The Master’s Degree: To Dare or Doubt, on Debt?

Embarking on a master’s degree is a taxing commitment in time and effort, made difficult by financial jargon and acronyms such as DTE, ROI, or IDR. Ideally and in foresight, students pursuing a master’s degree want a high ROI (return on investment) for their degree, with a low DTE (debt-to-earnings) ratio, and a job with a high IDR (income-driven repayment) plan to reduce time to pay the loan if any. Not all degrees will meet these criteria.

A study by the Urban Institute (June 30, 2022) showed that three types of master’s degrees—social work; clinical, counseling, and applied psychology; and mental health services—are at risk of high debt-to-earnings because wages for these degrees are lower. They showed that (a) compared to public institutions, attending private non-profit institutions increased the average amount of loans ($77,000 compared to $43,200); (b) these students spent more than 40 percent of their discretionary income to repay the loans; and (c) while they represent 44 percent of all master’s degree programs, they accounted for most large loans (75%).

Complicating the story, Edward Conroy (Forbes, July 18, 2022) sees wage disparities detrimental to minoritized groups, such as women, who represent a proportion as high as 90 percent in social work, Black (14%), Hispanic/Latino (14%). He suggests that students wishing to enter fields like social work and counseling should consider public institutions if they wish to keep their debt-to-earnings ratio low.

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**GSC DIRECTOR**
Dr. Denver J. Fowler

**ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR**
Martha Manriquez

**GRADUATE ADVISOR**
Adrianne Silva, Newsletter Co-Editor

**STUDENT ASSISTANTS**
Jay Shyamdasani
Emma Barnes, Newsletter Co-Editor

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**GSC OFFICE HOURS**
Monday-Friday 8 AM - 5:00 PM
& By appointment 5 PM - 7:00 PM

**LOCATION – Numenon (West Dorms) & Virtual**
csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter

**CONTACT US** Email: gsc@csub.edu
Main: (661) 654-2786 /Fax: (661) 654-2791

Fall semester 2022 is full of promise as we leave the new normal behind and hold high future expectations. Please look forward to exciting workshops, increased research-, service-, and professional development opportunities offered through the GSC.

"We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this thing, at whatever cost, must be attained." - Marie Curie
GSC Fall 2022 Workshops

All workshops will be through Zoom, Fridays, 3-4 p.m. by Zoom. RSVP at gsc@csub.edu or 661.654.2786

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<th>Date</th>
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Our 19 Graduate Programs Welcome New Student Applicants

- Administration (MSA)
- Biology (MS)
- Business Administration (MBA)
- Computer Science (MS)
- Counseling Psychology (MS)
- Education – Curriculum & Instruction (MA)
- Educational Administration (MA)
- Educational Leadership Doctoral Program (EdD)
- Educational Counseling (MS)
- English (MA)
- Geology (MS)
- Health Care Administration (MSCHA)
- History (MA)
- Interdisciplinary Studies [In Moratorium]
- Kinesiology (MSK)
- Nursing (MSN)
- Public Administration (MPA)
- Social Work (MSW)
- Spanish (MA)
- Special Education (MA)

Correct Decision – Choose CSUB

Economic Mobility is a reality of a CSUB education

“CSUB ranked No. 5 in economic mobility – Think tank recognizes university for helping low-income students achieve success” (J. Luiz, February 1st, 2021, news.csub.edu).

Other similar recognitions:
- No. 20 in CollegeNet’s 2021 Social Mobility Index
- No. 28 in Top Performers in Social Mobility by U.S. News and World Report
- No. 21 out of 25 Most Affordable Four-Year Colleges of 2021 by Best Value Schools
- No. 25 Best Bang for the Buck by Washington Monthly
Introducing the New Associate Dean

Dr. Denver J. Fowler
Associate Dean Graduate & Undergraduate Studies

Dr. Debra Jackson, the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Academic Programs, is pleased to announce that the new Associate Dean for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Denver J. Fowler, has joined our campus as of July 1, 2022.

