

GSC NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026 | Volume 8 | Issue 2



2 Doctoral Programs | 18 Master Programs | 5 Teaching Credentials | 3 Teaching Certificates



DID YOU KNOW?

GRADUATE STUDIES AT CSUB

BY THE NUMBERS

68

68% of our Graduate Students are First Generation

70

70% of our Graduate Students are Female

28

28% of our Graduate Students are ages 25-29

77

77% of our Graduate Students attend Full-Time

21

No. 21 in Top Performance on Social Mobility

62

62% of our Graduate Students are Hispanic/Latino

92

92% of our Graduate Students are considered In-State

91

91% of our Graduate Students are from other CA Institutions

67

67% of our graduate students are from Traditionally Underrepresented Groups

4.5/5

4.5 out of 5 stars by Money magazine for 2025

2 Doctoral Programs | 18 Master's Programs | 5 Teaching Credentials | 3 Teaching Certificates

In this issue...



The Graduate Student Center Team: Interim AVP for Academic Affairs and Dean of Academic Programs:

Dr. Elizabeth Adams

GSC Coordinator:

Martha Manriquez

GSC Student Assistants:

Abbie Kirkindoll & Samantha Zamuido

ASI Director:

Mario Enriguez



p.1 - Introduction

p.2 - Our Graduate Programs

p.3 - New Graduate Program Directors

p.4 - New Graduate Program Directors

p.5 - New Graduate Program Directors

p.6 - Grad Slam Flyer

p.7 - What is Grad Slam?

p.8 - Watch Grad Slam

p.9 - GSC Grand Reopening

p.10 - Meet your ASI Director

p.11 - Mentoring & Fellowship

p.12 - Donate to the GSC

p.13 - Congrats and Thank you



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 graduate summit, annual grad slam (3MT) competition, free workshops, laptop checkout, semester-by-semester GSC newsletter, application support, Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program, California Pre-Doctoral Program, other graduate events, and after our grand reopening March 25th, 2026 we will resume offering our graduate lounge, computer lab, and poster printing services. With over 20 graduate programs (including Doctoral, Master's, second Bachelor's, post Baccalaureate, and Credential programs), 19+ credentials, 6+ professional certificates, 3+ academic certificates, 1,400+ current graduate students, and 12,000+ graduate alum, our graduate programs are continually growing.



20+ Graduate Programs

1,500+ Current Graduate Students

12,000+ 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

Teaching Certificates

Bilingual Added Authorization (Spanish)
Introductory Competition Science Supplementary
Authorization
Reading and Literacy Added Authorization

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>

MBA Director:



Dr. Sumita Sarma

Dr. Sumita Sarma holds a Ph.D. in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

Dr. Sarma was drawn to the CSUB MBA program because of “its mission to provide reasonably-priced, accessible, high-quality graduate business education to a diverse student body in Kern County, and overall California, along with the opportunity to help both working professionals and high-achieving recent undergraduates advance their careers through applied, case-based, and project-driven coursework that connects theory to real business challenges.”

As Graduate Program Director, Dr. Sarma especially values “teaching and mentoring students, strengthening our curriculum in areas like sustainability and social entrepreneurship, and building community partnerships that create real-world impact for our region.”

Dr. Sumita Sarma still tries to find time for karaoke and loves catching Bollywood concerts in the LA area.

-Dr. Sarma
ssarma@csub.edu

MPA Director:



Dr. Chandra Commuri

Dr. Chandra Commuri has a Ph.D. in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Commuri got an opportunity to teach at CSUB just as he was finishing up his Ph.D. Program. He says he loves being here at CSUB!

Dr. Commuri emphasizes that CSUB’s nationally accredited MPA program is over 50 years old.

“It is an honor to have an opportunity to lead this program. My work is easy because we have a very collegial group of faculty that shares the same goals- supporting students, maintaining program quality, and building goodwill among our external stakeholders.”

-Dr. Commuri
ccommuri@csub.edu

M.A. English Director



Dr. Adam Schuster

Dr. Schuster received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

He arrived at CSUB in Fall 2022, and since then, Dr. Schuster has taught graduate courses in African American literature and sound studies, as well as rhetorical theory.

“Our grad students are so brilliant and talented, and I’ve been really inspired by the work they do, both during their coursework and in their thesis projects. My hope has always been that, being only a few years removed from my own graduate studies, I could offer really useful advice to students about how to navigate a graduate program, or even the job market.”

Because of this, when the position of graduate program director became available last year, Dr. Schuster saw it as another opportunity to collaborate with them and support their success.

Dr. Schuster also lived in Bakersfield for a few years as a child, and he has quite a few family members who still live in the area.

