UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING NEWS (Spring 2014, Issue 4)

This newsletter is designed by your college advisers to keep you informed of important deadlines and alert you to programs and resources that may enhance your undergraduate academic experience.

Visit the UCSC College Advising Blog @ http://ucsccollegeadvising.tumblr.com/!! This serves as an online version of the UCSC Advising Newsletter. Start following us today!!

_________________________________________

IN THIS ISSUE

• Deadline to declare/change a Major/Minor: **Friday, April 25**
• Deadline to apply to graduate in Spring 2013: **Wednesday, April 30**
• What's the difference between graduation and commencement?
• Summer Session Enrollment Begins: **Thursday, May 1**
• Advising Tip of the Week: Studying for Midterms

_________________________________________

**TOMORROW: DEADLINE TO DECLARE/CHANGE A MAJOR/MINOR: FRIDAY, APRIL 25**

This is the deadline to declare or change a major or minor to be effective for enrollment for fall quarter. (Some programs may declare you after this deadline.) Check your major program's website for more information, or start here: http://advising.ucsc.edu/planning/your-major/declaration/process.html. If you are uncertain about whether you qualify for your prospective major or need help with procedures, it is a good idea to meet with the major program adviser. If you need to declare this quarter and are concerned about an enrollment hold, see your college adviser for guidance. Most colleges will ask you to submit the UCSC Academic Advising Planning form (found here) signed by your prospective major adviser. If you want to declare a minor, then you must also be declared in a major in order to do so. Visit the following website for additional information on major/minor declaration: http://advising.ucsc.edu/student/declaration/index.html.

**DEADLINE TO APPLY TO GRADUATE IN SPRING 2014: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30**

Congratulations prospective graduates!! If this is your last quarter and you expect to complete all degree requirements by the end of spring quarter, you need to apply to graduate on your student portal under "My Student Center" if you haven't already. This sets in motion an official check of your degree requirements at the end of the term, and is a necessary step to actually getting the degree. The following link will give you instructions on how to apply to graduate: http://registrar.ucsc.edu/graduation/undergraduate-students/apply.html. Walking in Commencement is a different process. You do not need to be completely finished at the end of spring to "walk." **You should not apply to graduate on the portal just to walk.** See your college website or http://advising.ucsc.edu/procedures/graduating-seniors/college-commencement.html for information on registering for your college commencement ceremony.

**WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GRADUATION AND COMMENCEMENT?**

Commencement 2014 is almost here! Are you clear on the terminology between graduation and commencement (also called walking)? Applying for graduation on the portal leads to the official diploma if you complete everything required by the end of the term. Registering for commencement leads to ceremonial recognition of your accomplishments, even if you still have some summer or fall course work to complete.

• **GRADUATION** refers to being done with your academic courses, finishing all degree requirements, and applying for the diploma. **Apply to graduate for the term you expect your record to be complete.** This includes passing your senior comprehensive requirement for your major(s), completing at least 180 credits, all GE’s, major and minor requirements, clearing incomplete grades, and providing the Registrar with transcripts of transfer work. You may need to apply a term or two after you finish UCSC classes if you will be transferring in courses and are waiting for transcripts or EAP grades. GRADUATION is handled by the Registrar’s Office.
COMMENCEMENT refers to the ceremony where you get to cross the stage, shake some hands and toss your mortarboard in the air. Participating in COMMENCEMENT requires that you register with your college program office, usually by online registration. Check your college’s webpage for commencement information.

TWO COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID:

1. **Applying to graduate on the portal too early**: Students who will finish their graduation requirements at the end of summer term 2014 or fall 2014 should NOT apply on the portal to graduate for spring! Even if you are participating in your college’s spring commencement ceremony, you should apply to graduate on the portal for the quarter in which your academic record will be complete -- you may apply for summer graduation now; to apply for fall graduation you'll need to wait until after the spring term ends.

2. **Filling out your college's form to participate in the commencement ceremony but never applying to graduate on the portal**: If you don't officially apply to graduate at MyUCSC, the Office of the Registrar won't be able to award your degree, regardless of the fact that you walked in the ceremony and got a nice gift from your grandma. Don't find out years later that you missed this step!!

**SUMMER SESSION ENROLLMENT: BEGINS THURSDAY MAY 1**

Enrollment begins Thursday May 1 at 12:01am on your portal, just like fall/winter/spring. No application for current students! See Class Search for days/times, general education requirements, seats, and more: [http://pisa.ucsc.edu/class_search/](http://pisa.ucsc.edu/class_search/)

UCSC Summer Session has 240+ classes, 5 & 2 unit, labs & seminars, day & night, even 5 online! Most are 5 weeks, small class size, but intense and fast so plan to stay focused. You can take up to 30 units - get caught up or get ahead in your progress toward graduation.

If you're not meeting SAP for Financial Aid, improve your GPA and credit total this summer (courses taken at other colleges do not help your GPA). Summer Aid and lots of on-campus housing available.

See Summer Session for fees, calendar, policies, and more. Tuition is $271/unit, same rate for in- and out-of-state students. Campus Fee is $284 for your sticker, active ALL summer. If you enroll then drop all classes, there's a $50 cancellation fee.

**ADVISING TIP OF THE WEEK: STUDYING FOR MIDTERMS**

With midterms right around the corner, it is timely to look at a few simple tips that can make taking midterms a little easier.

1. Always study in a quiet environment that is well lit.
2. Eliminate any distractions, yes, even your cell phone!
3. Studying should begin at least ten days in advance.
4. Give yourself manageable sections to study each day. This way, it will not be overwhelming.
5. Know ahead of time exactly what to study for. The professors or TA's often give ideas as to what the test will be like. Take advantage of this!
6. Quiz yourself on the material you studied, without using your books or notes. Doing this will give you an idea of how you will do on the test.
7. Allow yourself a 15-20 minute break for every hour of studying. During this time, relax and do something enjoyable.
8. Before the exam, eat properly and get plenty of rest.

Following these tips will help you when it comes to test time!

This newsletter is produced by the UCSC Colleges Advising Support Team.