UC MERCED-SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES: ACADEMIC ADVISING PROGRAM

The Source

Your NS Academic Advising Newsletter

MARCH-APRIL 2009 VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Help with Summer Session
- Faculty and Student Spotlight
- Important Events and Deadlines

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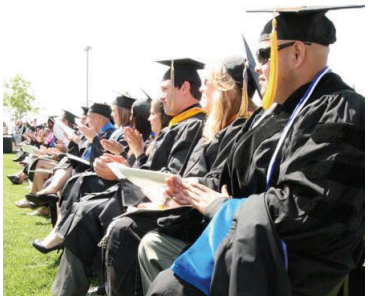
Spring Forward to Success!

The Spring semester is upon us! For some students it is extra special because you've nearly come to the end of your Bobcat journey. For others it feels like there's still a long way to go. Nevertheless, you must continue to focus on your studies and not be distracted by the gradually warmer weather.

Commencement is coming soon so make sure you've filled out and submitted your Commencement Application if you wish to "walk" in the Commencement Ceremony. The Spring 2009 Commencement Ceremony will be on Saturday, May 16th so start planning for it.

Commencement is not the same as the Declaration of Candidacy. The Declaration of Candidacy is for stating your intent to finish with your degree requirements in a certain semester (and finally earn that diploma you've been working so hard for). The deadline for submitting Declarations of Candidacy for students planning on finishing their requirements this semester Spring 2009 or during the Summer Session 2009 has already passed. If you have any questions please let your Academic Advisor know ASAP.

The deadline for submitting Declarations of Candidacy for the Fall 2009 semester is rapidly approaching! If you plan on finishing your requirements in Fall 2009 please fill out and submit a Declaration of Candidacy form to your Academic



Advisor as soon as possible!

Submit to Nat Sci Advising ASAP to guarantee completion by the APRIL 1ST Deadline!

Applications are available online at http://registrar.ucmerced.edu or at the Students First Center.

Pre-Health Advising Services

Are you interested in pursuing a professional degree in health sciences? Pre-Health Advising Services offers a variety of services to help you reach your goals, including one-on-one appointments, informational workshops, exam preparation and assistance throughout the entire application process. Gaining acceptance into a professional health school requires a huge commitment from you. You must not only have a strong academic record, but also the meaningful extracurricular activist that develop the personal characteristics you will need to be successful in a professional school program. To learn more about upcoming health-related workshops and events, the health advising listserv and additional programs & resources, please visit the Health Professions Advising web site at

naturalsciences.ucmerced.edu

Click on 'Health Professions Advising'.

Did you know that UC Merced students have been admitted to the following professional school programs?

- UCSF – School of Pharmacy
- UCSF – School of Medicine
- UOP – Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Bradenton
- Virginia Commonwealth University – School of Medicine
- California Northstate School of Pharmacy
- Touro University – College of Pharmacy
- Texas Tech University – School of Allied Health Sciences, DPT program
- San Diego State University – School of Public Health
- University of Alabama at Birmingham – School of Health Professions, M.S. in Health Administration

Summer Internship Opportunities

Apply Now!

Check out these Internship Websites to find the program that's right for you:

www.thesca.org - Student Conservation Association is America's conservation corps. Our members protect and restore national parks, marine sanctuaries, cultural landmarks and community green spaces in all 50 states.

www.cdsintl.org - Culture Diversity Success International is a nonprofit organization that supports intercultural understanding through professional development programs.

www.internsource.org - The InternSource has successfully administered student employee contracts since 1987 and has placed more than 25,000 students in jobs throughout California. The InternSource prides itself on customer service and flexibility.

http://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/grad-prep-programs - UC AGEP and UC LEADS, as part of UC Merced's mission to foster academic excellence and promote diversity, the Graduate Division has developed this site to provide students with resources related to research opportunities and graduate preparation programs.

www.ucmerced.edu/research - As the first American research university to be built in the 21st century, UC Merced is positioned for new ways to do research in support of the educational mission.

www.gene.com/gene/careers/university/internships - Genentech paid internship assignments entail intensive 10-12 week summer programs for undergraduate and graduate level students. Interns work side-by-side with some of the most talented people in biotechnology...

"The fact that I can actually contact most of my teachers out of office hours is why I love UC Merced!"

-Ron Betty
student, peer tutor

Summer School Q&A!

Planning On Taking Summer Courses?

Summer will be here before you know it and its time to start planning for it. If you wish to take a course during summer session, you may be asking yourself some of these questions:

Q: Can I take a course at another school?
A: You sure can. If you plan on taking a course at a community college, Assist.org is a great website for help finding courses that count towards your UCM degree requirements but you can always ask your Academic Advisor if you have questions.

Q: How many classes can I take during the summer?
A: You are limited by the amount of time you can put in. During the summer, a normal 16-week course is concentrated in shorter sessions with more meeting times per week. This means that one class will take as much time per week as two classes during the regular semester. Its summer, do not stress yourself out trying to take too many courses!

Q: How much will it cost to take a summer course?
A: This varies from school to school. Please refer to the school's Summer Session website. *Financial Aid may be available for UC courses.

