New Student Success Conference
ASCEND
UC Merced
August 24-25, 2015

This booklet belongs to:
What does ASCEND stand for?

A. Acknowledge the possibilities
B. Strengthen your potential
C. Connect with campus and community
D. Excel academically
E. Navigate your future
F. Discover strategies for success
WELCOME TO ASCEND
THE NEW STUDENT SUCCESS CONFERENCE

This event has been organized just for you! TheASCEND Planning Committee wants all of our new first year and transfer students to be academically successful and to graduate from UC Merced.

What do you need to do?
You need to attend the activities specially designed for you on August 24th and/or August 25th, familiarize yourself with the information in this booklet and begin to engage with the scholarly community you have just joined.

The ASCEND Conference Schedule

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS (Required)

Monday, August 24th
  8:45am     Check-in at the North Bowl Field; receive wristband
  9:30am     Bridge Crossing with Chancellor Leland
  10:00am    Mandatory Sessions

Tuesday, August 25th
  1:00pm     ASCEND Part 2 - Specialized Workshops

TRANSCEND - TRANSFER STUDENTS (Required)

Tuesday, August 25th
  8:30am     Check-in at the California Room
  9:00am     Bridge Crossing with Chancellor Leland
  9:30am     Mandatory Sessions and Lunch
  1:00pm     ASCEND Part 2 - Specialized Workshops

Also in this Booklet:

Resources for Student Success
Includes further information on resources and initiatives to help you make the most of your transition to UC Merced including, a glossary of UC Merced acronyms, campus resources, Welcome Week information, and more!
Greetings, Bobcats!

Welcome to our campus’ annual ASCEND New Student Success Conference. The purpose of the activities on August 24th and 25th is to help you, our new first-year and transfer students, achieve academic success. By attending these specially-designed sessions, you will have an opportunity to learn about resources and tools available to assist you, and you’ll get to meet and connect with other Bobcats – both new and continuing students – as well as faculty and staff. This early contact with your peers, along with the chance to learn about UC Merced’s programs that support and enhance your UC Merced experience, will establish a strong foundation for you to enjoy a successful first year here.

You also are joining a research university. I hope you will seek out opportunities to work with our faculty and to contribute to our community. I look forward to seeing you around campus.

Fiat Lux,

Dorothy Leland
Chancellor
Welcome to the annual ASCEND New Student Success Conference! We are pleased that you are starting your UC Merced experience by attending the ASCEND Conference. There is much for you to learn and we are committed to your success.

The Committee has been hard at work all year preparing for you and for August 24th and 25th. We have completely redesigned ASCEND to ensure that it assists you and your fellow new students to understand what is required for you to be academically successful at UC Merced. This booklet is your guide to ASCEND events on August 24th and 25th, but it also contains useful information about resources available at the University. Keep it handy for future reference.

Here are some important things for you to know.

ASCEND is a two-day event for FIRST YEAR STUDENTS. All first year students must attend three mandatory sessions on Monday morning, August 24th, and attend three of the workshops scheduled on Tuesday afternoon, August 25th. See pages 20-29.

ASCEND is a one-day event for TRANSFER students, known as TRANSCEND. See pages 14-29 for a schedule and description of your activities.

Make the most of these sessions. Their primary purpose is to provide you with advice and information to help you make a smooth transition from high school or community college to UC Merced. Take advantage of the information being provided to you. We know the difference between a successful student and a struggling student and we want you to be a successful student who, in just a few years, will graduate from UC Merced.

Go Bobcats!
ASCEND Planning Committee
As a first year student you will participate in each of the sessions listed on pages 6, 8 & 10 on Monday, August 24th. When you checked in this morning in the Bowl, you were given a colored wristband. It will determine in which order and which room you take each of these sessions. ASCEND volunteers will make sure you are in the right room at the correct time. Please notice that each session has Learning Outcomes. They let you know what you can expect to learn in each session. As you take classes at UC Merced, you will frequently see Learning Outcomes on your course syllabi.

The three sessions you will attend today were not chosen at random. The ASCEND Planning Committee believes that each of these sessions contains important information that will help you to be successful at UC Merced. The Committee hopes that you will approach each of these sessions with an open mind and eagerness to learn more about the new community of which you are now a member.

We know that everyone has probably told you that college is very different from high school, and we are going to tell you that too, because UC Merced is a scholarly community with its own traditions, expectations, rules and regulations. Start learning them today so that four years from now, you will be part of the UC Merced graduating class of 2019!