For over a decade, Dr. Denver J. Fowler has successfully served in various leadership roles within the higher education setting, including serving as an interim Dean, Department Chair, Doctoral Program Chair, and Graduate Program Coordinator. In addition, he has served as an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Prior to his experience in the higher education setting, Dr. Fowler served for over a decade in the PK-12 educational setting as a School Administrator, Technology Coordinator, Athletic Director, Teacher, and Coach.

To this day, Dr. Fowler remains a licensed Superintendent, Principal, and Teacher in the states of California, Ohio, and Connecticut. He completed his Doctor of Education in Educational Administration at Ohio University, Master of Arts in Education at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Bachelor of Science in Education at The Ohio State University, and a School Leadership Institute at Harvard University.

Dr. Fowler is excited to return to the state of California as well as the CSU system, having previously worked at CSU Sacramento, and having worked closely with PK-12 districts across the state. Most importantly, he considers California his Homebase. His experience in academia, community engagement, and administrative leadership will be a good fit to facilitate strategic growth of our CSUB graduate programs, undergraduate studies, academic advising, and the collaboration of our dual enrollment with our high school partners.

In his spare time, Dr. Fowler enjoys spending time with his family and being involved with community service. Facilitating pipelines to a college education, particularly for first-generation students, is a passion for which he advocates and invests his effort and time.

All of us at CSUB welcome Dr. Fowler to the ‘Runner family.’
“Making people smile: Biology graduate Jessica Valdivinos-Ayala works toward dream of becoming a dentist.” (by K. Ardis, 7 June 2022, news.csuf.edu).

The road to graduate studies is fraught with unknowns that must be conquered, as is the case for students dreaming of dentistry. Jessica Valdivinos-Ayala exemplifies such road-taken, from hard work in taking difficult STEM courses, to having mentors in both high school (Ms. Anna Donville, her chemistry teacher at Golden Valley High School) and college (Dr. Anna Jacobsen’s, CSUB Biology Professor). As a first-generation student, toiling the soil in the hard farm work of the Central Valley, Jessica’s tenacity and love for science has paid big dividends, as she has finished the master’s in medical science from Mississippi College and is currently enroute to fulfilling her dream, as a student in dental school at Tufts University. Read more about her remarkable journey as she explains how the Biology program’s research opportunities at CSUB changed her life, news.csuf.edu

“CSUB professor receives teaching award: Dr. Bre Evans-Santiago recognized as Professor of Education of the Year” (by J. Luiz, 16 June 2022, news.csuf.edu).

Professor of education of the year goes to, Dr. Bre-Ann Evans-Santiago, Teacher Education Credential Director. CSUB graduate/credential program directors are multi-talented individuals, exceeding in their performance as administrators, service professionals, and in teaching. Dr. Evans-Santiago epitomizes this dichotomy and was recently honored with the highest of accolades by the Association of California School Administrators West Kern Charter’s Professor of Education of the Year award. Professor Evans-Santiago is also a distinguished scholar, having published (2020) her book, Mistakes we have made: Implications or social justice educators. The Graduate Student Center wholeheartedly congratulates her on having achieved this recognition and her many contributions to our credential- and graduate-programs. Read the story at news.csuf.edu

“Realizing a dream Craig Hulsey graduates this month with master’s degree in geology.” (by K. Ardis, 12 May 2022, news.csuf.edu).

Dreaming of science, wearing the lab white coat was a prevalent thought throughout life for Craig Hulsey. Dropping from college, Craig took a detour through the consuming and difficult labor of making a living out of restaurant work. Talent, curiosity, and dreaming of things outside this world would remain with him, eventually taking the steps to become a returning student. He earned A grades all around, finished his baccalaureate degree, and entered the MS in Geology, where he studied the geology of the moon, through meteorite rocks. So, yes, he is studying phenomena from outside this world. Read about his exciting journey and impressive success as he graduated this spring semester 2022 with a master’s degree in Geology, news.csuf.edu
“Helping children in need: Gabby Britt to work as therapist after graduating with master’s degree in social work.” (by J. Luiz, 10 May 2022, news.csub.edu).

