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# Division of Undergraduate Studies

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## Administration

Dean: Stephen A. Schellenberg (Interim)  
Associate Dean: Shawn T. Flanigan (Interim)  
Assistant Dean: Michelle Lopez

## 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 for creativity, collaboration, innovation, and academic excellence throughout the university and community.

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

- Academic Engagement Programs
- Center for Regional Sustainability
- Center for Teaching and Learning
- Compact Scholars Program
- Early Assessment Program
- Interdisciplinary Studies in Three Departments
- National Scholarships and Fellowships
- The Sage Project
- Thomas B. Day Student Success Programs
- Undeclared Advising
- Weber Honors College

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 Center

### Center for Regional Sustainability Jessica A. Barlow, Director

The San Diego State University Center for Regional Sustainability (SDSU/CRS) fosters research; establishes collaborations across campus and with partners from business, government, and education; and generates solutions that enhance the natural environment, economic vitality, and social equity in our region (San Diego and Imperial Counties, and northern Baja California). The SDSU/CRS is also home to the Sage Project. More information is available at <http://crs.sdsu.edu>.

## Programs and Services

### Academic Engagement Programs José Preciado, Director

The office implements the Common Experience, the Faculty-Student Mentoring Program, the Service Learning and Community Engagement Program, the Undergraduate Research Program, and the Undergraduate Studies Internship Program. These programs support high impact educational practices that increase faculty-student interactions, deepen student learning, and lead to advanced student achievement.

**Common Experience (CE).** The Common Experience (CE) serves to facilitate increased interactions among faculty, staff, and students through a focus on common contemporary themes, related readings, and academic endeavors. On an annual basis, the Common Experience advisory committee selects a timely and relevant theme and invites participation from across the campus to prepare a series of lectures, seminars, and complementary academic activities by faculty, authors, community, and civic leaders for the following academic year. CE lectures and activities extend student learning and faculty-staff-student experiences beyond the classroom. Students will engage in deconstructing and exploring a common subject, treated and examined through multidisciplinary lenses, learn to value intellectual and personal responsibility, and apply academic thought towards finding meaningful solutions to real-world problems. For information about CE themes and activities, call 619-594-2209 or visit <http://commonexperience.sdsu.edu/dus/commonexperience>.

**Faculty-Student Mentoring Program (F-SMP).** Faculty-Student Mentoring Program (F-SMP) serves 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. To achieve this mission, the program supports eligible students by providing academic planning guides to help students participate in rigorous academic endeavors and activities; facilitating participation in undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activities 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 by presenting students with opportunities for regional and national professional forums. For more information about the mentoring program, visit <http://fsmp.sdsu.edu/dus/fsmp> or call 619-594-2209.

**Service Learning and Community Engagement Program (SLCEP).** The Service Learning and Community Engagement Program (SLCEP) is a faculty outreach and development program that serves to increase student learning through course-based study that connects to responsive civic action in local, regional, or international locales. SLCEP initiatives are designed and implemented to foster civic engagement, civic participation, and civic responsibility. The goals of the SLCEP are to integrate service learning with other high-impact practices, such as study abroad and participatory action research (PAR); to document student learning in community contexts; and to continue developing a system to track SDSU community service contributions and partnerships. The program also sponsors General Studies 280 and 480 each semester. See the *Class Schedule* for times and faculty participation listings. For more information about the program, visit <http://dus.sdsu.edu/dus/service/> or call 619-594-2209.

**Undergraduate Research Program (URP).** The Undergraduate Research Program (URP) provides faculty with mini-grants to support student participation in undergraduate research, scholarship, or creative activities (URSCA). Faculty serve as mentors, seminar leaders, and/or General Studies 490 instructors. Mini-grant funded projects support students to meet URSCA learning outcomes and present their work to peers and faculty in campus, regional, or international forums. Faculty and student participants are encouraged to collaborate for at least two semesters. Additional resources are available for student travel to conferences. The URP seminar in undergraduate research, General Studies 490, may be taken by students multiple times to earn up to a maximum of six units of credit. Enrollment is subject to approval by instructors. Students must consult with their undergraduate advisers to verify that General Studies 490 units can be used to meet graduation requirements for the major or the degree. For additional information, visit <http://dus.sdsu.edu/dus/urp/> or call 619-594-2209.

**Undergraduate Studies Internship Program (USIP).** The Undergraduate Studies Internship Program (USIP) serves students who do not have internship requirements in their major and are seeking options to earn college academic credit to meet graduation requirements. Students may earn one to three units of General Studies 200 or 400 credit with an approved plan prior to starting an internship in the fall or spring semester. Three-unit General Studies 200 or 400 summer sections are offered for the T1 session (13 weeks). Summer fees apply. For more information about the program, visit <http://dus.sdsu.edu/dus/dusinternships/> or call 619-594-2209.

