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# Division of Undergraduate Studies

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## Administration

Dean: Geoffrey W. Chase  
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## General Information

The mission of the Division of Undergraduate Studies is to develop and enhance learning communities that foster inquiry, interdisciplinarity, 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:

- Academic Scholarships
- Center for Teaching and Learning
- College Readiness Programs
- Compact Scholars Program
- Faculty-Student Mentoring Program
- People, Information, Communication, and 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.

## Research Institute

### Qualcomm Institute for Innovation and Educational Success

**Geoffrey W. Chase, David T. Hayhurst,  
Ric A. Hovda, Co-Directors**

The Qualcomm Institute for Innovation and Educational Success is a partnership between Qualcomm/SDSU. This partnership was formed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Significantly increase the technology skills of SDSU graduates, thereby generating a more qualified workforce and a better-informed citizenry.
- Develop an educational system that values, encourages, and rewards creative methods of delivering education, from kindergarten through college graduation.

- Establish the institutional infrastructure at SDSU to support large-scale change and transformation of the education system through innovation, evaluation, and dissemination of effective educational methods.
- Dramatically shift the way education is delivered, from kindergarten through college, with an emphasis on improving technology skills and knowledge.
- Develop cross-curriculum synergies among SDSU academic programs that help teach technology skills to students in all courses of study.
- Develop an effective, sleeves-rolled-up dialogue among Qualcomm, SDSU, and the greater San Diego business and corporate community, with the goal of addressing challenges, identifying opportunities, and generating responsive action.

The institute has the following five components:

- *Strategic Initiatives Board* to provide oversight to the partnership.
- *Improving Student Achievement in Mathematics Program* to increase student mathematics performance in public schools.
- *Project Lead the Way* to increase the number and diversity of qualified students entering the College of Engineering.
- *People, Information, Communication, and Technology Program* to promote the diffusion of ICT skills across the curriculum.
- *National Center for Urban Schools Transformation* will assist urban public schools to dramatically improve the level of student achievement.

## Programs and Services

### Academic Scholarships (OAS)

**Patti Scott, Director**

The Office of Academic Scholarship (OAS) works to coordinate scholarship programs, strategies, and initiatives to best serve the student population. The goal is to provide extended support and programmatic services for high achieving students, for students from diverse backgrounds, for students studying abroad, and for students engaged in educational enhancement activities beyond the campus boundaries and curriculum. Together with faculty, OAS works with current SDSU scholars to secure national scholarships and fellowships at the graduate level.

### Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

**Brock S. Allen, Director**

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) promotes effective teaching and learning at SDSU through collaborative ventures with individual faculty, academic units, support services, and student leaders. The center assists SDSU's varied learning communities to define learning goals; to explore, understand, and improve learning processes; to create learning environments and activities; and to assess the effectiveness of educational services and systems. For more information visit <http://ctl.sdsu.edu> or call 619-594-3157.

The center serves as a campus clearinghouse for information about teaching and learning resources and holds orientations and

other events for new faculty. It sponsors a series of monthly lunches open to all faculty on contemporary issues in teaching and learning ranging from the design of learning activities to cultural and psychological factors in student learning and achievement.

CTL provides confidential and supportive services to individual faculty members at their request, assisting with reviews of teaching evaluation data and improvement of classroom presentations and activities. It advises faculty on strategies for managing learning activities such as student discussions, group work, and online discussions. Working with other campus units such as Instructional Technology Services, CTL assists faculty to apply sound principles of learning psychology to instructional delivery systems and environments including video, multimedia, Web sites, and BlackBoard, the university's course management system.

### College Readiness Programs

**José Preciado, Director**

The College Readiness Programs 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.

### Compact Scholars Program (CSP)

**Janet Osterbye, Director**

The Compact Scholars Program (CSP) is the postsecondary component of the Compact for Success Partnership between the Sweetwater Union High School District and San Diego State University. The CSP will advance the learning and development of Compact students with their involvement in undergraduate research programs, study abroad, community based service-learning activities, and student life services focused on success in college. The program is designed to enhance students' academic and social integration to ensure that students are successful. The first group of Compact Scholars matriculated at San Diego State University in 2006.

### Faculty-Student Mentoring Program (F-SMP)

**José Preciado, Director**

The mission of the Faculty-Student Mentoring Program (F-SMP) is to support student engagement and development through undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activities. Central to these efforts is the development of long term relationships between students and their faculty mentors as they engage in academically purposeful tasks.

The primary goal of F-SMP is to encourage and support enhanced student learning via campus programs and activities that facilitate increased academic and personal development. To achieve this goal, we support student success by:

- providing academic planning guides to help students participate in rigorous academic endeavors and activities;
- facilitating participation in undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activities, and community service initiatives across colleges and disciplines;
- offering active student academic support for these efforts through workshops and undergraduate university seminars;
- fostering mentoring, coaching, and other nurturing interactions among students and faculty mentors; and
- presenting students with opportunities for regional, national, and international experiences.

For more information about the mentoring program, visit our Web site at <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/sdsutrio/fsmp/>, call 619-594-2209, or e-mail [sioson@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:sioson@mail.sdsu.edu).

### People, Information, Communication, and Technology Program (pICT)

**Catherine J. Atkins, Director**

The People, Information, Communication, and Technology Program (pICT), 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 pICT 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.

### Thomas B. Day Freshman Success Programs

**Maureen Kelley, 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.** 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 Plan, students pre-enroll in a LINC that includes a Rhetoric and Writing course, at least one of their required first-year courses, 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 (LLC).** 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>.

