Pursuing Graduate Studies
Increases job prospects, earning potential, personal growth, social network, and specialized skills:
“... The more you know the more you can do. The more you learn the better prepared you are at life and in turn your career...” (Highergrad, 2017).

source: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d19/tables/dt19_104.20.asp
[see also: "Should you go to graduate school?" by Chamorro-Premuzic, 2020]

A very warm welcome and good wishes of wellness. Challenging times bring new opportunities, and we at the Graduate Student Center stand ready to facilitate and foster graduate student success, whether via virtual or in-person, as conditions allow. Please look forward to exciting workshops, funding grant options, research engagement, and emerging opportunities through our Title Vb grant, which will enhance our programs and your experiences in graduate studies.

–The Graduate Student Center

Tough times never last. But tough people do.
--R. H. Schuller
GSC Spring 2021 Workshops

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

1/22/2021 - Spring 2021 New Graduate Student Orientation - GSC Staff

2/12/2021 - Money Matters for Graduate Programs - Kimber Wellman

2/26/2021 - Financial Aid 101 for Graduate Students - Kimber Wellman

3/05/2021 - Cal State Apply Workshop - Adrianne Silva

3/19/2021 - GRE Workshop - Adrianne Silva

4/09/2021 - Overcoming Imposter Syndrome - Anna Duran

4/23/2021 - The Graduate Hidden Curriculum - Luis Vega

Other workshops will be announced via email and posted on our website, Facebook, and Instagram pages

The GSC website is getting a new look!

In the coming weeks, our website will be updated to match CSUB's homepage. To find out more about these changes, visit: https://its.csub.edu/csub-website-redesign-what-has-changed

Current GSC homepage:

Future GSC homepage:
Biology professors, Drs. Jacobsen and Pratt, blend basic and applied science to tackle the issue of climate change effects on our forests, facing irreparable damage due to ongoing drought and fire hazards. Their work is published in the prestigious *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, where they note devastating drought and fires' impact on local oak woodland in the foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains. (Link to the published study: https://www.pnas.org/content/117/47/29720)

In addition to working with premier researchers from around the world, Drs. Jacobsen and Pratt also involve CSUB graduate students. Biology graduate student, Jacob Spriester, presented an offshoot of this research at the 2nd 3-Minute Thesis Grad Slam competition, where he won second place, with his project, "How Low Do They Go? Investigating Plant Rooting Depth as A Factor of Drought Mortality." In Dr. Pratt’s words: “Jacob’s project is a very ambitious study of the mechanisms that allow plants to survive drought studying coordination among root, stem, and leaf function. Rarely have studies taken such a holistic approach when studying large woody shrubs, and this approach promises to yield novel insights." Jacob’s presentation can be seen at: Youtube Link [minute 30:23].
"Winners announced for second annual Grad Slam Competition: Graduate Student Center hosted presentation, first-place goes to Hannah McKinzie" news. csub.edu (by S. Parker, 2020, December 21.)

Professor of History, Dr. Christopher Tang, was the faculty sponsor for Hannah McKinzie’s Grad Slam research project, "Maoism and the Chicano Movement." In Dr. Tang’s words: “As McKinzie’s research makes clear, Chicano/a activists in the 1960s-70s found solace and inspiration in the anti-imperialist ideas of Chinese Communist leader, Mao Zedong. In pursuing this research and elevating the historical agency of the Chicano/a activists at the heart of this story, McKinzie at once inserts these local actors into the broader transnational narrative of global 1960s progressivism, while also restoring this chapter of Cold War activism to the history of the Chicano/a movement in this country. Drawn from her dual engagement with Chicano/a history and the history of the global Cold War, this project is a testament to McKinzie’s penchant for highly creative and incisive historical research.”