“NOTHING EVER COMES TO ONE, THAT IS WORTH HAVING, EXCEPT AS A RESULT OF HARD WORK.”
- Booker T. Washington
7 HABITS OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BOBCATS

“TRUE GOLD FEARS NOT THE FIRE.”
- Chinese Proverb

For most of you, this quote will look and sound familiar as it was a theme of New Student Orientation this summer. Now that you are full-fledged Bobcats poised to launch your academic career at UC Merced, it is important that you begin to make the efforts necessary to thrive at UC Merced. As you do so, remember the 7 Habits of Highly Successful Bobcats as discussed at Orientation:

1. Proactive
2. Graduate Focused
3. Effective Time Management
4. Interdependence
5. Communicate Confidently
6. Appreciate & Collaborate with Those Different from Yourself
7. Growth Mindset
Academic Success: Learn it, Live it, Achieve it

Do you want to be academically successful at UC Merced?
Graduate in four years?
Be prepared to take advantage of being at a research University?
This mandatory session will provide you with important information about actions you can take and resources that are available to you so that you can be academically successful from Day One!

Learning Outcomes
By the end of this workshop you will be able to:

• Identify one expectation for, and fear about, academic success at UC Merced
• Identify one difference between academic success in high school and college
• Identify one specific action you can take to be academically successful at UC Merced
• Identify one resource that will assist you to be successful and how to obtain that resource

“SUCCESS IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION.”
- Arthur Ashe
Welcome to UC Merced! Today, your journey as a Bobcat begins! Endless possibilities await you… new friends, tough classes, student clubs, internships, exams, parties, and of course learning to balance it all. Are you ready? Better yet, are you Bobcat Ready? This session will help prepare you for college life at UC Merced by exploring community standards, personal decision making, and the importance of using brains, courage, and heart in everything you do. Come find out what it means to be Bobcat Ready, and learn the tips and tools that will lead you toward student success.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of this workshop you will be able to:

• Learn about UC Merced student conduct policies and community standards
• Identify at least two student conduct policy areas discussed during the session
• Understand how personal choices and decisions can impact both the individual and the community
“FIRST YEAR GOES BY FAST...YOU’LL WISH YOU COULD REMEMBER THE ASCEND CONFERENCE.”
- UC Merced First-Year Student, Spring 2015
Time Management

Make the best use of your time for studying, work and fun through this interactive workshop. Top-notch UCM students learn how to manage their life rather than allowing people or activities dictate their schedules. Gain the confidence you’ll need to make time management choices that lead you towards fulfilling your goals and dreams.

Through positive, student-directed decision making, the workshop presenter will walk you through a scheduling activity that will explore the major responsibilities of college students. With a personalized draft schedule completed, you will be able to calculate (and celebrate!) the remaining hours you have for anticipated activities, involvements and hobbies. At the end of the workshop, you will share with other participants a strategy you will adopt to overcome anticipated time management challenges in the first three weeks of university life.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this workshop you will be able to:

- Identify and articulate a self-management strategy you will use the first three weeks of school and beyond
- Anticipate major time commitments and create a draft schedule allocating appropriate time for each commitment
- Calculate the amount of time remaining in your weekly schedule for activities, involvements and hobbies

“TREASURE EVERYTHING YOU EXPERIENCE WHILE HERE, IT WILL HELP YOU GROW AS AN INDIVIDUAL.”
- UC Merced First-Year Student, Spring 2015
### A Dozen Differences Between High School and UC Merced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>UC Merced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assumes immaturity</td>
<td>Assumes maturity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students attend high school because they are required to</td>
<td>Students usually attend because of a personal choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers offer students many reminders to complete assignments</td>
<td>Instructors give assignments and expect students to hand them in on time without reminders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students typically spend 30 or more hours in class each week &amp; cover the majority of course content in class</td>
<td>Students typically spend 15 or fewer hours in class; instructors expect students to learn the majority of course content outside of class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers and parents/guardians manage much of the students’ time</td>
<td>Students manage their own time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers and parents/guardians minimize distractions that might otherwise hinder a student’s success</td>
<td>Students must deal with distractions on their own, including socializing, TV, video games, social media, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and friends provide students with advice or solutions for academic, social and other issues</td>
<td>Students are expected solve their own problems and seek help as necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic standards are not always high and savvy students often get good grades with minimal effort</td>
<td>Academic standards are high and all students need to figure out how to meet these standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers spend time disciplining students who create disruptions</td>
<td>Instructors do not tolerate disruptive students &amp; may bar them from the class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers are often pressured to “teach to the test” so that students can pass standardized tests</td>
<td>Instructors have more “academic freedom” in what and how they teach &amp; are often focused on research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students’ choice of courses is relatively limited by graduation requirements</td>
<td>Students have greater freedom to choose the courses they take and drop those they don’t want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational costs are paid for by taxpayers, including textbooks</td>
<td>Educational costs, including textbooks, are the students’ responsibility - including seeking financial aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students have few choices</td>
<td>Students have many choices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End Your First Year On The Dean’s List!