Social work and therapy work are typically listed as those jobs that are recession proof—there is always a need and not enough personnel. Gabby is excited to delve deeply into helping children who have experienced trauma. She sees imbuing these children with resiliency as necessitating a wholistic approach that involves the children, their families, and the community. She has worked as a recovery specialist with Kern Behavioral and Human Services for several years. By earning her MSW, she is now ready to embark on licensure requirements to be promoted as a therapist. Her knowledge of our community and common issues will help her bring wellness needed by many of our children and their families. Gabby exemplifies the excellent training our graduate programs provide our students, with social work in highlight. Read about Gabby’s graduate experience in the MSW program at news.csub.edu

“State budget supports CSUB’s Energy Innovation Center: $83 million allocation will help university reimagine future of energy” (by J. Self, 27 June 2022, news.csub.edu).

CSUB is poised for a bright future, having secured funding for the Energy Innovation Center (EIC), an $83 million allocation in the California state budget. This is a major coup given the waiting list of projects across all 23 CSU campuses. Most importantly, approval of this project attest to the needs of our time with increasing concerns on global warming and how CSUB stands ready to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Graduate education at CSUB stands to gain from having this important project built here, as Kern County is an energy center, be oil, solar or wind energy production. The EIC will serve as a science incubator in energy production, conservation, and technological innovations. Already several departments have deep connections to energy industries, such as Geology and oil, Biology and agriculture-food production.

Increased focus will also fall on technologies of tomorrow, sustainability, and basic-, applied-research related to the environment, energy efficiencies, and environment-human interfaces. This will require that our workforce up-skill and re-skill in tools and knowledge. Already our university is actively surveying what these needs might be through a grant funded by the National Science Foundation/Council of Graduate Schools’ Master’s Degree exist survey (news.csub.edu).

Read more about the Energy and Innovation Center at: news.csub.edu
“Ricco Reynolds and Jane Lopez announced Outstanding Graduate and Undergraduate Students.” (by J. Self, 18 May 2022, news.csub.edu).

The pandemic was a difficult time for everyone but more so for our first responders, who at great personal cost and risk, attended to the care of others. This was true of Ricco Reynolds who received his master’s degree in Nursing this past May. On call, attending to emergencies, and comforting COVID-19 patients and their families, sacrifice, service, and scholarship work defined the hard-earned accolades awarded to Ricco. Among these are being named Nurse of the Year in 2019, being selected as the 2022 recipient of the President’s Medal for Outstanding Graduate Student, and, conducting research on an assessment instrument for perceived stress due to COVID-19. Ricco is the prototype of CSUB graduate students who succeed in the face of hardship, demands to step up efforts, and navigating their academics with purpose, focus, and success for self and those who depend on us. Congratulations, Ricco, on your achievements. Carry on with the great work. Read more about Ricco at news.csub.edu

“Two CSUB students earn top awards in CSU Student Research Competition” Hannah McKinzie and Garrett Hentges both placed in their categories.” (by J. Luiz, 12 May 2022, news.csub.edu).

Hanna McKinzie is not afraid to tackle difficult research projects as a graduate student in History. She won first place at the 2021 Grad Slam competition by providing research evidence of how the Chicano Movement could be understood using theoretical underpinnings developed by Mao Zedong (news.csub.edu). Fast forward to spring 2022 and Hannah again takes home the top trophy at the CSU Student Research Competition in the category of Humanities, Arts, and Letters. Her project on “Humor and housewives in the postwar United States,” used data old issues of Ladies’ Home Journal, winning the award in the gradate students’ group reflects her diligence and creativity in her research. Read more about Hannah’s research award at news.csub.edu

“Overcoming challenges and helping others: Biology alumna and lecturer Nahliel Ruiz shares her experience as a DACA recipient.” (by K. Ardis, 22 February 2022, news.csub.edu).

