

# Division of Academic Engagement and Student Achievement

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## Administration

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## General Information

The mission of the Division of Academic Engagement and Student Achievement 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
- Academic Student Success Programs
- Center for Regional Sustainability
- Center for Supplemental Instruction
- Center for Teaching and Learning
- Compact Scholars Program
- Early Assessment Program
- General Studies
- Interdisciplinary Studies in Three Departments
- International Engagement
- National Scholarships and Fellowships
- Service Learning and Community Engagement Program
- The Sage Project
- Transfer Student Outreach Alliance
- 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) accreditation 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 Brightside Produce and 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, and the General 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 program 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).

Vinod Sasidharan, Director

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 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 Academic Engagement and Student Achievement, [mlopez@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:mlopez@mail.sdsu.edu) or call 619-594-5842.

### Transfer Student Outreach Alliance

Michelle Lopez, Assistant Dean

Transfer Student Outreach Alliance (TSOA) connects new transfer students to campus resources and assists transfer students in their academic and social transition into the university. Support for first-year transfer students begins with the summer "Transfer Connect" program. This symposium is held post-transfer orientation, but before students start their fall semester. Transfer Connect equips new transfers with the tools and knowledge to achieve, persist, and succeed at the university. Transfer students are introduced to the campus culture and gain the tools to connect with major advisers and mentors, facilitate the transfer process, and learn how to navigate the university. Students are taught how to produce signature work via engagement in high impact practice (e.g., internships, leadership, service learning, study abroad, and undergraduate research). Academic year programming for new and continuing transfer students is also available in addition to one-on-one or small group mentoring. For more information, contact [tsoa.dus@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:tsoa.dus@mail.sdsu.edu).

### Center for Supplemental Instruction

Emily A. Bates, Coordinator

Supplemental Instruction (SI) provides students in high-challenge courses with additional voluntary and non-remedial study sessions focused on active learning strategies. Since SI's implementation at SDSU in 2015, SI-participating students have typically averaged a half to full letter grade higher examination performance compared to non-SI-participating students. SI sessions are facilitated by undergraduate students who successfully completed the course and trained as SI leaders. Since SI focuses on high-challenge courses rather than at-risk students, SI participants range from those excelling in the course to students who may be struggling. SI sessions are offered throughout the week to maximize student access.

Information about supplemental instruction, courses, and session schedules may be found at <https://its.sdsu.edu/supplemental-instruction> or by contacting the SI coordinator at 619-594-2205.

### 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, study abroad, community based service learning, 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. For more information about the Compact Scholars Program, visit <http://csp.sdsu.edu/dus/compact-scholars> 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 livability goals. 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 619-594-0103.

### Academic Student Success Programs

Janet Abbott, Director

The Academic Student Success Program, endowed by Bernard and Doris Lipinsky, and in partnership with Commuter Life Programs, seeks to ensure the success of all students at the university, with an emphasis on providing student success pathways for commuter students. The program forms intentional partnerships among academic colleges, Academic Affairs, and Student Affairs to support academic mentoring, freshman interest groups, integrated curriculum, learning communities, and scholar seminars.

The program oversees the DAESA Student Learning Lounge, located in Administration, Room 201, and provides a student-friendly space for students to access academic resources and study, as well as meet face-to-face with student support professionals during the academic week. The lounge is a shared space between faculty, staff, and students and provides access to computers/printer, a conference room, and an outdoor patio that may be reserved for meetings and study sessions. DAESA students assist in monitoring the operation of the lounge for programs including the Center for Supplemental Instruction, 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 Academic Engagement and Student Achievement collaborates closely with Career Services and the academic colleges 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, year-round walk-in advising, and student success workshops. 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 local and out-of-area freshmen accepted into the Weber Honors College are required to live in the Honors Residential College in Zura 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 academic engagement, campus activities, and leadership opportunities.

All out-of-area freshmen accepted into the Weber Honors College are required to live on campus for two years as part of the SDSU Sophomore Success Program. Local area freshmen accepted into the Weber Honors College are not required to live on campus their second year, but those who want to live on campus their second year can opt to live in the sophomore Honors living-learning community (located within an independent apartment style residence hall) on a space available basis.

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.