Winning first place means that Hannah will represent CSUB at the fifth annual regional Grad Slam Conference, hosted by the Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS) in March 24, 2021, which will be virtual this year due to COVID-19. She will join nearly two dozen collegiate competitors from Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, North Dakota, Utah and New Mexico as well as other CSU campuses. Hannah’s presentation at CSUB Grad Slam competition can be seen at: YouTube [minute 21:32].

According to Graduate Student Center Director, Dr. Luis Vega: “Through the CSUB Grad Slam competition, our graduate students can proudly present their hard work in conducting scientific research, an endeavor for which they have passion, patience, and perseverance, required to advance science.”

In the Grad Slam, also known as the 3MT™ (three-minute thesis) Competition, graduate students showcase their research through short TEDx Talk-style presentations. In a span of three minutes, participants display their research using one PowerPoint slide and present their research using language that not only their peers, but also non-specialists understand.
MASTER'S DEGREE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
Point of Pride, our Newest Graduate Degree Program on Campus

Program Description
The Department of Computer and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (CEE/CS) offers a graduate program leading to a Master of Science in Computer Science degree. The program is intended to prepare students for high-tech careers in the computing industry, government agencies, academic research, or graduate studies at the doctoral level. Thesis and project options are both available in the program and the electives are designed in response to regional, state, and national needs in computing. A broad range of faculty research interests, access to modern facilities, and a strong student-faculty interaction permit the student to choose from a broad spectrum of research or project topics.

Program Objectives
The program educational objectives are to prepare graduates who:

1. Demonstrate expertise in advanced computing topics and an ability to maintain a high standard of professional competence.

2. Analyze and solve significant real world problems with contemporary computing knowledge.

3. Apply computing knowledge ethically, with an understanding of realistic constraints and for the overall benefit of a diverse society.

4. Enhance the economic well-being of their region through a combination of computing expertise, communication skills, social responsibility, leadership, and entrepreneurship.

All graduates are also expected to adhere to the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Code of Ethics, https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics.

For updates and application information, please visit: https://extended.csusb.edu/programs
KUDOS

On December 4, 2020, eleven graduate students presented their research to a panel of distinguished, Hall of Fame Alumni, who served as judges, as well as attendees from the university and the community. The high quality of their research was separated by the thinnest of margins. We, at the Graduate Student Center, offer our strongest congratulations to the 2020 Grad Slam competition participants, attendees, and judges. Please watch this inspiring 40-minute competition found on CSUB’s Youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4QLCNpJ_rQ&feature=youtu.be
The CSUB History Department welcomes its newest member this 2020/21 academic year, **Kiran Garcha, Ph.D.**, a specialist in African American History. Originally from California, as an adolescent Dr. Garcha moved with her family to Washington state, where she eventually attended the University of Washington in Seattle, earning a BA in American Ethnic Studies. She then moved back to California to pursue an MA degree in Afro-American Studies at UCLA, before finally landing at UC Santa Cruz for, first, a second MA, this one in History, and then a PhD with dissertation work, “Bringing the Vanguard Home: The Role of Children, Home, and Family in the Black Panther Party.” While working on her doctorate, Dr. Garcha was also able to publish some of her scholarship, including an article in the Journal of African American Studies in 2019 (September, pp. 1-15): “Children and Childhood in Black Panther Thought and Discourse, 1966-1974.”

Prior to her arrival at CSUB, Dr. Garcha taught African American Life and History at CSU Monterey Bay, and served as a Teaching Assistant at UCSC for sixteen different courses, giving her several years of pedagogical experience in a broad range of courses, in addition to African American history, including the U.S. history survey, immigration history, U.S. labor history, the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S., and historical skills and methods, among others.

Additionally, Dr. Gracha participated in a summer residency program in the Chapel Hill area (the Research Triangle) of North Carolina, last summer: “Objects and Places in an Inquiry-Based Classroom: Teaching, Learning, and Research in the Humanities.” She also has experience in digital humanities, having helped build a digital public humanities map as a California Humanities Mellon Public Fellow in 2018, as well as in museum/library exhibition work, as she co-curated “Pictures in Progress: The Black Panther, 1966-2016,” a McHenry Library Exhibition at UCSC. To round out her research and pedagogical skills, Dr. Garcha also participated in the Advanced Oral History Summer Institute at the Oral History Center at the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley.