University studies amalgamate economic, social, personal, family, and many other issues, making the academic journey challenging. Add residency issues and the terrain to academic success is a steep uphill. Attending CSUB and earning her BS and MS in Biology was made easier for Nahliel Ruiz through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the California Dream Act. To dream, to have hope, high motivation, personal persistence, and hard work are hallmarks of immigrants to the United States, and Nahliel’s academic success is a manifestation of the possible when doors open. Nahliel’s love for teaching, doing research in the biological sciences, and contributing to the success of other students, is inspirational and a way forward for all those who face similar situations. Read more about Nahliel’s academic journey at CSUB--news.csub.edu
Master of Science in Geology

Geologists apply the fundamental concepts from biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics to investigate Earth’s history and better understand the processes at work today.

Program Description

The CSUB Department of Geological Sciences offers a comprehensive graduate program leading to the Master of Science in Geology degree. The M.S. degree has non-thesis and thesis tracks along with optional concentrations in Petroleum Geology and Hydrogeology. Both tracks are designed to prepare students for employment and/or advancement to senior positions in industry, consulting, and government. The non-thesis track is intended as a professional degree for students interested in applying for licensure as a Professional Geologist or Geophysicist as well as for students seeking to expand their career options. The thesis track is intended to develop research and project leadership skills for students interested in research-focused positions and/or admission to Ph.D. programs. CSUB students benefit from a broad range of faculty expertise and research interests, well-equipped laboratory facilities, convenient access to world-famous field locales, and the proximity of campus to the petroleum industry, government regulatory agencies, and numerous hydrogeology, geotechnical, and environmental consulting firms.

Program Faculty – Research Interests

- Anna Cruz – Environmental Geochemistry, Paleoceanography, Paleoclimatology
- Adam Guo – Marine Sedimentation, Clay Mineralogy, Paleoclimatology
- Matt Herman – Lithospheric Geodynamics, Earthquake Seismology, Geodesy
- William Krugh – Tectonic Geomorphology, Earth Surface Processes, Structural Geology
- Katie O’Sullivan – Volcanology, Igneous Petrology, Planetary Geology
- Anthony Rathburn – Micropaleontology, Oceanography, Geoscience Education
- Liaosha Song – Petroleum Geology, Carbon Sequestration, Hydrogen Storage

For updates and application information, please visit: https://www.csueasthern.edu/geology/academic-programs/ms-in-geology/apply/index.html
On May 6th, 2022, CSUB hosted the second annual CSU Grad Slam/3MT competition—benefiting from a strong foundation set by San Jose State University, who founded this competition in the CSU. Thirty-seven graduate student researchers, representing 20 CSU campuses, showcased a wide array of excellent research creativity presentations, using only one PowerPoint slide, a challenging task of presenting an 80-page thesis in 3-minutes.

Attending dignitaries included Dr. Jolene Koester—CSU Chancellor, Dr. Lynnette Zelezny—CSUB President, Ms. Krystal Raynes—CSU Board of Trustees, and Ms. Margarita Melendez—U.S. Department of Education, among others. Scientific research is a signpost of the groundbreaking work being done by graduate students at the CSU and an increasing focus of problem solving of pressing issues of our time.

The CSU plans to be center stage in crafting research for a better tomorrow and we all expect to see a greater emphasis on Grad Slams competitions as manifestation of this goal. San Diego State University will host the 3rd Grad Slam competition in May of 2023.

Please see the finalist video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDUEqT04LZ4 and a brochure of the event at: https://maindata.csub.edu/media/45486/download?inline

Heartfelt congratulations to the winners of this year’s competition

First Place Winner
Jessica Gonzalez - CSUN

Second Place Winner
Jacob Campbell - Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo

Audience Choice Winner
Alyssa Cooper - Sonoma State University
Faculty Profile, Dr. Carol Dell’Amico, M.A. In English

Dr. Carol Dell’Amico has finished her first year as director of the M.A. in English program, inheriting the program from long term director, Dr. Robert S. Carlisle, who recently retired. Dr. Dell’Amico has been a faculty member at CSUB since 2005 and earned MA degrees from CSU Los Angeles and Rutgers University. Her BA is from UC Berkeley and her PhD is from Rutgers University. Her focus in the English Department is on 20th Century/Contemporary British Literature, Post-Colonial Literature, and Gender/Sexuality Studies.