Q: Can I repeat a course at a non-UC School?
A: Not if you want to replace your grade! If you earned a non-passing grade during the regular semester but wish to repeat it over the summer, you must take the course at UCM or another UC for the grade to be counted towards your UC GPA. *This does not mean that the summer grades do not matter! You must still report them when you apply to professional schools after graduation.

Faculty Spotlight: Harish Bhat

Assistant Professor of Applied Mathematics

Schooling and Research Interests?

After graduating from Lynbrook High School in San Jose, I went to Harvard University, where I majored in mathematics. I did my graduate work at Caltech. After finishing there, I taught for two years at Columbia University and one year at Claremont McKenna College.

I have broad research interests in applied mathematics. I've written papers exploring theoretical properties of partial differential equations that appear in fluid mechanics. I've used mathematical modeling and numerical analysis to help electrical engineers design analog circuits for high-frequency signal processing. Lately I've been interested in using techniques from optimization and probability to design networks and analyze high-dimensional data sets.

Classes you have taught or will teach at UC Merced?

I taught Math 121, Partial Differential Equations, in the Fall semester.

I'm not entirely sure what courses I will teach in the future---I'm open to suggestion, and in general I want to teach stuff that students actually want to learn.

Why did you choose UC Merced?

There are many reasons. I wanted to be part of a new, growing university, I like how UC Merced has started out, and I see a lot of potential here for the future. I very much like the idea that at UC Merced, mathematics means applied mathematics. At most universities, you really don't get to hire new colleagues every year for 10 years; here, it might actually happen and I hope it does! It's really interesting how there are no formal departments in the School of Natural Sciences. I like being part of the UC system. It's a little ridiculous to be able to request library books from any of the UC libraries across the state. Finally, I like the location---a quiet town, almost equidistant from the fine city of San Francisco and the spectacular Sierra Nevada. It's cool to bike past cows on the way to work.

What is your favorite thing about the School of Natural Sciences and/or UC Merced?

The people! Students, faculty, and staff. I've made good friends here already.

Some fun facts about you?

I've been backpacking in the Himalayas, Sierra Nevadas, and the Alps. I tried cross-country skiing for the first time in January and now I'm totally hooked. I've watched every episode of House M.D., despite never owning a television.

Student Spotlight: Kimberly Asato

Biological Sciences: Human Biology, Senior

Hometown: La Habra, CA
High School: Sonora High School
Major and Year at UC Merced: Human Biology Major with a minor in Psychology (2009)
Extracurricular Activities: Hip Hop Movement (HHM), Best Buddies, Special Olympics, Undergraduate Researcher for Rudy Ortiz, and Physical Therapist Aide at Park Avenue Physical Therapy
Why did you choose UC Merced:
I wanted to be a part of the first graduating class!
What's your favorite thing about the School of Natural Sciences at UCM?
The encouragement and support that I was given as I went through these past four years, applied to physical therapy schools, interviewed for doctorate programs, and received acceptance/rejection letters.
Plans for after graduate from UC Merced:
I will be pursuing a career as a physical therapist for special education by attending a three year physical therapy doctorate program. I have been accepted to Texas Tech at Odessa, but will also be interviewing at Duke. Currently, still in the process of making a final decision.
Fun Fact about yourself:
When I was born, I weighed 3lbs. and 13oz. and did not receive my birth certificate until I was 18 years old.

UC Merced-School of Natural Sciences: Academic Advising Program

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We're on the Web!

http://ns-advising.ucmerced.edu
or
http://naturalsciences.ucmerced.edu

EXPRESS ADVISING- Walk-in hours

FOR THOSE WHO...

- Want to discuss *adding or dropping* a class.
- Need *clarification* of *General Education* requirements.
- Need *clarification* of *major* requirements.
- Have other *immediate concerns.*

Walk-in Hours can be found at:
http://ns-advising.ucmerced.edu

APPOINTMENTS-

FOR THOSE WHO...

- Need to discuss *next semester scheduling*.
- Need to update a degree audit.
- Want to discuss *major or minor* options or requirements.
- Have other immediate and *long-term concerns.*
- Have an *academic hold* on your account for *academic difficulty.*

You can schedule your appointment at:
http://ns-advising.ucmerced.edu

March/April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 SALC Mid-Term Prep 12-1pm KL 217	6 Pre-Health: Post Bac Programs 2-3pm COB 288	7
8	9	10 Career Services: Women-2-Work 12-1pm KL 217	11 NS Science Survival Tips - 4-5pm S&E 300	12	13 Career Services: Personal Statements 2-4pm KL 117	14
15	16	17 Career Services: How to Get Hired… or Not 12-1pm KL 127	18	19 Career Services: Pre-Health Speaker 7-8pm COB 113	20 Pre-Health: Getting Started in Pre-Health 2-3pm COB 288	21
22	23	24 NS + Grad Division: Grad School Q&A TBA	25	26	27 Cesar Chavez Holi-day	28
29	30	31 Career Services: Job Seekers Workshop 12-1pm KL 217	1 NS Science Survival Tips - 4-5pm S&E 300	2 SALC Acad. Motiva-tion	3 Pre-Health: Pre-Med What it Takes... 2-3pm COB 288	4
5	6	7 Career Services: Job Discrim. Career Panel 12-1pm KL 169	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Career Services: Pre-Health Speaker 7-8pm COB 113	17	18 Bobcat Day!