

# Update on Winter Storms and Final Exams

January 10, 2018

Dear Students,

As you know, our local area has again been impacted by a natural disaster. Our hearts go out to the Montecito community and all who are affected. If you or someone you know has been affected by the fires or the mudslides, we encourage you to utilize our campus counseling resources, CAPS, by calling 805-893-4411 and/or contacting your college advising office, the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships, or the Dean of Students Office.

The 101 freeway is currently closed between Ventura and Santa Barbara and we do not know when it will be reopened. Authorities estimate it could be as early as this weekend, but may be as late as Monday or into next week. The County of Santa Barbara website, [sbcounty.org](http://sbcounty.org), will continue to be updated with freeway closure information.

We understand that many students are having difficulty getting to campus for finals. Faculty have been encouraged to be flexible with students in this situation who make contact, via email, in advance of the final exam. Please email your professor as soon as possible if you need to make alternative arrangements. Responses may be slightly delayed due to the high volume of students making such requests.

Travelling to campus from southern California is challenging. However, UCSB is accessible via I-5. This is an indirect route and requires extra travel time. The Santa Barbara Airbus is running from LAX to SB via I-5. Additionally, the Condor Express and Island Packers are offering ferries between Ventura and Santa Barbara harbors. Amtrak is also working on getting up and running, but it is unclear how long this will take. Train status is available at the Amtrak website, [amtrak.com](http://amtrak.com).

As mentioned in the recent communication from the [chancellor](#), winter quarter will begin as scheduled on Tuesday, January 16.

Please take care of yourselves and each other. We wish you all the best as you finish up finals and move into winter quarter.