Dr. Dell’Amico’s career at CSUB has been student centered, manifested through excellent teaching and serving as faculty advisor to Orpheus, CSUB’s literary journal. As Graduate Director, she supports graduate students by meeting the administrative needs of the program and being an active mentor, advisor and guide to the yearly cohort of students.

In addition to her duties as professor and graduate director, Dr. Dell’Amico was the Faculty Assessment Coordinator for the School of Arts and Humanities from 2016 to 2022 and has published numerous articles on British and Irish authors, along with a monograph on the postcolonial author Jean Rhys.

For further information on the MA in English, please visit: https://www.csub.edu/catalog/2022-2023-english-graduate-program
Updates to CSUB Title Vb Grant: STEM Graduate Excellence

STEM Graduate Excellence program activities, supported through a Title Vb grant from the U.S. Department of Education, continue at CSUB and are helping to building vibrant, high-quality graduate programs that serve all our students, particularly from underserved populations. Program directors, Drs. Anna Jacobsen and Debra Jackson, are overseeing activities that will (a) increase graduate research-oriented activities, (b) develop faculty-student mentorship programs to increase graduate research activities, and (c) expand services in our Graduate Student Center, especially with new specialized computer programs to support graduate student computing needs.

Special congratulations to the ‘Graduate student-faculty collaborative research program’ (GCRP) student participants and their mentors for a job well done in the fall 2021—spring 2022 Grad Slam competitions. See the news release summarized on page 8.

A call for proposals for new GCRP research proposals for 2023-2024 will be announced in spring 2023. The GCRP is funded by our CSUB Title Vb grant and supports student-faculty teams with a monetary award to conduct and complete a research project within the academic year.

In fall 2021 and spring 2022, two well-attended workshops were offered for the GCRP research group: Psychology Professor, Dr. Rich Zamora, presented on Preparing a Personal Statement for Graduate School Applications. A second presentation was offered by Dr. Anna Jacobsen and Brandon Pratt on the topic of doing research in graduate school and importantly, how to publish the research in order to cultivate dividends that manifest in program prestige, admission into doctoral programs, and contribution to scientific progress. Both workshops were highly anticipated and well attended. More workshops will be offered in fall 2022 and spring 2023. Please look for announcements about these events. These are student-centered events designed to support our graduate students' success.

Attention CSUB Graduate Students!

We have Dell laptops available for checkout!

They are first come, first serve, so contact us ASAP to begin the process or find out more information!

You must be a graduate student enrolled in classes for the Fall 2022 semester.

Contact our office prior to arrival to make sure we are open to walk-in visits.

CSUB Student Faculty-Mentor Collaborative Initiatives

The Graduate Student-Faculty Collaborative Research program is funded by CSUB Title Vb and will support student-faculty teams with a monetary award to conduct and complete a research project within the 2022-2023 academic year. Open to biology, geology, nursing, counseling psychology, & kinesiology graduate students submitting a research proposal.

For more information, visit our website:
Graduate Student Center | California State University, Bakersfield (csub.edu) or email us at gsc@csub.edu
**Announcements**

**Emma Barnes** is our newest addition to the Graduate Student Center. She is a first-year graduate history student who graduated with her baccalaureate degree in spring 2022. The Department of History Newsletter (spring 2022) describes her as being a student who had her full experience at CSUB as a remote student due to the pandemic, but that did not stop her from receiving the Outstanding Graduating Senior award. Emma brings creativity, enterprise, and innovations to her role in the GSC. As an undergraduate student, she was vice president of the Book Club, President of Phi Alpha Theta Club, and a teaching assistant to Dr. Vivian’s class on Roman History (HIST 4638). Emma loves helping students and follows in the footsteps of previous History students who have worked with high distinction for the GSC. Emma’s accomplishments are further chronicled at news.csusb.edu. We welcome Emma to the GSC family. She stands ready to help all students (gsc@csusb.edu).