### **National Scholarships and Fellowships** **Michelle Lopez, Assistant Dean**

The National Scholarships and Fellowships office supports SDSU students interested in applying for prestigious national and international scholarships, such as the Goldwater, Marshall, Rhodes, Truman, and Udall scholarships. Candidates for these awards include diverse majors, both honors and non-honors undergraduate students, from across the university. In addition to assisting candidates applying to these major scholarships, the National Scholarships and Fellowships office works closely with SDSU faculty to identify potential candidates and to encourage prospective candidates to apply for these major awards.

To be competitive for these awards of excellence, students are encouraged to maintain the highest possible academic performance, enroll in courses that encourage critical thinking from a broad range of perspectives, participate in campus and community activities beyond membership, and take on leadership roles when appropriate. Current and prospective students interested in learning more about national scholarships and fellowships should visit: <http://onsf.sdsu.edu/dus/scholarships/> and schedule an appointment with Michelle Lopez, Assistant Dean, Division of Undergraduate Studies, [mlopez@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:mlopez@mail.sdsu.edu) or call 619-594-5842.

### **Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)** **Jennifer Y. Imazeki, 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;
- explore, understand, and improve learning processes;
- create learning activities and environments that improve student success;
- design, organize high-impact and informal learning opportunities;
- apply sound principles of teaching, learning, and technology to the design of courses and academic programs; and
- assess the effectiveness of educational services and systems and utilize assessment data to guide improvements.

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 an extensive series of complementary lunches, discussions, and workshops, open to all faculty and student support professionals, on contemporary issues in teaching and learning ranging from the design of learning activities to cultural and psychological factors in student learning and achievement. Working with Instructional Technology Services, Library and Information Services, the Division of Student Affairs, the College of Education, and other units, the center coordinates training to help faculty and administrators design and assess courses and academic programs.

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.

For more information, visit <http://ctl.sdsu.edu> or call 619-594-3157.

### **Compact Scholars Program** **Janet Abbott, 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 program supports student success by connecting this community of largely local commuter students to the resources offered on campus. Compact Scholars are encouraged to actively engage in "high-impact" educational experiences, such as undergraduate research programs, study abroad, community based service learning activities, and leadership development.

The goal of the CSP is to promote higher graduation rates for Sweetwater District students by deepening student engagement. The first class of Compact Scholars matriculated to San Diego State University in 2006. As of May 2013, four classes of Compact Scholars have graduated. For more information about the Compact Scholars Program, visit <http://csp.sdsu.edu/dus/compactscholars> or call 619-594-3803.

For more information about the Compact for Success, visit <http://compactforsuccess.sdsu.edu/compact> or call 619-594-0732.

### **Early Assessment Program** **Rosie Villafana-Hatcher, Director**

The Early Assessment Program (EAP) is a collaborative effort among the State Board of Education (SBE), the California Department of Education (CDE), and the California State University (CSU). The program was established to provide opportunities for students to measure their readiness for college-level English and mathematics in their junior year of high school, and to facilitate opportunities for them to improve their skills during their senior year. The goal of the EAP program is to have California high school graduates enter the CSU fully prepared to begin college-level study. The program has three major components: early testing, the opportunity for additional preparation in the 12th grade, and professional development activities for high school English and mathematics teachers. For more information about the Early Assessment Program, visit: <http://eap.sdsu.edu> or call 619-594-0657.

### **Interdisciplinary Studies in Three Departments** **Paul W. Justice, Director**

The interdisciplinary studies in three departments (IS3D) major at San Diego State University is a special major designed for students whose career goal or academic interest is not addressed by an existing SDSU major or major/minor pattern. Because three disciplines are involved, the program must have a clear focus and depth that make academic sense; the areas of study and the choice of courses within these departments must complement each other. Students are responsible for identifying the fields they wish to pursue, developing their program of study with the assistance and written approval of multiple advisers, and defending their choices orally and in writing.

For more information about the interdisciplinary major in three departments, see the *General Catalog* or visit <http://dus.sdsu.edu/dus/interdisciplinarystudies.aspx>.

**The Sage Project**  
**Jessica A. Barlow, Director**

The Sage Project is a partnership between San Diego State University and a local government in the San Diego region for an academic year. The Sage Project focuses courses across the university on assisting with projects that address the partner's sustainability goals and pressing community needs. Students have the opportunity to engage in meaningful real-world projects and contribute to the quality of life of a community in SDSU's service area through their course-based effort. The Sage Project embodies the university's commitment to serving local students, engaging alumni, and contributing to the public good by focusing thousands of hours of course-based student effort in a community in our service area. The program ensures that the many ideas developed by students through their coursework – that might otherwise only be appreciated by a faculty member – are distributed to a wider audience, thereby ensuring a positive impact on the community and strengthening civic ties among local students. The true benefit of the program is the positive attention, collaborative learning, and new momentum the partnership provides for students, faculty, city staff, and residents. For more information about the program, visit <http://sage.sdsu.edu> or call 619-594-3807.