“It’s been really wonderful to have family so close.”

-Dr. Schuster
aschuster@csub.edu

M.A. Spanish Director



Dr. Lena Taub Robles

Dr. Taub Robles has a Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures from the University at Buffalo (SUNY).

She specializes in Caribbean literature, with a focus on contemporary Francophone and Hispanic Caribbean literature.

Dr. Taub Robles arrived at CSUB in 2016 and teaches Caribbean literature in the Spanish graduate program. Coming from Puerto Rico, she loves sharing her own cultural and linguistic insights with students at CSUB. She became more involved in the program when she advised a student who wrote a thesis on gender and performance in the work of Dominican author and musician Rita Indiana.

“I love working with graduate students and sharing my passion for literature with them, so I was eager to work more directly with them as director when the opportunity arrived.”

Dr. Taub Robles is also a translator. Her recent translation of Lyonel Trouillot’s novel “Veilleuse du Calvaire”, translated in English as “The Watch Woman of Calvary Hill”, will appear in print this May!

-Dr. Taub Robles
ltaub@csub.edu

Multiple Subject Credential Director



Mrs. Amy Younger

Mrs. Younger received a Master of Arts in Education: Curriculum and Instruction, as well as a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, in August 2016 from CSUB. She also obtained her B.S. in Business Administration: Management from CSUB in June 2014.

After completing her education at CSUB and participating in the Kern Rural Teacher Residency, Mrs. Younger taught at Buttonwillow Union School District for five years. She emphasized that she absolutely loved her time there working with the students, staff, and community.

“I wanted to come back to CSUB because this is the program that provided me so much guidance and support and helped shape me into the educator that I am. I am passionate about continuing to grow as an educator, which includes supporting future teachers, and in turn positively impacts more students.”

Mrs. Younger has worked at CSUB for the past 6 years in various roles, including supervision and instruction. “I love supporting new teachers and giving them the confidence and tools to be the best educators they can be so that they can better serve the students in our community.”

When she's not at work, Mrs. Younger loves spending time with her husband and two young kids. “They keep me on my toes!”

-Mrs. Younger
ayounger1@csub.edu

**Congratulations to all of our
new Graduate Program
Directors!**

MBA:

Dr. Sumita Sarma

MPA:

Dr. Chandra Commuri

English:

Dr. Adam Schuster

Spanish:

Dr. Lena Taub Robles

AV Special Education:

Mrs. Jane Brown

&

Mrs. Nancy Collins

Multiple Subject Credentials:

Mrs. Amy Younger

GRAD SLAM

Friday, April 17th, 3:00pm

Application Deadline: April 6th, 2026

**Present your research
to a new audience!**

**Apply and find more info on the
Graduate Student Center website**

**[csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter/events-
workshops](https://csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter/events-workshops)**

- 1 PowerPoint slide
- 3 Minutes
- Via Zoom



**Prize money presented to the
Grad Slam Winner and 1st
runner-up!**



What is the Grad Slam?

The Grad Slam showcases graduate student research through short TED Talk-style presentations. Master's and Doctoral students display one presentation slide and they have three minutes to present their research using language their peers and non-specialists will understand.

Participating students will learn how to:

- 1) Hone their communication and presentation skills to articulate research concisely and effectively
- 2) Explain their research and its impact on an outside, non-specialized audience
- 3) Enrich their curriculum vitae and expand their connections through networking opportunities.

CSUB Grad Slam winner and 1st runner up will compete in the CSU Wide Grad Slam hosted by CSU Fullerton on May 1st

[Apply here](#)



Grad Slam

WATCH LIVE

Support your friends and fellow graduate students!



Friday, April 17th, 2026



3:00 pm



Join us over Zoom

csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter/events-workshops



GRADUATE
STUDENT CENTER
CSU BAKERSFIELD

COME ATTEND OUR

Grand Reopening

WE HAVE A NEW LOCATION!

REOPENING EVENT:
MARCH 25, 2026
1:00PM - 3:00PM

DDH C100

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

STOP BY AND VISIT US TO
GET GRADUATE SWAG!



**MEET THE ASI DIRECTOR
OF GRADUATE STUDENTS:**

MARIO ENRIGUEZ



**Are you a graduate student? Mario is here to
represent you!**

Meet with him to express any concerns you may have,
or just for a general chat!

**Wednesdays: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
ASI Office in the Student Union**

Mario is also available via email at menriguez@csu.edu

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](#)



20k 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](#).

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!



THE GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

CONTACT INFORMATION

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WWW.CSUB.EDU/GRADUATESTUDENTCENTER

