in college and/or my career

College Access Program

Peninsula Bridge's College Access Program supports 11th-12th grade high school students with application guidance, academic advising, workshops, and college counseling as they prepare for and engage in the college application process.

The College Access Program also includes support for students to fulfill needed requirements for UC and CSU admissions (i.e., completion of A-G college prep courses with a grade of C or better). Only 45% of California high school graduates complete A-G college preparatory courses with the minimum GPA required for UC/CSU admissions.⁶ These rates are even lower among LatinX students across the state. In contrast, **100% of Peninsula Bridge College Access students (n=95) are on track to successfully complete their A-G college preparatory courses.**



All (100%) of the Peninsula Bridge 2023

seniors (n=36) graduated from high school. Furthermore, 100% of all these graduates applied to and were accepted into college directly from high school, with 95% of the 2023 high school graduating class directly attending a 4-year college or university.⁷ These Peninsula Bridge outcomes far exceed national comparisons: 43% of U.S. high school graduates immediately enrolled in 4-year institutions, and 19% immediately enrolled in 2-year institutions.⁸

Peninsula Bridge's 2023 seniors enrolled in a range of prestigious colleges such as Yale University, Lehigh University, USC, Barnard, UC Merced, UC Berkeley, University of Redlands, and SF State.

Moreover, 2023 seniors collectively secured \$289,000 in outside scholarships (i.e. a scholarship awarded by an organization other than the government or their college), which rewards their tremendous efforts and considerably lessens the burden of college costs on the students and their families.

⁶ Based on data collected in 2021-22, in which current requirement is a grade of "C" or better in these courses.

⁷ The remaining 5% of graduating seniors enrolled in community college.

⁸ National Center for Education Statistics. (2023). Immediate College Enrollment Rate. *Condition of Education*. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences. Retrieved March 24, 2023.

College Success Program

Peninsula Bridge's College Success Program, for college students in their freshman through graduating years, provides college and career support to ensure that students graduate and begin a successful career. Services include personalized advising, on-campus visits, professional development, and assistance with securing summer internships.

In the 2022-23 academic year, Peninsula Bridge supported 149 college scholars in the College Success Program. **The majority of these students (72%) were enrolled in a 4-year college or university, and the remaining students (28%) were enrolled in 2-year colleges.**⁹ Nearly all college students (94%) have declared their major.

Moreover, 97% of students persisted in college (i.e. enroll in their second and subsequent year of college). **Nearly all (94%) of the College Success students are on track to graduate college in 4-6 years.**

The average cumulative GPA of all Peninsula Bridge college students is 3.06.

Because of their participation in Peninsula Bridge, students are preparing for a successful future. In an annual survey of 100 College Success students:

- 97% said that Peninsula Bridge has helped them understand the importance of advancing their career interests as a college student
- 97% of students said that Peninsula Bridge has helped them understand the importance of accessing resources on their college campus

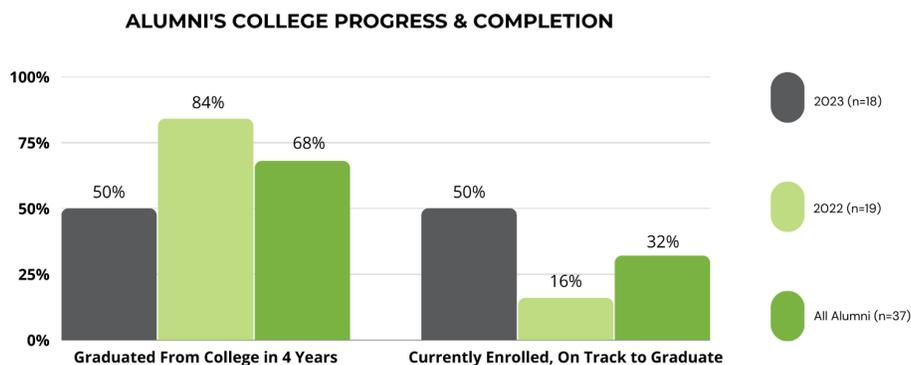
⁹ Includes the 19 2022-23 graduating seniors, also captured in alumni data below.