Since her arrival, Dr. Garcha has been teaching in her field of specialization: HIST 4230, African American History. She has been a presenter for the Community Conversations forum, on such important topics as “Why does the past matter? How the history of slavery impacts us,” alongside luminary professors such as CSUB Dr. Alicia Rodriguez and Dr. Gregory Mixon, from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

Source: CSUB  History Newsletter (M. R. Vivian, Editor):  
[Microsoft Word - Spring '20.docx](csub.edu)
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.

We congratulate our current ‘Graduate student-faculty collaborative research program’ (GCRP) student participants and look forward to hearing about their graduate research at the Spring Student Research Competition. A call for proposals for GCRP research for the 2021-2022 will be coming soon. 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.

There were two well-attended faculty panels in Fall 2020, on “Demystifying graduate school” and “Skills for graduate school success.” Additional presentations will be scheduled during the Spring 2021 semester. Please look for announcements about these events. These are student-centered events that are designed to support the success of our graduate students.

Please keep an eye on this grant’s activities and apply for opportunities that emerge. Two such opportunities are:

**ATTENTION CSUB GRADUATE STUDENTS:**

**DELL LAPTOPS ARE AVAILABLE!**
Laptops checkouts are first come, first serve and we have a limited supply. Please email the Graduate Student Center to check availability and setup a time to pick up a laptop.

You must be a graduate student and enrolled in classes for the Spring 2021 in order to be eligible.

Email: gsc@csub.edu

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**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 2020-2021 academic year.

Open to biology, geology, nursing, & kinesiology graduate students submitting a research proposal.

For more information, go to our website www.csu.edu/graduatesstudentcenter or contact the GSC at gsc@csu.edu.
Announcements

Adrianne Silva, MBA, joins us as our new Graduate Student Advisor. She comes to the Graduate Student Center after having a distinguished career in business, serving as the Graduate Programs’ Coordinator for the graduate students in the school of Business and Public Administration, and honorably serving our country in the United States Army National Guard. Adrianne will assist in graduate student recruitment, admission, retention, and graduation initiatives, as well as professional development workshops. She brings to us a wealth of experience and we welcome her into the GSC family. Please do not hesitate to contact her for all of your graduate studies academic needs (asilva32@csub.edu).

Begin your research experience today!

Student research is a cornerstone of graduate studies and starting early is key to graduate school admission, advance degree completion, and fulfilling careers in academia and industry professions. An undergraduate student working with professors on research is not uncommon, nor is unusual for undergraduate students to publish as first authors. CSUB has a legacy of being student centered, and many professors stand ready to help undergraduate students start the research–endeavor. Steps to start this journey include finding an interesting topic that appeals to you, often from a class or professor you might be taking. Do not be shy, approach the professor with expertise on that area, take courses from them, volunteer to work in their lab, ask if you can be a lab assistant, or if you can take an independent study. Improve your grades, show motivation and willingness to go the extra steps, do meticulous work. A sampling of students and professors’ research was profiled in our university news: https://news.csub.edu/research-students-and-firsttime-authors-at-csub-celebrate-jobs-welldone

Examples of a few publications of undergraduates, many of whom are now in doctoral programs, include the following:


Please check the Graduate Student Center website later in the spring semester, where a full feature article highlighting even more professors and students will be published, as well as steps to follow to get involved in research with a faculty member and careers where research is important.
Congratulations to the Fall 2020 Graduates for Earning their Master's Degrees!

