GSC NEWSLETTER

Fall 2026 | Volume 9 | Issue 1



2 Doctoral Programs | 15 Master Programs | 5 Teaching Credentials | 6 PostBacc. Certificates



DID YOU KNOW?

GRADUATE STUDIES AT CSUB BY THE NUMBERS

9

#9 Third Way's latest Economic Mobility Index

25

#25 in Best Regional Universities in the West

15

#15 Top Public Universities in the West

72

72% of our Graduate Students are Female

15

No. 15 in Top Performace on Social Mobility

74

74% of our Graduate Students are Racial ethnuc Minorities

22

#22 in America's Best Hispanic-Serving Colleges

4.5/5

4.5 out of 5 stars by Money magazine for 2026

24

24 in The 25 Colleges With The Highest Payoff

2 Doctoral Programs | 15 Master's Programs | 5 Teaching Credentials | 6 Postbaccalaureate Certificates

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The Graduate Student Center Team:

Professor of Biology
Faculty Director of Graduate Studies:
Dr. Amber Stokes
GSC Coordinator:
Martha Manriquez
GSC Student Assistants:
Emily Soria & Samantha Zamudio

We would like to give a shoutout to Dr. Stokes as the GSC's new Faculty Director of Graduate Studies as she begins this Fall semester!

We want to thank Abbie Kirkindoll, our past Student Assistant, for her time working at the GSC and hope the best for her as she moves on!

Welcome to our new Student Assistant Emily Soria!

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Contact Information

661.654.2786
gsc@csub.edu
www.csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter

Welcome to the Graduate Student Center!

The GSC supports and provides numerous services and resources to prospective, current, and past graduate students at CSUB. These resources include (but are certainly not limited to) general advising, biannual graduate orientation, annual grad slam (3MT) competition, free workshops, laptop checkout, semester-by-semester GSC newsletter, application support, Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program, California Pre-Doctoral Programs, other graduate events, graduate student lounge, computer lab, and poster printing services. With over 25+ graduate programs (including Doctoral, Master's, second Bachelor's, post Baccalaureate, and Credential programs), 19+ credentials, 6+ postbaccalaureate certificates, 1,600+ current graduate students, and 15,000+ graduate alum, our graduate programs are continually growing.



25+ Graduate Programs

1,650+ Current Graduate Students
15,000+ Graduate Alumni

Doctoral Degrees
Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Educational Leadership
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Teaching Credentials
Educational Administration
Educational Counseling
Special Education
Teacher Education Multiple Subjects
Teacher Education Single Subject

PostBacclaurete Certificates
Bilingual Added Authorization (Spanish)
Introductory Computer Science Supplementary Authorization
Reading and Literacy Added Authorization
Post-Bac Certificate in Writing
Post-Graduate Nurse Educator Certificate
Post-Bac Certificate in Hydrogeology

Master's Degree
Master of Arts in Education - Curriculum & Instruction
Master of Arts in Educational Administration
Master of Arts in English
Master of Arts in History
Master of Arts in Spanish
Master of Arts in Special Education
Master of Business Administration
Master of Public Administration
Master of Science in Biology
Master of Science in Counseling Psychology
Master of Science in Educational Counseling
Master of Science in Geology
Master of Science in Health Care Administration
Master of Science in Kinesiology
Master of Social Work



Learn more at: https://www.csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter/graduate-programs

Funding Opportunities from **The California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Office (CO)**

The California Pre-Doctoral Program (Sally Casanova)

The California Pre-Doctoral Program (Sally Casanova) is designed to increase diversity within the pool of university faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of students within the CSU. This funding opportunity enables students to explore and prepare to succeed in doctoral programs within their chosen field of study.

To learn more about the California Pre-Doctoral Program (Sally Casanova), please utilize the following links:

- Link to California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Office (CO) California Pre-Doctoral Program (Sally Casanova) webpage.
- Link to the California Predoctoral Program Application

ATTEND OUR PRE-DOCTORAL & CDIP INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP (details on p. 9)

The California State University Health Professions Scholars Initiative

In the past two academic years, 23 students majoring in health-related disciplines were awarded funding as Health Professions Scholars. These funds are designed to support CSU students to protect and promote health through research, training, and leadership, while guiding future health scholars and leaders in protecting California's communities. Awards are based on competitive review of student applications and given to current CSU upper-division or graduate students who, in the judgment of the review panel, demonstrate academic excellence and potential and are committed to exploring pathways for CSU to conduct research, lead, and care for community health. Applications for the 2027-2028 Academic Year will open in December.