**Thomas B. Day Student Success Programs**  
**Janet Abbott, Director**

Endowed by Bernard and Doris Lipinsky, the Thomas B. Day Student Success Programs seek to ensure the success of all students at the university, by helping to provide pathways to student support services and to enrich learning opportunities via high-impact educational practices. In order to serve the whole student, the Thomas B. Day Student Success Programs forms intentional partnerships between the Division of Undergraduate Studies, the Division of Student Affairs, and the Academic Colleges, that include the following:

**Residential Learning Communities.** A Residential Learning Community is an option in which first-year students live and take courses together. Small groups of students take courses that fulfill graduation requirements and bring together students with a common interest or a common area of study, such as social justice or business. Students in Residential Learning Communities take advantage of special academic support services and additional computer laboratories and study lounges. Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/housing> to learn more about this enriched housing option.

**University Seminar.** One-unit elective courses (General Studies 100) provide students with an opportunity to explore a variety of areas that define the university experience at a major comprehensive university. In some instances, these courses are embedded within the Residential Learning Communities-including the Honors Residential College. In other cases, the courses are program-defined, for example, offered by EOP, Athletic Support Services, or the Compact Scholars Program.

**Division of Undergraduate Studies Student Learning Lounge.** Housed in Administration, Room 201, the Student Learning Lounge is one of the few indoor study spaces open to all students on campus outside of Love Library, that promotes deeper student engagement and academic activities to ensure student success.

The DUS Student Learning Lounge provides a learning commons for students to study, access academic resources, and to meet face-to-face with valuable student support professionals during the academic week. It is also a shared space between the students, faculty, and staff. In addition to serving as a comfortable study space, the lounge also provides access to several computers, a printer, kitchenette, and a conference room and outdoor patio that may be reserved by students and staff for group study or meetings. DUS students assist in monitoring the operation of the lounge that is frequented by their peers in various DUS programs including, but not limited to the Compact Scholars Program and Weber Honors College.

**Undeclared Advising**  
**Paul W. Justice, Adviser**

First-year students who are undecided about a major have the option of the undeclared premajor. Undeclared premajors have the flexibility and challenge to complete a variety of course options while still earning their degree within four years. The Division of Undergraduate Studies collaborates closely with Career Services to support students in choosing a major. Additional resources and support also include participation in the Undeclared College Council, utilization of the Undeclared Blackboard Homeroom, and year-round group advising sessions. Students are encouraged to follow the Undeclared MyMap, meet with a career counselor at Career Services their freshmen year, and visit with faculty and staff advisers in their premajor(s) of interest as soon as possible. Undeclared students are also encouraged to conduct informational interviews with professionals employed on campus and in the community to connect possible majors with future employment options. For more information, visit <http://undeclared.sdsu.edu/dus/undeclared/Default.aspx> or call 619-594-5842.

**Weber Honors College**  
**Stacey L. Sinclair, Director**

The Weber Honors College is a community of scholars-students, faculty, and staff-committed to high academic achievement, the development of leadership skills, social responsibility, and international experience. The Weber Honors College features unique courses and small seminars through which students, working closely with faculty mentors, learn to think flexibly, solve complex problems, and pursue the creative expression of ideas. These classes are characterized by discussion, debate, and the pursuit of intellectual challenges that prepare students for high-impact educational experiences regardless of their chosen field of study.

**Honors Residential College.** Entering first year students accepted into the Weber Honors College are required to live in the Honors Residential College in Maya Hall during their first year. This opportunity is designed to ensure an exceptional undergraduate experience for honors students by integrating the unique components of the honors experience with the enriched advantages that Residential Learning Communities provide. The Honors Residential College features a supportive educational environment where students from diverse backgrounds pursue academic, co-curricular, and experiential activities related to campus activities, leadership opportunities, and academic engagement.

Weber Honors College students have the use of the Darlene Gould Davies Honors Study room, located in Love Library, Room 428A, as well as a Student Learning Lounge adjacent to the Weber Honors College offices (Administration, Room 201).

For a description of the Weber Honors College, admission requirements, and curriculum, refer to the Weber Honors College in the Courses and Curricula by Department section of this catalog. Information about the Weber Honors College can be accessed online at <http://www.sdsu.edu/honors>.

**Departmental Honors Courses.** Some departments regularly offer honors classes independently of the Weber Honors College, with eligibility defined by the sponsoring department. Students should consult the *Class Schedule* for such honors classes and contact the department or instructor for additional information.