



POP Partners Program



www.csulb.edu/pop

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR
UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

FRESHMAN ISSUE 1
AUGUST 2009

DEAR FAMILY OF FRESHMEN STUDENTS

The most important semester of your child's college career has just begun. Your family plays an important role in the transition of your son or daughter from a high school to a college student. You can be a great support and a good coach. Energize your student to:

GET READY - AND

- Know the name, location, telephone number, e-mail address, and web site of Cal State Long Beach (www.csulb.edu). The Academic Advising Center (www.csulb.edu/advising) or special program advising office, and the major department.
- Read each class syllabus to understand the goals, rules, policies, requirements, materials, tests dates, class assignments, faculty office location, faculty open office hours, and telephone number. The syllabus is a contract between the student and the professor. If students return the second meeting they have accepted the contract.
- Purchase a notebook for each course and organize materials for each class in each notebook.
- Purchase a "Day Planner" and record deadlines, assignments, due dates, important telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and web sites.

GET SET - AND

- Learn how to make A and B grades. Understand that each hour spent in the classroom needs 2 or 3 hours of homework and study each week to make A and B grades. A 15 unit schedule requires 45 hours of homework and study each week!
- Learn about and use campus resources that help achieve educational goals such as the Learning Assistance Center, the Writer's Resource Lab, department tutoring resources, and the University Library.

NOW GO

- ▶ Go to each class meeting.
- ▶ Go to professors' open office hours to discuss coursework or other academic issues.
- ▶ Go to the Academic Advising Center each semester to discuss academic progress.
- ▶ Go to special workshops like the Freshman Mandatory Advising workshops for information and assistance.
- ▶ Go and join University clubs and organizations to meet people and have fun!

GLAD YOU ASKED . . .

ACADEMIC QUESTIONS ALL STUDENTS NEED TO ASK!!!

- ▶ Do I already have the listed prerequisites or co-requisites?
- ▶ Do I understand the instructor?
- ▶ Do I understand the readings in the assigned books?
- ▶ Will I have enough time to spend on reading, writing, or research assignments?
- ▶ Do I usually do well in the types of tests required in the course?

For example, if students are in the process of taking an English composition class and the tests in some G.E. courses are mostly essays, they may not do as well as they will after they have had an English composition class. However, if students have a positive response to the above questions, they should keep the class. If they have a negative response, they should consider dropping the class and choosing another, especially in the first two weeks when they can withdraw with the instructor's permission. HOWEVER, students should always drop a class officially. The instructor can drop students from the class roster, but the student must drop themselves from the class using <http://my.csulb.edu>. Freshmen who need to drop classes should visit the Academic Advising Center for help!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY...?

CREDIT/NO CREDIT (CR/NC)

Instead of getting a traditional (A-F) letter grade, students can receive either CR (Credit) or NC (No Credit) for many courses. Although CR grade counts for graduation neither CR nor NC count towards the grade point average (GPA). Most majors do not allow CR/NC for major courses. A CR indicates an A, B, or C grade. An NC denotes a D or F grade. Keep in mind that there is a limit of 24 units that can be used for CR/NC.





**ACADEMIC ADVISING
CENTER**

**YOU REALLY HAVE A
HOLD ON ME**

Your son or daughter has been given an appropriate first semester of classes for student success and there is a “hold” on his or her schedule. You’ll find that they have foundation courses and introductory courses to majors and other disciplines important for academic success.

“A Must Do”

All freshmen must take University 100 in their first semester. It is an introduction to university traditions; current issues in higher education, student rights and responsibilities, and student services. The course is taught in various venues and helps freshmen understand CSULB and its culture.

WELL, I DECLARE!

Many students and parents confuse choosing a major with choosing a career. In truth, many freshmen do not have enough self-understanding or career awareness to make educated career decisions. Here at CSULB, our Career Development Center offers a wide array of services to assist students to explore their interests, abilities, and values to better plan for a variety of future careers.

Choosing a major is more immediate and can be complicated, as well. Some students select their majors based on their impressions of the jobs that seem related. Although some professions like accounting, nursing, and engineering need specialized preparation, many others require excellent writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills, skills acquired through university courses and taken throughout a college career. So it is the baccalaureate degree, not a specific major that prepares most students to have many possible careers.

Freshmen students should select majors based on keen interests, strengths, and passion. CSULB offers many paths of exploration. General Education, introductory major courses, and electives offer many opportunities for exploration. Over 70 baccalaureate majors are

offered at CSULB, as well as dozens of minors and certificates. Early academic advising can assist students to develop academic plans that can include both a major and a minor to prepare for the future. For example, the artist who majors in Studio Art can also have a minor in Marketing, thus preparing herself for many future careers. The English major can also have a certificate in Technical Writing, again preparing himself for a variety of career options. The important point is that a student well suited to a major will be very successful and a transcript detailing a high GPA is very important to future employers.

Freshmen students should not feel pressured about declaring a major upon entering college. They should spend a semester or two learning about their personal interests, their strengths, and their abilities. They should seek assistance with counselors in the Career Development Center and with their academic advisors. Moreover, it is always good advice to make appointments with several undergraduate advisors in various departments to discuss majors and future career opportunities.



