
Division of Undergraduate Studies

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Objectives and Functions

The Division of Undergraduate Studies serves to provide coordination and evaluation of the undergraduate programs at San Diego State University. It has general responsibility for the undergraduate curriculum and for academic standards and regulations that affect undergraduate students.

The Division has a special concern and responsibility for academic programs of a University-wide character. It administers the Liberal Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies in Three Departments majors, the University Honors Program, the Faculty/Student Mentoring Program, the AVID Summer Bridge program, and the Thomas B. Day Freshman Success Programs, an Academic Affairs and Student Affairs partnership endeavor.

The Division also coordinates assessment of student preparedness in writing and mathematics at the freshman and transfer level, and the Upper Division Writing Requirement for graduation.

Innovation contributes to the vitality of the University. The Division encourages and assists faculty in the development of new perspectives, programs, and curriculum, and encourages dialogue and discussion of new approaches to teaching through an electronic listserve and journal, and awards.

On significant matters of University-wide concern, the Division of Undergraduate Studies submits proposals to the University Senate for consideration and action.

Above all, the Division of Undergraduate Studies exists to promote the quality, diversity, and richness of the undergraduate programs at San Diego State University. It does so through the active involvement of students and faculty in the programs of the Division.

Honors Program

University Honors Program

Jung Choi, Director

The University Honors Program provides opportunities for students with demonstrated academic ability to find the stimulation and challenge that will help them develop their potential. The program offers courses which meet the General Education requirements common to all students; it does not offer work in specific majors. Students should anticipate enrolling in at least two honors courses each year, drawing their other work from the regular offerings of the University. The program is open to students in all majors, and involves small classes, special advising in both academic requirements and career options, opportunity for independent projects, and participation in student exchanges with similar programs across the nation.

Qualified students may apply upon admission to the University by contacting the Division of Undergraduate Studies, AD-201, (619) 594-2872. Eligibility at entrance is determined by an SAT score of approximately 1250 or above (ACT 28), or a high school GPA of 3.7, including successful completion of advanced high school courses; later eligibility is determined by a superior GPA at this University and is subject to space limitations. Transfer agreements exist with a number of community college honors programs. For additional information consult the Web site at <http://www.sdsu.edu/honors>.

Departmental Honors Courses

Some departments regularly offer honors classes which are independent of the University Honors Program; for these eligibility is determined according to achievement in the particular field. Students should consult the Class Schedule for such honors classes and contact the department or instructor for information.

College Readiness Programs

José Preciado, Director

The College Readiness Programs in the Division of Undergraduate Studies serves to assist students in acquiring reading, writing, critical thinking, and mathematical reasoning skills necessary for success in university study through direct services to students and professional development services for educators. All of our programs contribute to San Diego State University's goal of maintaining a diverse student population and meet both CSU and SDSU strategic objectives to reduce the remediation rates of college freshmen.

The Center for Teaching and Learning

The Center for Teaching and Learning is designed to address contemporary campus issues relating to teaching and student learning. Alone, and in cooperation with units throughout the campus, the Center offers programs for faculty, staff, and administrators on topics such as diversity in the classroom, technology and pedagogy, the scholarship of teaching, active and problem-based learning, and the integration of interdisciplinary values and practices into curricula. The Center holds orientations and other events for new tenure-track faculty and lecturers; it serves as a campus clearing house for gathering and disseminating information about teaching and learning resources and events; it encourages systematic research into pedagogies and student learning; it awards grants to faculty attending off-campus conferences, and it works closely with other campus units to encourage discussions of teaching, learning, diversity in the classroom, non-academic factors and student achievement, and assessment.

Student Success Programs

Thomas B. Day Freshman Success Programs

Melody L. Kilcrease, Director

Endowed by Bernard and Dorris Lipinsky, the Thomas B. Day Freshman Success Programs were designed to offer new freshmen opportunities which will help lay a strong foundation for them to be successful in their college work. TBDFSP is a partnership program sponsored by both Academic and Student Affairs.

University Seminar. Offered each fall semester, this one-unit elective course (General Studies 100) provides new students the opportunity to interact with faculty in a small group setting within an academic framework. Students acquire study and interpersonal skills necessary for academic and personal success. They hone their critical thinking abilities, learn how to communicate effectively with professors and gain experience in goal-setting and academic planning. The curriculum includes special sessions giving students knowledge of campus

resources including the library, academic advising, career planning, health and wellness services. For more information, contact the Thomas B. Day Freshman Success Programs, (619) 594-3212 or visit www.sdsu.edu/fsp.

Integrated Curriculum. Offered in conjunction with various colleges, the Integrated Curriculum is an academic package of courses designed to help freshmen adapt to SDSU's academic standards and achieve their academic goals. Students enroll in one of the packages which then becomes their set of classes for the semester. Some of the IC packages are designed for specific majors and include core courses for that particular major. Others feature General Education courses as their academic centerpiece. Also included is a section of the University Seminar course as well as partner courses in writing and mathematics. For more information, contact the Thomas B. Day Freshman Success Programs, (619) 594-3212 or visit www.sdsu.edu/fsp.

Living/Learning Center. The LLC is a residence hall option in which freshmen live together in Maya and Olmeca Residence Halls. Participants in this option are automatically enrolled in an Integrated Curriculum which includes the University Seminar course. In the LLC students take advantage of special advising, workshops, and study information. They also enjoy comfortable living accommodations, a computer room, study lounge, recreation, and television rooms. Contact the Office of Housing Administration, 6050 Montezuma Road, (619) 594-5742 for more information.

Faculty-Student Mentoring Program

Randi E. McKenzie, Director

The nationally recognized Faculty-Student Mentoring Program (FSMP) is designed to provide academic and personal support for entering freshmen and transfer students. Directed by Faculty Mentors in each College and at the Imperial Valley Campus, trained, upper-classmen provide one-on-one mentoring. At weekly meetings, mentors serve as guides to assist with the rules, regulations, and activities on a large urban campus.

The Faculty-Student Mentoring Program works to retain students at the University by developing supportive relationships with fellow students, faculty, and staff. By assisting students in their transition to college life, the mentoring program helps students learn about campus resources, promotes academic excellence, encourages campus involvement, and enhances the knowledge and skills necessary for the completion of their academic goals. With a successful transition into the campus community, students increase their self-confidence and often become future student mentors.

Each College program within the FSMP prides itself on providing services that are especially enriching for the particular group of students that it is charged to serve. In addition, the Colleges of Business, Engineering, Professional Studies and Fine Arts, and Sciences provide weekly workshops for students to enhance their knowledge of University resources, academic skills, and social opportunities. Students participating in those programs may earn University credit.

