Happy New Year to our Gaucho Parents and Families!

College of Letters & Science: The Honors Program

Is your student seeking a smaller, more focused academic community? Encourage your son or daughter to consider applying for the College of Letters and Science’s Honors Program. Through smaller classes, research opportunities, and special programming, the program provides students with a motivated community of scholars in which to study and learn. The benefits of becoming an honors student include extended book check out periods and a reserved book locker at Davidson Library, priority registration for courses, peer mentorship, opportunities to participate in special seminars and research programs, and increased time with faculty in a smaller setting.

Approximately ten percent of entering first-year students are invited into the program based on their application for admission. The Honors Program is also open to any student in the College of Letters and Science with a cumulative UCSB grade point average of 3.5 on a minimum of 12 letter-graded UC baccalaureate units.

To maintain eligibility in the Honors Program, students must complete at least six honors-designated units per year, maintain a 3.5 overall grade point average, and volunteer at least ten hours of service to the campus or community during each of their final two years of enrollment. Students can meet the required six honors-designated units per year by enrolling in the Honors discussion sections of many lower division courses. In most cases, the honors section is offered in lieu of the regular discussion section and courses are typically listed with an “H” as part of the number (for example, Sociology 1H). To obtain honors-designated units for upper division courses, students usually enter into honors contracts with the course instructor. The contracts usually include supplemental reading, research or writing agreed upon with the faculty member. Students may also obtain units by completing a senior honors thesis or enrolling in a limited number of upper division honors sections, if available.

To learn more about the Honors Program or apply for admission, students should visit www.honors.LTSC.ucsb.edu. Applications are reviewed throughout the year. Honors Program Advisors Rocio Angeles (rangeles@LTSC.ucsb.edu) and Joe O’Brien (jobrien@LTSC.ucsb.edu) are available to meet with students and answer questions about the program.

Upcoming Events at Career Services

January 20, 1-4 p.m., Corwin Pavilion: Local non-profit and government agencies will recruit for volunteer, internship, and career opportunities at the Care Expo.

January 20, 4-5 p.m., UCEN Flying A Room: Students will learn about alternative post-undergraduate opportunities at the Americorps, City Year and Peace Corps Panel Workshop.

January 21, 3-5 p.m., Career Services Courtyard: Real employers will check résumés and provide students with valuable feedback to improve the presentation of their experiences and achievements.

January 26, 1-4 p.m., Corwin Pavilion: All students are welcome to network and interact with recruiters who have diverse hiring and recruiting practices at the Diversity Career Fair.

Remind your student that On Campus Interviews begin January 25. Employers of all sizes will be visiting Career Services to recruit students for internship and career opportunities. Students should visit the Career Services GauchoLink Web site (www.career.ucsb.edu) to apply for positions that interest them.
The Gaucho Parents Gazette is published by the University of California, Santa Barbara, Division of Student Affairs, Orientation Programs and Parent Services.

Contributing Editors: Whitney White, Kim Parent, Debbie Fleming, Laurie Hoyle, Rod Tucknott

UCSB Adventure Programs, a division of the Recreation Department in Student Affairs, provides educational and recreational experiences for students, staff, faculty, and community members of all ages, abilities and experience levels. Programs such as wilderness trips, and indoor and outdoor recreation classes provide students with opportunities for self-discovery and leadership.

Students can learn valuable recreational skills through SCUBA diving, ocean kayaking classes, and at the rock climbing center and ropes course. Adventure trips and wilderness training clinics help students utilize and further develop their outdoor skills. There are many exciting trips and clinics coming up at Adventure Programs:

**Winter Quarter Programs**

- February 3: Lightweight Backpacking Clinic
- February 15 and 21: Paragliding at Elings Park in Santa Barbara
- February 20-21: Snow Camping Trip to Los Padres National Forest
- February 22: Knot Tying Clinic

**Spring Break Alternatives**

- March 19-25: Grand Canyon Backpacking Trip
- March 19-26: Lake Havasu and Colorado River Trip
- March 20-23: Colorado River Canoeing Trip
- March 20-28: Wilderness First Responder Class

For more information about Adventure Programs and these exciting upcoming activities, visit [http://www.recreation.ucsb.edu/adventureprograms](http://www.recreation.ucsb.edu/adventureprograms) or contact Director Rod Tucknott at adventureprograms@essr.ucsb.edu.

If you would like to support Adventure Programs with a cash gift or donation of equipment, please contact Laurie Hoyle in Student Affairs Grants and Development at (805) 893-5037 or laurie.hoyle@sa.ucsb.edu. Gifts can be made on-line at [http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/giving/recreation/](http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/giving/recreation/). Currently, Adventure Programs is in need of purchasing new hardware for their canyoneering and rock climbing programs, soft gear for their kayaking program, and snow camping equipment and gear.

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**Secret Santa Barbara: Science and Nature**

The Gaucho Parents Gazette asked students and staff in the sciences to share their favorite spots at UCSB that they have found to be relatively unknown to other students. Share this list with your student or visit a few with your family the next time you are on campus.

- **The Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER)** houses over 100,000 plant and animal specimens. Call (805) 893-2401 to arrange a tour of the collections and the areas of campus the center has restored. More information is available at [http://ccber.lifesci.ucsb.edu](http://ccber.lifesci.ucsb.edu). CCBER also recommends the self-guided walking tour of the campus lagoon. You’ll see hundreds of birds and animals, as well as beautiful natural wetlands. The walking tour is available at: [http://www.ia.ucsb.edu/pa/pdf/campus-lagoon-walking-tour.pdf](http://www.ia.ucsb.edu/pa/pdf/campus-lagoon-walking-tour.pdf).