**CHOOSING
A MAJOR**



FRESHMEN MANDATORY ADVISING WORKSHOPS

In 1997, several directors of advising programs at CSULB developed and instituted an advising program for freshmen that prepare them for second semester course selections. Freshmen are mandated to attend this specialized advising in order to release advising "holds" placed on their registration.

Workshop topics include choosing courses that will contribute to student career goals or support major requirements, how to avoid academic pitfalls, understanding important university policies such as the repeat/delete of failed courses, academic probation, how to choose majors or minors or certificates, time management and study tips and about important resources such as the Learning Assistance Center and the Writer's Resource Lab.

At the end of each session, students develop their spring schedules, receive approval of advisors for them, and learn to register for classes at the <http://my.csulb.edu> website.

This unique freshmen program conducted by the Academic Advising Center and by special campus advising programs serve over 4,500 freshmen each fall semester. Students report that their attendance in the workshops helped shape their persistence to graduation. Moreover, as part of University retention efforts, these workshops have been instrumental in the very low probation rates of first-time freshmen.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

IS IT "DOCTOR" OR JUST PLAIN "BOB"?

Freshman students face many challenges but classroom expectations can be at the top of the list. Just knowing how to address the professor can be stressful.

Instructors usually let students know how to address them. They may write their names on the board as Dr. ____ or Mr./Mrs./Ms. ____ or Bob. If in doubt, freshmen can't go wrong by addressing the instructor as "Professor." However, negotiating the academic environment is a lot more than knowing how to address professors.

Freshmen encounter certain customs and expectations that are different from their high school experience. For one, their classmates are all from the top 1/3 of their high schools and the grade curve can be much higher than previous high school expectations.

In addition, although the teaching styles and personalities of college professors may be quite different from high school teachers, college instructors have many common expectations. Students are considered adults. There is very little "spoon-feeding." They expect fully prepared students with notebook, pencils, and pens. They also expect active class participation, questions answered with competence, clarity, and adult decorum.

Although attendance policies vary from professor to professor, students are well-advised to attend every class meeting. A classmate's notes or audio recordings don't ever substitute for being in class. Those who attend classes regularly will find their professors approachable and genuinely concerned about them, especially if they take advantage of the faculty 'open' office hours.

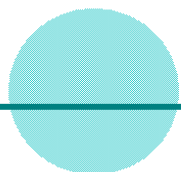
After the first exams, if grades are not at the expected level, it is critical that students discuss ways to improve their academic performance with their professors. Professors are the best campus resources and students who make efforts to know their professors are treated as peers.



WHAT'S COOKIN' ON CAMPUS FOR FALL 2009



ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER



WEB SITE:

www.csulb.edu/advising

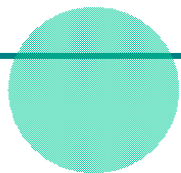


Exhibit of BRIAN ENO @ UAM **Beginning September 10, 2009.**

The University Art Museum is proud to present Brian Eno's installation, *77 Million Paintings*, from September 10th through December 13th, 2009, with a reception scheduled on Saturday, September 12th at 6 pm. Variations on the installation have been exhibited internationally, but never in Southern California. He became internationally known for his work as a musical collaborator with international rock musicians including Roxy Music, U2, Talking Heads, David Bowie, and others. During the 1990s, Eno became interested in self-generating systems. Generative Art, as he called it, allows an artwork to take on a life of its own. Today the idea has spread to graphic arts, design and beyond.

An Evening with Brian Eno **@The Carpenter Performing Arts Center** **September 20, 2009 @ 8pm**

An Evening with BRIAN ENO @ The Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts 7 PM - Join us as Eno shares insight into his music and his art, and what lies ahead for this pioneering innovator. Tickets: www.carpenterarts.org beginning June 1 online only.

The University Art Museum (UAM)

Location: The UAM is located on the campus of California State University, Long Beach, in the Steve and Nini Horn Center. **Hours:** Tuesday-Saturday, 12-5pm. **Phone:** (562) 985-5761
Website: www.csulb.edu/uam

An Evening with John Cleese

Tue, Nov. 17, 2009 at 8pm

He's back! The creative force behind the legendary Monty Python's Flying Circus, Fawlty Towers and A Fish Called Wanda—John Cleese returns for an irreverent evening of casual fun and unrelenting comedy. Often named "the funniest man alive," John Cleese enralls packed audiences worldwide with his unique comedic style!

The Carpenter Center

Location: The Carpenter Center is located at the north edge of CSULB at 6200 Atherton Blvd. in Long Beach. **Ticket Hours:** Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm and Saturday from 12-4 pm. **Phone:** (562) 985-4274; See our Website: www.carpenterarts.org for more!

Long Beach State Athletics

CSULB hosts 14 NCAA Division I sports including prominent baseball, basketball, and volleyball teams. Check out the action at <http://www.longbeachstate.com>

Campus Maps

For an online campus map, see: <http://daf.csulb.edu/maps/>