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, interdisciplinarity, and academic excellence throughout the university and community. 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
- Academic Scholarships
- Center for Regional Sustainability
- Center for Teaching and Learning
- Compact Scholars Program
- Faculty-Student Mentoring Program
- Interdisciplinary Studies in Three Departments
- Liberal Studies
- People, Information, Communication, and Technology Program
- Thomas B. Day Student 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 Centers and Institutes

Center for Regional Sustainability
Geoffrey W. Chase, 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 further (1) focuses on key issues such as water resources, energy use, and transportation and develop comprehensive solutions for meeting these challenges; (2) educates and trains the next generation of sustainability experts and practitioners to meet the needs of local businesses, governments and non-profits organizations; and (3) informs and educates the public about sustainability issues through the development of curricula (K – 16), publications, and web applications, seminars and conferences.

More information is available at http://crs.sdsu.edu/.

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-educated 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 four components:

- 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 Engagement Programs
José Preciado, Director

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

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 undergraduate and graduate levels.
Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)
Brock S. Allen and Kathy S. Williams, Co-Directors

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 to design and assess courses and academic programs. The center hosts pICT People, Information, and Communications Technology, a curriculum development project funded by the Qualcomm Institute for Innovation and Educational Success, and works closely with Academic Engagement Programs, directed by Jose Preciado.

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 (CSP)
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 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 contact preciado@mail.sdsu.edu, 619-594-2209, or visit http://dus.sdsu.edu/ftemp.html.

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 Student Success Program
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 enriched learning opportunities (“high impact” educational practices). In order to serve the whole student, the Thomas B. Day Student Success Programs moves beyond the boundaries of the Division of Undergraduate Studies by way of intentional partnerships with the Division of Student Affairs, the Academic Colleges, and the Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies.

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.

Honors Residential College. Entering first year students accepted into the University Honors Program 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. Visit http://www.sdsu.edu/honors to learn more about the Honors experience.
Summer “Early Start” Program (non-residential). A special summer program features interventions designed to help designated students who begin higher education obtain full proficiency in basic writing and/or mathematics.

Summer Bridge. The Summer Bridge is a special summer program for a select group of new EOP freshmen students that provides an opportunity for a head start on college education and student life. Students participate in five weeks of intensive academic studies designed to yield up to six academic units and to develop needed writing, math, and study skills. Visit http://eop.sdsu.edu/Content/BEST.html to learn more about the Summer Bridge opportunity.

Linked Courses (non-residential). The Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies offers a number of linked courses as a way to enrich learning experiences essential to helping students achieve full academic proficiency in writing and mathematics. The particular interventions vary in response to changing student needs and profiles.

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.

University Honors Program
Stacey L. Sinclair, Director

The University Honors Program 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 program 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 beyond the classroom-study abroad, undergraduate research, leadership development-and for future graduate work and successful careers regardless of their chosen field of study. Students completing the Honors curriculum are required to take part in study abroad and they graduate with the Honors Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies.

All entering freshman Honors students live on campus in the Honors Residential College (Maya Hall) during their first year. The Honors Residential College features a rich, supportive educational environment where students from diverse backgrounds pursue academic, co-curricular, and experiential activities related to campus activities, leadership opportunities, and academic engagement.

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

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

Departmental Honors Courses. Some departments regularly offer honors classes independently of the University Honors Program, 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.