**Jennifer Paulsen** worked for the GSC for 2 years, earned her MA degree in History, and cleared her teaching credential. She is the face of overcoming adversity, raising her son as a single parent, and being married to a partner who forbade her pursuit of higher education. Fortunately, she moved forward as a single parent, devoted herself to her studies, and found a supportive family in the GSC. She is a pillar of motivation to students who have gone or are going through adverse situations and all of us at the GSC congratulate her for her success and are grateful for her service to our students. Thank you, Jennifer, and we wish you luck in your continued success as you move forward in your teaching and as you influence the pipeline of students who will transfer to CSUB for baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate studies. To read more on Jennifer’s moving story, see the story by Joseph Luiz at news.csusb.edu.

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**2022 Sally Casanova Scholar and CDIP Fellows Announced**

This year **Kyle Winn** was awarded the Sally Casanova Scholarship, a competitive award that prepares students for pre-doctoral studies. The award comes with $3,000 dollars, research and travel support, and it is designed to increase the diversity of the CSU professorate by having these students earn their doctorate degree and comeback to the CSU as professors. Kyle’s mentor is Dr. Sean Wege, in History. Please read more on his award at https://news.csusb.edu/csusb-student-selected-for-california-predoctoral-program
Two California Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP) Fellowships were awarded. The CDIP provides $30,000 fellowship to students for doctoral studies. If they comeback to teach at any CSU campus, the loan is forgivable over five years. If the student goes to a different university, the interest rate is low.

One of the awardees is America Bustos Segura (left), who will be attending the doctoral program in psychology at the University of Maryland.

The other student is Mikennah Paddock (right), who will be attending the doctoral program in neuroscience at the University of New York, Buffalo.

Both America and Mikennah share a common mentor at CSUB, Psychology professor Dr. Amy Ganczarz-Kausch.

See a narrative of their award at https://news.csub.edu/two-csub-students-selected-for-chancellors-doctoral-incentive-program

These students and their faculty sponsors make our university proud.

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Students wishing to apply for these awards this upcoming academic year, please note the following deadlines:

The California Pre-Doctoral Program is designed to increase diversity within the pool of university faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of students in the California State University (CSU). Travel funds, development funds, and summer research opportunities enable students to explore and prepare to succeed in doctoral programs in their chosen field of study. The 2022-23 application cycle is currently open, and completed applications are due to the Graduate Student Center on February 3, 2023—CSUB deadline. Please find additional Pre-Doctoral program and deadline information.

The California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP) is a forgivable loan program which aims to increase the number of promising doctoral students applying for future CSU instructional faculty positions. In addition to a forgivable loan, the program offers mentorship by CSU faculty as well as mini-grants and travel funds to support collaborative teaching, research, and service. The application period for the CDIP program is currently open and completed applications are due to the Graduate Student Center on January 27th, 2023-CSUB Deadline. Please find additional CDIP program and deadline information.
Second Graduate Studies Summit

Mark Your Calendars: October 1, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Are you planning to apply to graduate school?

Join us on October 1st for the Second Graduate Studies Summit via Zoom. The full-day agenda will include alumni, faculty, university administrators, and community voices.

Among the workshops scheduled by experienced presenters will be: (a) how to find the right program for you, (b) applying to CSUB graduate programs, (c) find out about graduate studies opportunities at UC Merced and Claremont's Keck Graduate Institute (KGI), (d) crafting a winning personal statement and curriculum vitae, (e) graduate/professional school testing strategies (GRE, LSAT, GMAT), and applying for a Sally Casanova Scholarship or a Chancellor Doctoral Incentive Program fellowship.

We will have a distinguished alumni panel sharing their experiences, lessons learned and recommended best practices for new students, a concurrent session on funding graduate school, and information for international students. We will have a question-and-answer session; bring your questions.

This is a must-attend summit, and we look forward to seeing you there. We will post invitations on our website www.csusb.edu/graduatestudentcenter, or you can write to us at gsc@csusb.edu.