Alumni Outcomes

In the summer of 2023, the high school class of 2019 completed the Peninsula Bridge program and participated in an alumni survey (n=18, 100% response rate¹⁰). These program alumni reported data about their academic achievements, social-emotional and personal development, professional/career progress, the contribution that Peninsula Bridge has made toward their achievements, and their overall Peninsula Bridge experience. **The narrative portions of this report focus on the 2023 alumni cohort only (i.e., the high school class of 2019).** However, the graphs show the 2023 cohort relative to the 2022 cohort and the aggregate alumni findings from 2022-2023 in order to highlight comparisons and emerging trends.

Academic

Half of the alumni (50%) in this cohort have graduated from college within four years—UCM, UCSC, Santa Clara University, and Harvard College, to name a few. The nine remaining alumni (50%) are currently enrolled and on track to complete their college degrees in late 2023 or 2024. **This data is on target to meet Peninsula Bridge's goal of a 95% graduation rate within 4-6 years of College Success enrollment.**



The majority of alumni (72%) have been satisfied with their overall college experience. More than half (61%) have pursued liberal arts majors, followed by business (22%), engineering and technology (11%), and art (6%). **More than two-thirds of alumni (72%) have earned a cumulative college GPA ≥ 3.0 .**

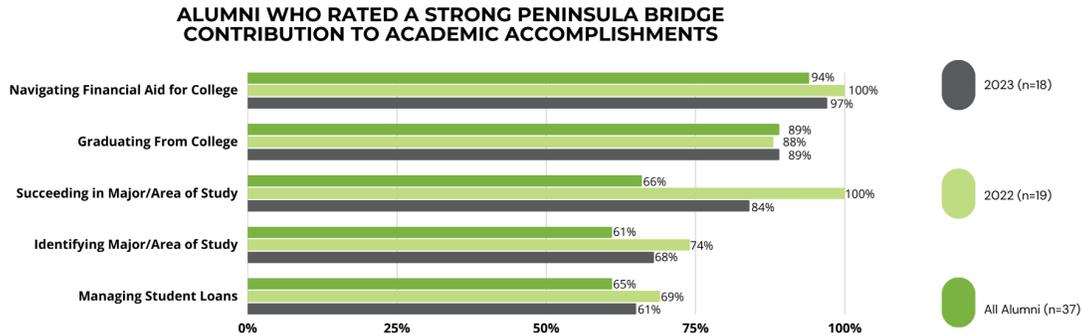
Peninsula Bridge staff advises participants and their families to take on a manageable amount of student debt. **Half of the alumni (50%) have no undergraduate debt at all.** Among the 9 alumni who have varying amounts of debt (from \$5,000 to upwards of \$25,000), **nearly half (44%) report little or no stress about their debt.**

Overall, Peninsula Bridge has made an impressive contribution to each alumni's academic development and achievements to date, particularly in navigating financial aid and graduating (or positioning them to graduate) from college.¹¹ Peninsula Bridge has opportunities

¹⁰ One survey was incomplete, though the respondent answered a meaningful number of survey questions (about half), so they are included in the data unless otherwise indicated.