- **UCSB’s Zoological Collection** contains over 32,000 avian, mammalian, herpetological and fish specimens from around the world with a special emphasis on vertebrates from the central and southern California coast. The Mammalogy Collection of the UCSB Museum of Systematics and Ecology includes representatives of 172 species of mammals. Tours of both collections are available by appointment. Contact CCBER at (805) 893-2401. More information is available at [http://ccber.lifesci.ucsb.edu/collections/zoological/](http://ccber.lifesci.ucsb.edu/collections/zoological/).

- **Coal Oil Point Natural Reserve**, a popular surfing spot located close to campus, offers self-guided tours and volunteer opportunities in ecological restoration. Students can participate in the Snowy Plover Docent Program. Students should contact Program Coordinator Jennifer Stroh at (805) 893-3703 for more information about becoming a docent. More information about visiting Coal Oil Point Natural Reserve is available at [http://nrs.ucop.edu/Coal-Oil-Point.htm](http://nrs.ucop.edu/Coal-Oil-Point.htm).

- **The Research Experience & Education Facility** ("The REEF") provides marine science activities, touch tank tours and other opportunities to get up close and personal with marine life. The facility is located just steps from Campus Point Beach and is open to the public on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit [www.msi.ucsb.edu](http://www.msi.ucsb.edu), or contact (805) 893-8765 or outreach@msi.ucsb.edu for more information about the REEF.

- **The AlloSphere**, a large scale immersive laboratory, is a 30-foot diameter sphere built inside an echo free cube to allow for manipulation and analysis of data set in an environment that can simulate virtually real sensorial perception. Every student should visit the AlloSphere—an indescribable, cutting-edge part of our campus. Call (805) 893-3010 to schedule a tour.
Helping Your Student Get Ahead at UCSB

Over the recent holiday break, you and your student may have talked about fall quarter’s ups and downs. Was your student pleased with his or her grades and study habits? Did your son or daughter feel like he or she succeeded in obtaining a nicely balanced academic, personal, and social life? Even if fall quarter was successful for students, they often feel that a few adjustments and new habits can make them thrive even more in college. Here are some tips for getting ahead at UCSB that you can pass along to your son or daughter:

• Attend instructors’ office hours from the start. Don’t wait until your grade slips or final exam week. Get to know your instructors and take advantage of the help and guidance they are willing and able to provide.

• Stay caught up on reading, studying, and assignments. Don’t allow yourself to get behind.

• Fully utilize Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) by attending an academic skills workshop or course tutorial. View the full CLAS schedule on-line at http://www.clas.ucsb.edu/CLAS_schedules.htm.

• Feeling stressed? Don’t hesitate to visit Counseling Services for stress management tips or a 20-30 minute session in an alpha wave or massage chair.

• Devote some non-academic time to yourself. Work out at the Recreation Center, plan to attend a Wellness Program (http://wellness.sa.ucsb.edu) event, or hang out with friends.

Your Reflections

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and enjoyed having your student home for a few weeks. Parents of first year students usually find it very exciting to hear about all the new and interesting things their students are doing at UCSB.

What have you learned about your student? In what ways has your son or daughter changed since arriving at school? What has surprised you the most? What have you learned about UCSB? Have any of these things inspired you to become more involved on campus?

We love to hear from our Gaucho Parents! Please send your reflections on the holidays to gauchoparents@sa.ucsb.edu or by mail to:

Orientation Programs and Parent Services
2145 Student Resource Building
UC Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-5020

You could be featured in the next issue of the Gaucho Parents Gazette!

What is the ACCESS Card?

College is much more than just balancing coursework, jobs, club activities, and free time. The ACCESS card makes money management easy, convenient, and safe, because students have enough to worry about already. The ACCESS card, UCSB’s full-color, official identification card, allows students to gain access to campus services. Additionally, the ACCESS card can be set up as a declining balance debit card. Students won’t have to worry about someone else spending their money, because their photo is right on the card.

What are some of the campus services that require the ACCESS card?

The ACCESS card allows students to gain access to the dining commons, reserve materials at Davidson Library, access and print in computer labs, and to use the Recreation Center. Students can also enter sporting events and ride the local bus system for free by showing their ACCESS card. Before riding the local bus system, students must obtain a free MTD bus sticker from the Office of the Registrar.

How does my student set up his or her ACCESS card as a declining balance debit card?

Students should visit the information desk in the University Center to convert their cards. There is a one time processing fee of $20. Students can deposit funds into their ACCESS debit card account at the University Center information desk or cashier’s office. Checks can also be mailed to the ACCESS card office with the appropriate forms. If a student’s ACCESS debit card is damaged, it is replaced for no charge.

Where is the ACCESS debit card accepted?

On campus, the ACCESS debit card is accepted at more than ten dining locations, three convenience stores, ticket offices, the University Center Bookstore and post office, Parking Services, and more. More than ten off-campus vendors also accept the ACCESS debit card. Many of these vendors also offer discounts to students with the ACCESS debit card.

Does my student have to set up his or her ACCESS card as a debit card?

No. Students may opt for a free black and white ACCESS card with limited uses. There is a $5 replacement fee if the card is damaged.

What if my student loses his or her ACCESS card?

All ACCESS cards have a $20 replacement fee if lost.

If you or your student have questions about the ACCESS card, visit http://www.ucen.ucsb.edu/student_services/ss_access_home.html or call (805) 893-2464.