Your Student’s First Year:
Working Together to Support Student Success at a Research University

Orientation 2019
Who are we and what do we do?
Research University Mission

• Teaching
• Research
• Public Service
The focus of our presentation today is to discuss how we work together to encourage student success at UC Davis.
Who is “We” and what are our roles:

• **UC Davis:**
  - Provide your student with opportunities to:
    • Learn from world renowned faculty
    • Engage with our campus community

• **Your Role:**
  - Support and empower your student

• **Your Student’s Role:**
  - Take ownership over their learning and engage in these opportunities
Your Student’s Role

1. Actively **Learning** in the classroom
2. Using **Academic Resources**
3. Embracing **Co-Curricular Opportunities**
1. Actively Learning in the Classroom

• What does that look like?

• What can students do?
  • Set goals and a plan
  • Relate course to their lives
  • Seek help and receive feedback
  • Use resources
  • Be involved in the success of their education
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Teaching Methods

- **Lecture Courses**
  - 250-500 students during year 1 & 2
  - Discussion sections & labs
  - Smaller size in language, writing, and upper-division
  - Technology utilized as a regular part of coursework
Faculty Connections

• First-Year Seminars
• Faculty Evening Programs
• First-Year Aggie Connections
Benefits of Connecting with Faculty

- Critical thinking and analytical skills
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Leadership
- Global perspective
- Increased self-confidence
- Take research methods from the classroom and apply them to real-life situations
- Letters of recommendation for graduate or professional school
Reminders: Actively Learning in the Classroom

• Talk with your student before classes start and agree on expectations

• Courses at UC Davis look differently than courses in High School

• Remind students to take advantage of the research university: networking, office hours and research opportunities
Questions to Ask Your Student

• What are you learning in class?

• What are some ways you’ve been engaging with your professors?

• How have you changed your study habits to adapt to college?

• What resources have you found that are helping you adapt academically to UC Davis?
2. Using Academic Resources

Your student may struggle and they must utilize their resources to be successful
Academic Advising

• College Advisors
  • General Education
  • University Requirements

• Major Advisors
  • Major Requirements

• Faculty Advisors
  • Career, Graduate School, Internships Advice

• Peer Advisors
  • College Office, Major Office

• Additional Advisors
  • Educational Opportunity Program, Athletics, University Honors Program, Veteran’s Success Center, and many more
Academic Advising Centers

• Academic Peer Mentor
  • All residence hall students paired with a Peer Mentor
  • Conveniently located to answer academic questions

• Tutoring: Math, Chemistry, Writing
  • Drop in group tutoring
  • Monday-Thursday evenings

• Study Space
  • White boards
  • Tables/chairs
  • Outlets

One in each housing area: Tercero, Segundo, Cuarto
Major Exploration

• Common for students to change majors, there is support and resources
  • Major blog
  • Major sort tool
• When students are in the “right” major, they are more successful
• Can change their major after fall quarter
Reminders: Using Academic Resources

• Students must take advantage of academic advising resources!

• Get advising early and often to ensure they are on track

• Encourage your student to search for a major that fits their interests and talents
Questions to Ask Your Student

• How did your meeting with your academic advisor go?

• What challenges are you experiencing?

• How did you feel about your first exam?

• Tell me about your favorite class.

• Have you met with your Academic Peer Mentor?
3. Embracing Co-Curricular Activities

Find community, Build skills, Apply knowledge outside of classroom
Research...Be a Knowledge Creator!

Examples:
• Track and collar Kinkajou
• Measure Aflatoxin in soil that is connected to peanuts and carcinogens
• Analyze sugar strands on cancerous cells to better understand and treat cancer

Need help getting started? Visit the Undergraduate Research Center
Living-Learning Communities: Go beyond the typical res hall life

LLC stands for Living-Learning Communities, which are communities within the residence halls that provide an opportunity for students with similar interests to live in the same hall or on the same floor. The communities allow students to enjoy unique activities related to a theme, as well as more traditional social and recreational opportunities.

The communities allow students to enjoy unique activities related to a theme...

Some communities offer [...] service or volunteering, field trips, or hand on opportunities!

It's time to find your community!
Living-Learning Communities: 
Living communities based on shared interest

- Foster academic success
- Community building and sense of belonging
- Greater access to resources
- Individual development
- Increased faculty interactions
- Get involved in learning right away—service, internships, seminars

How to apply

Apply to a community by July 19 on your Student Housing Application.

Course Registration Numbers (CRN) for the optional seminars will be provided during Summer Orientation and/or Fall Welcome Week.
**Interest & Passion**

- Student Organizations, Community, Involvement & Leadership (SOCIaL)
- Aggie Business Leaders & Entrepreneurs (ABLE)
- Music, Arts & Performance
- Environmental, Agriculture & Sustainability Education (EASE)
- Global Education Opportunity (GEO)

**Career & Academics**

- Aggie Business Leaders & Entrepreneurs (ABLE)
- Health Sciences
- Engineering
- Aggie Explorers (undeclared students)
- Environmental, Agriculture & Sustainability Education (EASE)

**Community & Identities**

- Rainbow (LGBTQIA+)
- Middle East/South Asian
- African and African American
- Global Education Opportunity (Domestic/International Students)
- Native American Theme Program
- Asian Pacific American Theme House
- We are First (First-Generation Students)
- Casa Cuahhtemoc (Chicanx/Latinx) Theme House
Join a Student Organization

Just a few examples:

• Davis Computer Science Club
• Aggie Stock Exchange
• Davis Women in Business
• Society of Biological Engineers
• Black Pre-Law Student Association
• Psychology Student Association
Reminders: Embracing Co-Curricular Opportunities

• Encourage students to explore and pursue opportunities to apply the knowledge they are learning in the classroom: they need to be proactive!

• Large institution can feel like a small community: live in a Living-Learning Community, join a student organization, get involved in research
Questions to Ask Your Student

• How have you gotten involved outside of class?

• What have you done to seek out opportunities to apply what you are learning outside of the class room?

• Are you interested in any of your professor’s areas of research? What are they?
Final Tips

• There are no admission mistakes, your student should be here.

• Your student is responsible for engaging in class and using academic resources.

• Encourage co-curricular activities.
Thank you!