- Link to the California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Office (CO) Health Professions Scholars Initiative.
- Link to the California State University Chancellor's Office Health Professions Scholars' Initiative Application

The California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP)

The goal of the California State University Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP) is to increase the number of faculty with the qualifications, motivation, and skills needed to teach the diverse students of the CSU. CDIP helps doctoral students turn their faculty aspirations into reality through CSU faculty mentorship, professional development, and financial assistance. Each of the applicants selected will be designated as a CDIP Fellow and collaborate with their CSU faculty mentor to complement the doctoral studies with activities that prepare them for a rewarding career in the CSU or institutions similarly focused on student success. To learn more about the California State University Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP), please utilize the following links:

- Link to the California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Office (CO) Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP) webpage.
- Link to the 2027-2028 Academic Year Application which will be opening in late November or early December.

If you have any additional questions or concerns about these programs, please be sure to schedule a meeting with the CSUB Campus Coordinator for the California State University Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP). Please contact the Graduate Student Center at gsc@csub.edu, 661-654-2786, or stop by our Office in DDH C-100.



Congratulations to:

Our Predoctoral Sally Casanova and Health Professionals Initiative Scholars for the 2026-2027 academic year. These students received a $5000.00 award from the CSU Chancellor's Office to explore and prepare to succeed in doctoral programs within their chosen field of study. They will receive support from their faculty mentors for their educational activities. They also may be eligible for summer research opportunities. Congratulations!

Read about their academic journey in this CSUB story:

- https://news.csub.edu/three-csub-students-receive-state-doctoral-scholarships

To learn about these predoctoral programs, please visit their websites through the links below:

- https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/predoc
- https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/health-professions-scholars-initiative/Pages/default.aspx

Heather Gross - Biochemistry
Predoctoral Sally Casanova



Tremaine Law - Psychology
Health Professions Scholars Initiative



Jocelyne Lopez - M.S. Biology
Predoctoral Sally Casanova



Congratulations to CSUB alumna Nora Alammari for being selected for the Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program, CDIP. She graduated in 2023 with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Biology and is pursuing a Ph.D. in pharmacological sciences at the University of California, Irvine. Nora says: "CDIP will help by providing professional development opportunities, mentorship, financial support, and a stronger pathway toward an academic career. The larger impact is that it makes the goal of becoming a faculty member feel more attainable and supported." Nora's faculty mentor is Dr. Amy Gancarz-Kausch. To read about Nora's academic journey on our CSUB's stories please go to the link below:

https://news.csub.edu/alumna-selected-for-chancellors-doctoral-incentive-program

Nora Alammari: P.hD Student
Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (DCIP)



CSU Chancellor's Office - Fellowship Opportunity

GRADUATE EQUITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AND MORE

Did you know you can apply for the Graduate Equity Fellowship (GEF) Program? This program awards graduate students $500-$2,000 per academic year. You can learn more about this fellowship program (as well as many other graduate student funding opportunities and resources) by visiting the Graduate Student Center's Funding Opportunities & Resources website.

GEF is funding provided by the Chancellor's Office every year.

https://www.calstate.edu/apply/paying-for-college/financial-aid/types/Pages/scholarships.aspx

CSUB GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

INTERESTED IN A PH.D PROGRAM? — COME FIND OUT ABOUT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES!



RSVP HERE:

PRE-DOCTORAL & CDIP PROGRAM INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP

through the CSU Chancellor's Office

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

12:00pm-1:00pm

Snacks & Refreshments

WSL Studio Room C

AV: ITV AVC - CSUB 121

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BAKERSFIELD
Graduate Student Center

www.csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter/events-workshops

Congratulations to Grad Slam 2026 Winner: Elizabeth Heckathorn - DPEL & Runner-up: Madison Guerrero, MBA program

The Grad Slam is a graduate student research competition for the best 3-minute presentation aimed at a non-specialist audience. Our next competition will take place in Spring 2027!

Congrats on winning 1st place in our CSUB Grad Slam last Spring 2026 Elizabeth! She presented a 3-minute research presentation titled: " Burnout by Design: How Teaching Structures Shape Teacher Well-Being. She gave a great presentation.Thank you for representing the Doctoral Program of Educational Leadership!

Congrats Elizabeth!





Congrats Madison!

