

GENERAL STUDIES

Division of Academic Programs

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Division Description

The Division of Academic Programs at California State University, Bakersfield monitors special General Studies and CSUB courses designed to link students' classroom and non-classroom University experiences with each other. The General Studies courses are one- or two-unit courses which focus on material unavailable in the academic departments (i.e. Test Anxiety, Study Skills Development, Peer Counseling, Career/Job Search) and on topics in which lower division students express an interest. The course format is always informal and conducive to student-faculty exchange. The course descriptions are listed on pages ??-??.

The University Honors Program

The university offers a four-year honors program to incoming freshmen and a two-year program to transfer students. It includes the following academic and extracurricular advantages: a series of special honors-only general education classes taught by the university's best faculty members; priority at registration time; Helen Louise Hawk Honors scholarships; a senior honors independent study project in which students complete a research study or internship under the direct supervision of a professor in their major discipline; personalized academic and career advising; travel/education opportunities including study abroad; a fully equipped honors lounge; and frequent social events that help develop a sense of camaraderie and mutual support among the participants. Another bonus is an iPad given upon entry to the program to 4 year students and, if available, to 2 year students.

Except for the Independent Study Project, honors students are not asked to take any extra courses as a result of being in the program, since each of the honors classes satisfies one of the lower or upper division general education requirements. Students who complete the entire four-year honors program will receive credit for this achievement on their transcripts, recognition in the graduation program, and a lovely engraved silver and gold four-year honors medals to be worn at graduation. Two transfer students will receive a two year Honors cord.

Information regarding the University Honors Program is available from Dr. Jacquelyn Ann K. Kegley, Professor of Philosophy and Director of University Honors Programs (FT 103D, 661-654-2249), or from Honors Office (EDUC 211, 661-654-3461 or the Office of the Associate Vice President for Academic Programs (EDUC 242, 661-654-3420). There is also information on the Hawk Honors Program site on the university web page under Special Programs.

The Alpha Chi Honors Society

The university offers the opportunity for qualified students to be initiated once a year into the prestigious Alpha Chi Honors Society. In order to qualify for inclusion in Alpha Chi students must:

- Have a minimum of 24 earned quarter units taken at CSUB, and
- Be a junior with a minimum CSUB GPA of 3.8, or
- Be a senior with a minimum CSUB GPA of 3.7, or
- Be a graduate student with a minimum CSUB GPA of 3.8

There is a \$80 initiation fee that will be used to pay for lifetime membership in the society. A portion of that fee is returned to the university to fund Alpha Chi members to attend and present research project and posters at the national convention.

The benefits of the lifetime membership include: an opportunity to apply for undergraduate and graduate scholarships; permission to list your prestigious Alpha Chi membership on your resume; a handsome recognition pin; a lovely engraved certificate; an honor cord to be worn at graduation; a special listing of your name in the commencement program; a candlelight initiation ceremony; opportunities to travel to the national conventions; and occasional social events.

Further information may be obtained from: Dr. Jacquelyn Ann K. Kegley, Sponsor, California Iota Chapter, FT 103D, 654-2249 or jkegley@csub.edu. There is also information on the Alpha Chi site on the university webpage under Special Programs.

The First-Year Experience Program

The CSUB First-Year Experience program has been developed as an integrated one-year program for undergraduate students in "transition." The first-year Resources for Undergraduate Success and High-Achievement (RUSH-A) Program was created as a part of the organizational culture committed to **excellence in the quality of the student experience and community engagement.**

Mission

To build, nurture and sustain a vibrant educational community at CSUB committed to academic and personal success of undergraduate students "in transition": first-year college students, transfer students, and re-entry students.

First-Year Experience Program Goals

1. To assist students "in transition" to acquire essential academic information, gain necessary technical skills, and access needed academic support services at CSUB (LEARN).
2. To assist students "in transition" to become actively engaged with CSUB through faculty "passions for the academy" (ENGAGE).

3. To provide students “in transition” structured opportunities to become actively involved with the diverse leadership of CSUB as a “student ambassador” (SERVE).

The course descriptions for the CSUB courses (1009/3000, 1100/3100, 1200/3200) are listed at the end of this catalog.

California Pre-Doctoral Program (Sally Casanova)

The program is designed to increase the pool of university faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of individuals who are: current upper division or graduate students in the CSU, economically and educationally disadvantaged, interested in a university faculty career, U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and leaders of tomorrow.