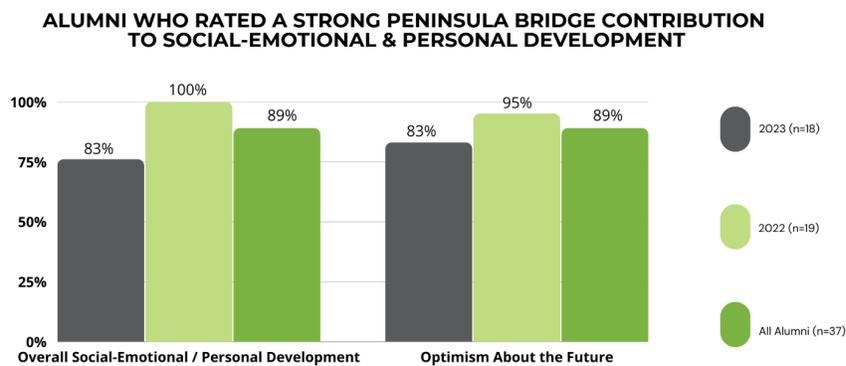
¹¹ Ratings are on a five-point scale from no contribution to major contribution. Percents in the graph reflect the sum of those rating a solid (4) or major (5) contribution toward their development/achievements.

for more influence on alumni's undergraduate loan management and college majors (i.e., identifying and supporting success in students' majors). Furthermore, alumni may benefit from more guidance on considering/applying to graduate school. **Only one alumni in this cohort (6%) has enrolled in graduate school, several alumni (39%) are planning to apply for/attend graduate school in the future, and some have not yet decided (33%).** Alumni most commonly say they are not yet pursuing graduate school because they want a break after undergraduate studies, prefer to start their career, and/or they are concerned about cost/debt.



Social-Emotional & Personal Development

Most alumni (n=17) in this cohort report robust social-emotional and personal skills, including their ability to persevere toward professional goals (89%), applying a learning/growth mindset (82%), accessing help/support when needed (71%), and feeling self-confident (64%).¹² Furthermore, **most alumni say that Peninsula Bridge has made a substantial contribution to their overall social-emotional and personal development, as well as their feelings of optimism about the future.**¹³



"I really love how much Peninsula Bridge over the years has emphasized a growth mindset and has encouraged us to try out many things as we discover a career. I also have felt that we have created a close-knit community."

¹² Percents include those rating medium to high (4) or high/area of strength (5) on a 5-point scale of current skills/development. Peninsula Bridge will be tracking the same social-emotional/personal skills in upcoming College Success surveys to better understand participants' development in these areas throughout their time in college.

¹³ Percents in the graph reflect the sum of those rating a solid (4) or major contribution (5) toward their development/achievements on a 5-point scale.

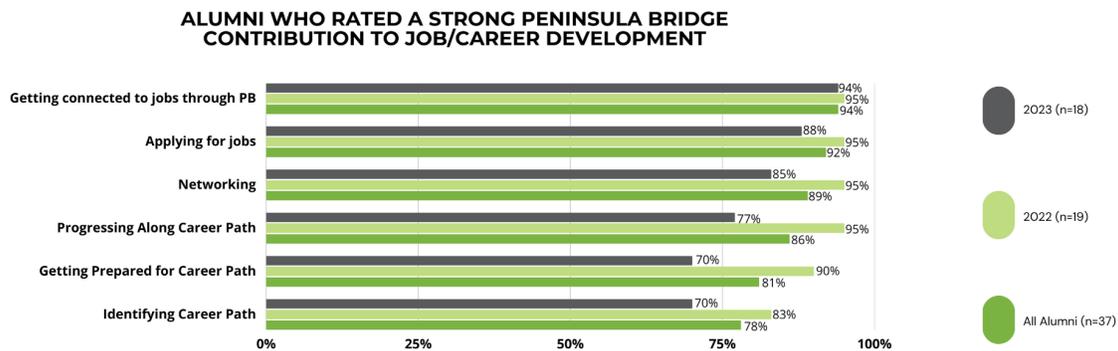
Job & Career

Two-thirds of alumni in this cohort (65%, n=17) are currently working.¹⁴ Most of these alumni are new to their jobs, having started within three months (70%) of taking the survey in early August 2023, and **half were connected to this job through Peninsula Bridge (50%).** The working alumni are generally full-time (64%); are more likely in jobs (50%) than internships (40%) or contract roles (10%); and are earning between \$4,000-\$5,999 monthly (40%). One in three alumni (30%) are receiving some type of benefits (e.g., health, retirement, paid leave), although several are unsure if they receive benefits (40%). Alumni also reported **indicators of job quality and success that are encouraging for this early stage of post-college employment:**

- 80% are somewhat or very satisfied at their job
- 50% say their current job aligns very or extremely well with their career goals
- 40% feel very or extremely successful in their job

Peninsula Bridge plans to conduct a follow-up survey with this cohort of alumni in two years, primarily to understand their career trajectories and success over time.