Congrats madison to advancing to the finals in the statewide competition and for competeing at the CSUB Grad Slam last spring 2026! Presented a 3 minute research presentation, her MBA topic being: "The Gap Doesn't Close Itself". Thank you for representing the MBA program!



Goodbye message to Abbie:

Congratulations to our outgoing GSC student assistant, Abbie Kirkindoll, on her graduation
from the MS Educational Counseling/Student Affairs program!

Over the past two years, Abbie has made a lasting impact on the GSC. Besides organizing our electronic filing system, she oversaw our GSC mailbox, answering or referring questions left and right. She helped prospective graduate students navigate their application questions, kept our website running smoothly, our social media channels up to date, and supported our tabling events—just to name a few, all while pursuing her master's degree. She also assisted the Office of Academic Programs with their electronic filing system conversion. During her two years here, she also worked with the Antelope Valley Outreach Chatbot Project assisting with outreach to transfer students as well as review and editing transfer maps from AVC-CSUB. Abbie went the extra mile every time to make sure students received the attention needed in their graduate studies inquiries.

Thank you, Abbie, for your hard work and dedication. We miss you and wish you success in all your future endeavors!

Abbie's Insight:

Abbie decided to pursue her master's degree in Educational Counseling as she wants to become an Academic Advisor and most advising positions, and ones at CSUB especially, require a master's degree.

"One of the most substantial moments I felt was when I got my results back from our competency exam. Getting the email that you have passed and you get to graduate is unmatched. It makes everything worth it. If you are afraid, don't be! You can do it!" She states as she is happy to have pursued graduate school and even happier to now have graduated.

Grad school wasn't always easy; she remembers the difficulty in trying to find field work that would allow her to meet the required 700 field work hours throughout the 2 years of the academic program. "Thankfully, the Graduate Student Center was hiring at the time, and I was able to get a position at the GSC, and I remained there for the duration of my graduate degree. I am so very thankful for the opportunity and I learned so much there."

Looking back, Abbie tells us that her chohort had one of the greatest impacts on her graduate journey.
"I formed a group of friends within my cohort that I am still friends with today. Two of them were even bridesmaids in my wedding. I love my girls, and I am so grateful to have met them. Without the cohort, our friendship never would have happened!"

A cool fact about her is she has a cat named Gandalf!

As a recent master's graduate, the advice she would give to students considering or pursuing a graduate degree is that grad school is worth the effort!

"Graduate school is worth it!!!
And it is not as scary as it seems! It goes by so much quicker than you'd expect.
Don't be afraid of it. You can do it!"
-Abbie Kirkindoll

MENTORING

Did you know? CSUB has a mentor program available for graduate students. The Runner Alumni Mentor Program (RAMP) pairs graduate students with a CSUB alumni professional for an academic year of career-preparation coaching. Join here: Runner Alumni Mentor Program





ASI: DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDENTS POSITION OPENING

If you are interested in joining ASI as the Director of Graduate Students, please contact Mike Kwon at mkwon@csub.edu

Requirements:

1. Must be a currently enrolled graduate student at CSUB.
2. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 within the graduate program.
3. Be enrolled in 6, or more, units.

GRADUATE
STUDENT CENTER
CSU BAKERSFIELD

A PLACE FOR CSUB'S GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate Student Center (GSC)

GSC OPEN:

MON. - FRI. 8:00AM - 5:00PM

LOUNGE & LAB:

*CODE NEEDED

MON. - FRI.
DDH HOURS

LOCATION:

DDH C100

WE ASSIST WITH CSUB GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND PREDOC/DOCTORAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES!

GSC Lounge & Computer Lab where you can hang, use a computer, or print!








GRADUATE
STUDENT CENTER
CSU BAKERSFIELD
GSC Office Warming!
COME TO OUR OFFICE WARMING THERE WILL BE SNACKS!
ALL STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF ARE WELCOME TO JOIN
WHERE:
GSC LOUNGE, LAB, OUTSIDE DDH HALLWAY
TIME:
1:30PM - 5:00PM
DEC. 2ND, 2026

Please consider joining us in our mission to serve and support prospective, current, and past CSUB graduate students by donating to Graduate Studies. Please know your generous donations (no matter how large or small) have a direct positive impact on our graduate students.

You can donate online at: https://give.csub.edu/gsc.shtml



DONATE TO THE GSC

Congratulations to our Spring 2026 Graduates! 17











THE GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

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