Students who are chosen for this prestigious award are designated Sally Casanova Scholars as a tribute to Dr. Sally Casanova, for whom the Pre-Doctoral scholarship is named. These scholars are exposed to unique opportunities to explore and prepare to succeed in doctoral programs. CSU and UC faculty members are an integral component of this program as they work closely with scholars to prepare them for graduate studies.

Working one-on-one with faculty members from both CSU and doctoral-granting institutions, students receive funding for activities such as:

- participation in a summer research internship program at a doctoral-granting institution to receive exposure to the world of research in their chosen field
- visits to doctoral-granting institutions to explore opportunities for doctoral study
- travel to a national symposium or professional meeting in their chosen field
- Graduate school application and test fees

Information regarding the California Pre-Doctoral Program (Sally Casanova) is available from the Office of the Associate Vice President for Academic Programs (EDUC 242, 661-654-3420).

Service Learning

Many faculty at CSUB have developed service learning components that are integrated into their courses. Students enrolled in such courses have the opportunity to be placed with a community organization in the private, public, or non-profit sector. The Center for Community Engagement and Career Education (CECE) works cooperatively with faculty to facilitate real world experiences in support of classroom learning. Students gain professional knowledge and skills and develop valuable relationships in the community through service learning while completing academic courses. For more information about Service Learning, please contact CECE at www.csub.edu/cece or 661-654-3033.

Community Service Program

The Community Service Program includes a series of General Studies courses in which students receive 2 units of credit for variable hours of community service, with a total of 4 units available through the three courses. Most of the “class activities” for these courses are completed online via Blackboard. The courses include a mandatory orientation session and attendance at specified class times. Placements are identified using the RunnerLink system available at www.csub.edu/cece. Community service is designed to provide direct experience with appropriate professionals, while improving the quality of life in the community.

Students interested in community service should contact the Center for Community Engagement and Career Education at 661-654-3033 or by visiting www.csub.edu/cece.

Academic Internship Programs and Volunteer Opportunities

Students can receive academic credit for employment or non-paid service that is directly related to their academic discipline. The Center for Community Engagement and Career Education works cooperatively with academic departments to place students who are in good academic standing at a qualifying internship site. Students register for internship credit in a discipline-based course with the units based on the number of hours worked. The faculty sponsor in the student’s major field of study is the instructor of record for the internship course. Students may also be eligible to receive academic credit for volunteering at qualifying agencies after completing certain community service learning courses with prior approval. Students can review volunteer and internship opportunities in the career services management system, RunnerLink, available at www.csub.edu/cece.

Cooperative Education

Cooperative Education is a type of educational experience that integrates a students’ university academic study with related work experience in a business, government, or nonprofit agency. Students participate in part-time employment with concurrent attendance or alternate periods of attendance with periods of employment.

All students who are in good academic standing are eligible to apply for Cooperative Education. Academic credit, on a credit, no-credit basis, is awarded through enrollment in either General Studies or discipline-based Cooperative Education courses.

Students interested in Cooperative Credit should contact the Center for Community Engagement and Career Education at 661-654-3033 or by visiting www.csub.edu/cece.

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Credit for Prior Experiential Learning

The University grants units of credit for learning, knowledge, or skills-based experience that has been documented and evaluated according to campus policy. Students should be aware, however, that policies for earning credit for prior learning vary from campus to campus in the CSU.

The amount of credit for experiential learning is determined only after self and faculty assessment of the scope and quality of the learning. Evaluation of experiential learning takes varied forms, including written examinations, portfolios, personal interviews, and demonstrations. Frequently, complementary academic study will be required prior to the awarding of credit.

There are several restrictions on Credit for Prior Experiential Learning:

- a. Students shall not be awarded Credit for Prior Experiential Learning until they have completed 20 semester units (30 quarter units) in residence.
- b. Credit for Prior Experiential Learning shall not count as resident credit and shall be awarded only on a credit, no-credit basis;
- c. Credit for Prior Experiential Learning shall not exceed 12 semester units (20 quarter units);
- d. Only undergraduates are eligible to receive Credit for Prior Experiential Learning, and the credit may not count for post-baccalaureate credit.

Students interested in pursuing this option should consult with the appropriate school dean or department chair. Forms are available from the Academic Programs office (EDUC 242, 654-3420).