Most alumni in this cohort (n=17) credit Peninsula Bridge with making a strong contribution to their job and career development/progress to date, particularly helping them connect and apply to jobs as well as engage in networking.¹⁵



Overall Peninsula Bridge Experience

As their time in Peninsula Bridge came to a close, alumni reflected on a very positive program experience – 82% of alumni in this cohort (n=17) would enthusiastically recommend Peninsula Bridge to a friend or family member. Among the most valuable things that alumni gained from Peninsula Bridge include **professional skills (e.g., networking), advising and support, social-emotional development (e.g., commitment, grit), and a growth mindset.**

¹⁴ Out of the remaining six alumni, four are looking for work and two are not looking for work. The alumni who are not currently working most commonly say it has been difficult to find a job because the jobs they have applied to have not contacted them.

¹⁵ Percents include those rating a solid or major contribution.

While several alumni do not note any needs for improvement, some say that Peninsula Bridge could have further supported their college/career path by offering:

- more personalized programming (e.g., more support for those in liberal arts majors or less traditional paths; identifying and practicing job-specific skills),
- more advising and support around their internship/job search (e.g., more career exploration, setting realistic salary expectations), and
- a greater variety of opportunities (e.g., scholarships addressing different cultural groups, more social events).

For instance, one student says Peninsula Bridge could have offered “more support for majors not associated with science or math, and connecting to internships more associated with one’s major.”

All alumni (100%, n=17) leave Peninsula Bridge with an appetite for continued involvement in the alumni network. They are especially interested in job/career connections (e.g., sharing job postings, networking), social gatherings, and serving as a mentor to other program participants/alumni.

“I’ve learned a lot because of Peninsula Bridge, such as how to network, different interviewing skills, how to deal with imposter syndrome, the importance of investing, and much much more. I hope future Peninsula Bridge students can continue having the resources and continue feeling that same amount of support that I’ve felt since I first joined the program.” (2022 alumni)

Conclusion

This year’s alumni cohort has demonstrated considerable success in college, with many having graduated and the others poised to graduate soon, without crippling debt. This cohort has also shown promising progress in their careers, and they experienced gains in skills and well-being that position them well for their personal and professional lives. While the data is positive overall for the 2023 alumni cohort, their outcomes and average ratings of Peninsula Bridge’s contributions are generally lower than their 2022 counterparts, as shown in the graphs above.¹⁶ Half of the 2023 alumni need an additional semester or more to graduate, which will likely delay the start of their careers. Additionally, those who are still in college may have not felt the full effects of the College Success program yet—it makes sense that they give lower average ratings for Peninsula Bridge’s contribution toward managing loans, progressing toward college graduation, and job-related achievements (e.g., progressing along career path). **However, both the 2023 and 2022 alumni cohorts share a deep appreciation for their Peninsula Bridge experience and positive feedback for the staff and programming that has helped them tremendously along their journey.**

“I believe everyone who is part of Peninsula Bridge whether it is middle schoolers, high schoolers or college students have such a great support system and are so lucky to be a part of something so amazing.... A huge thank you to Rene Jimenez [Director of College Programs] who has been there from the beginning and believed in me when I didn’t even believe in myself.” (2023 alumni)

¹⁶ This year’s College Success students in public universities experienced more difficulty enrolling in needed classes than the 2022 cohort, which delayed several students’ ability to graduate in summer 2023.