

**Student #5: Sara Martinez**

Source: Getty Images

Sara is a Cabrillo Puente student. This is her 2nd semester here at Cabrillo. She wants to major in Sociology and transfer to UCSC. She took honors classes in high school and has a 3.5 GPA. Sara lives in Watsonville and comes from a migrant field worker background. Her mother works 12 hours a day picking berries while her father does not work as he is on disability from a previous injury he sustained while working in the fields. Sara has three siblings and she is the oldest.

Sara is the first in her family to attend college. While her dad is home most of the day due to his injury, he tends to drink a lot. In fact what little money he receives from his SSI check is spent at the local bars. Sara has strong ambitions to be successful and graduate from college. However, she feels responsible for helping out her family and oftentimes has to be in charge of picking up her three younger siblings from school. Because her mom does not have a driver’s license she is also responsible for taking her family to all medical appointments. On top of this Sara also works 30-35 hours per week at the local donut shop.

Sara is currently attending Cabrillo full time and often has to miss class due to family obligations. Sara is behind in her homework due to working so many hours and coming home at 11:00 pm from the donut shop exhausted. She feels conflicted because she knows her family needs the money and doesn’t feel that she can reduce her work hours to focus more on school. She helps her mom pay rent as well as several of the utility bills. Sara is thinking of just dropping out from school and working full time.

What could resources are available at Cabrillo to help Sara navigate her situation? What services​ and/or ​interventions might help her? How could she have connected to these services earlier?