https://www.csub.edu/commencement/F2020grads/

AH - English
Jonathan Michael DeWitt
Lisa Ann Karpe

AH - History
Jovannie Michelle Garcia
Jennifer Diane Paulsen

AH - Spanish
Gabriela Bravo
Sonia Garcia Parra
Belinda Garza Hess
Consuelo Lopez-Calderon
Daniella Medina-Gomez
Adrian Romero
Juan Carlos Vizcarra Guerrero

BPA - Administration
Madison Renee Aurin
LaVonne Alexis Banks
Esther Chiquini
Paula Danelle Greico
Melissa Ann Jauregui
Cristine A Nuguid-Yem
Amber Desiree Rappozo
Paola Andrea Sanchez

BPA - Business Administration
Araf Abdulla Aldulay
Miriam Alquasi
Nikki Aringer
Keri Marie Berry
Detrick C Bomberger
Stephanie Davis
Richard Vraig Garrett
Elver Ivan Guardado
Kenza Adel Hall
Kazunori Andrew Kishimoto
Linda Yvette Lara
Daniel William Lord
Chelsea Brooke-Iger Manning
Jose Leon Murales
Adaobi Geraldine Okudo
Carlos Gregorio Pelayo
Bianca Teresa Ramirez
Yuri Madrigal Rodriguez
Christopher Sergio Ryan
Adrianna Alvarado Rye
Shelton Leon Stevens
Luis Manuel Toro
Alexis Woodard

BPA - Health Care Administration
Rajdeep K Kang
Urie Norris
Mason Rhett Rasmussen

BPA - Public Administration
Paul Archer
Andrea Calderon
Stephanie N Garcia
Ismael Garcia
Paola Hernandez
Alejandra Yessenia Lopez
Beltran
Maria Cristina Lopez
Rushdi Amjad Mishmish
Wendy Montanio
Frances Nunez-Luna
Stephanie Michelle Perez
Luis Eduardo Revolorio
Matthew Scott Stillwell
Javier Valdes
Abel Velasquez

NSME - Biology
Viridiana Castro
Samuel John-Hamilton Louden
Angela Madsen
Elizabeth Marion McNamara
Diana Pantoja Rangel
Catherine Robles
Nahiel Mayan Ruiz

NSME - Geology
Maryann Bobbitt
Summer Chantille Gibbons
Kristin Marie Koehler
Tucker Barnett Plunkett
Erin Marie Walter
Zachary Luke Webb

SSE - Counseling: Student Affairs
Sonya Gaitan

SSE - Education
Maria Camille Bianca Basa Dino
Franca Biasetti Marquette
Timothy Rogers McDowell

SSE - Education: Curriculum & Instruction (cont’d)
Gary Castro
Angie Loren Cruz
Antonio Delgado
Milagros Guadalupe Gaspar-Rojo
Cecilia Gomez Arias
Heather Christine Hallsted
Marlyce Catherine Haugen
Nicol Jean Jensen
Michele Lee Johns
Emily Josephine Johnson
Allysa M Jones
Alison Renee Kolberg
Desiree Nichole Kyle
Karen Marie Marx
Gregory William McDowell
Desiree Ann Kyle
Karen Maira Marx
Gregory William McDowell
Desiree Ann Modie
Glenn Miguel Patridge
Estefanhy Perez
Christopher Peterson
Bianca Alicia Quintero
Clarissa Ramirez
Veronica Marcela Ramos Benavidez
Maria De La Luz Gonzalez Rodriguez
Rachel S Rosoff
Breanna Shofner
Arienne Stebbins
Frank Anthony Umana
Jesus Valencia
Mackenzie Loyala Wilke Hooper
Tyson H Witcher

SSE - Special Education
Kayla Lynn Campista
Kayleigh Ann Denton
Adrianna Espitia Ford
Kasey Biagioni Frost
Rowyn Elizabeth Guenther
Bethany Dayanne Jones
Victoria Lopez
Shelby Rae Moore
Paige Elizabeth Ogden Beard
Jamie Parker
Paul Kent Tondreau
Ngoc Vu
Danielle Christine Zbysenski