
Division of Undergraduate Studies

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Administration

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General Information

The mission of the Division of Undergraduate Studies is to develop and enhance learning communities that foster inquiry, interdisciplinary, and academic achievement. By continuously improving and adapting academic programs and services, we nurture students' abilities to learn, to respect diversity of peoples and ideas, and to work toward social justice and a sustainable future. Through this work, the division creates opportunities throughout the university and community for creativity, collaboration, innovation, and academic excellence.

The division works toward its mission through a variety of university-wide programs and services. The division houses the following:

- Center for Teaching and Learning
- College Readiness Programs
- Faculty-Student Mentoring Program
- Information and Communication Technology Program
- Interdisciplinary Studies in Three Departments
- Liberal Studies
- Thomas B. Day Freshman Success Programs
- University Honors Program

The division is also responsible for several university-wide mandates. It provides coordination and evaluation of the undergraduate programs at San Diego State University and has general responsibility for the undergraduate curriculum and for academic standards and regulations that affect undergraduate education. Additionally, it coordinates the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) reaccreditation process, the assessment of student preparedness in writing and mathematics at the freshman and transfer levels, the assessment of student learning, and of the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.

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-101, 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.

Center for Teaching and Learning

Brock S. Allen, Director

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.

Information and Communication Technology Program

Catherine J. Atkins, Director

The Information and Communication Technology Program, supported by SDSU's Qualcomm Institute for Innovation and Educational Success helps faculty and students develop a deeper understanding of what it means to be an educated person in an age when technology is continually reshaping opportunities for interacting with complex disciplines and diverse communities.

All students, regardless of major, should graduate from SDSU with the ability to apply a principled understanding of diverse disciplines to identify opportunities and goals, to define and solve problems, to

communicate constructively with diverse populations around the globe, to make wise use of technology, to integrate information from multiple sources and perspectives, and to make responsible and humane decisions.

Drawing on the diverse experience and knowledge of SDSU students and faculty, the ICT program provides contexts in which students can develop the knowledge and skills, and the love of learning they will need to succeed as life-long learners amidst the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

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 offer first-year students opportunities that help lay a strong foundation for successful attainment of their academic goals. In order to serve the whole student, the Thomas B. Day Freshman Success Program provides its programs through partnerships involving 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 learn how to communicate effectively with professors, gain experience in goal setting and academic planning, and hone their critical thinking skills. The curriculum includes special sessions acquainting students with vital campus resources including the library, academic advising, career planning, and health and wellness services. Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/freshmansuccess> or call 619-594-3212 to learn more.

Learning in Communities (LINC) Program. Offered in conjunction with various colleges, the Learning in Communities (LINC) Program offers students a set of linked academic courses designed to help first-year students adapt to SDSU academic standards, connect to the campus, and achieve their academic goals. Based on the suggestions in their Major Academic Maps, students pre-enroll in a LINC that includes at least one of their required first-year courses, and which become the core around which they build their semester schedule. The LINC program is especially beneficial for undeclared students or those students who are uncertain about their chosen major. Included in every LINC package is a section of University Seminar; all courses in the package earn academic credit. To learn more call 619-594-3212 or visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/freshmansuccess>.

Living/Learning Community. The LLC at Maya and Olmeca is a residential option in which first-year students live together. Students choosing this option are enrolled in a LINC package related to their academic focus. This program is especially beneficial for undeclared students or those students who are uncertain about their chosen major. In the LLC students take advantage of special advising, workshops, and academic support services. They also enjoy comfortable living accommodations including a computer lab, study lounge, and on-site classrooms, all designed to foster a community among peers and a connection to the campus. Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/housing> to learn more about this housing option or contact the Thomas B. Day Freshman Success Programs at 619-594-3212 or <http://www.sdsu.edu/freshmansuccess>.

Faculty-Student Mentoring Program

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, at the Imperial Valley Campus, and Educational Opportunity Program trained, upperclassmen provide one-on-one mentoring. At weekly meetings, mentors serve as guides to assist proteges learn 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, 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.

For more information about the mentoring program, visit our Web site at <http://www.rohan.sdsu.edu/~mentor/>, call 619-594-0474, or e-mail mentor@rohan.sdsu.edu.