Don’t just get by -- *aim high!* Set a goal to be on the DEAN’S LIST every semester.

Here’s the criteria to be placed on the Dean’s List:
- Earn a 3.5 semester grade point average or better
- Take a course load of at least 12 graded units
- No grade of I or NP in that semester
- No violations of the academic integrity policies

Last year, 234 first year students were on the Dean’s List at the end of their first semester.

But wait; if you are on the Dean’s List at the end of the fall and spring semesters in a single academic year, you can be on the *CHANCELLOR’S HONORS LIST!*  

The Office of Undergraduate Education organizes an annual celebration at the historic Merced Theatre for students who are on the Chancellor’s Honors List. The Chancellor, faculty, family and friends gather at this event to celebrate the academic accomplishments of students who have earned their spot on the Dean’s and Chancellor’s List for the preceding year. We would like to see you there next fall!

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Being on the Dean’s and Chancellor’s Honor list has meant so much to me because it reflects the hard work, dedication, sacrifice, and love of learning that is required to be a successful Bobcat. As undergraduates, we are all here to discover our passions and to create and develop the best versions of ourselves. I knew that in order to make these discoveries, I had to be proactive, so every semester I strived to do my best work and sought out opportunities that furthered my own academic development.

*Jennifer Anaya, ’15*

*All 4 years (8 semesters) on the Dean’s List*
WELCOME TO TRANSCEND!
THE NEW TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS CONFERENCE

Today, campus partners have come together to share tips and resources you will need to make the most out of your experience at UC Merced. You will learn about resources available for essential study skills and make connections with other incoming transfer students. One of those resources we hope you will take advantage of is the Degree Attainment for Returning and Transfer Scholars program (DARTS). The DARTS program provides community, research and resource awareness, as well as career exploration opportunities specific to the needs of the transfer students. Existing transfer students will share tips for getting the best grades and transition pitfalls to avoid! DARTS is staffed mainly by transfer students, and they are always available to answer questions and assist transitioning students in locating the resources they may need.

Our campus partners will focus on programs designed to keep you safe, healthy, and in good academic standing. At the end of the day we want you to know you have support on your journey to academic excellence. There are many great resources at UC Merced. This afternoon, ASCEND Part 2 will offer additional sessions that will help you launch your academic career at UC Merced and share information that will ensure you have the support you need. All of the sessions are important to your success and should be attended.

Krystal Miguel
Program Coordinator, DARTS

“ACTION IS THE FUNDAMENTAL KEY TO SUCCESS.”
- Pablo Picasso
TRANSCEND
August 25, 2015 | 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Agenda
8:00am  Registration & light breakfast
         - California Room (in Housing)
8:45am  Welcome from Chancellor Dorothy Leland
9:00am  Bridge Crossing
9:30am  Academic Resources - COB 120
         DARTS Program presentation
         Transfer student & alumni panel
         Tutoring resources on campus
10:15am Thriving @UCM
         Counseling and Psychological Services
         CARE (Violence Intervention & Prevention Program)
         Office of Student Life - Le’Trice Curl
11:45am Academic Success
         Speaker
         Reflection and welcome gift
12:15pm Lunch

After the bridge crossing tradition, all TRANSCEND sessions will be held in the Classroom and Office Building (COB), 120. These sessions are designed to help you identify campus resources, including academic support and student services such as advising, tutoring, etc. in anticipation of your academic success. You will be able to identify strategies to manage adversity and stress.
BECOME PART OF THE DARTS FAMILY!

DARTS proudly promotes academic achievement and excellence through supportive services which include:

- Collaborative learning workshops
- Personal and professional development
- Book loans, scantrons, blue books
- Career counseling services
- Social & networking opportunities
- Tutoring through Peer Assisted Learning Support

Come visit us!

Monday - Friday | 9am - 5pm
Calvin E. Bright Success Center | KL 222
darts.ucmerced.edu | dartsprogram@ucmerced.edu
(209) 228-2434
THE TRANSFER CAREER CHECKLIST

Career development is a lifelong process and we are here to prepare you for life after college. Our philosophy centers around helping you develop the skills and mindset that will make your transition out of college successful, regardless of what their next step entails. This checklist can assist you as you build your portfolio and skills during your years here at UC Merced. Please visit us for career assistance from the Career Coach, and DARTS SSHA & STEM Career Specialists.

Junior Year:
- Meet with a career counselor
- Explore career options
- Attend workshops
- Update your resume
- Attend career & graduate school fair
- Volunteer/part-time jobs
- Secure an internship
- Join professional associations
- Get involved with student and community organizations
- Study abroad
- Research graduate schools
- Develop mentors
- Explore research opportunities

Senior Year:
- Continue involvement
- Network
- Meet with a career counselor
- Attend CCPA events
- Conduct information interviews
- Attend employer information sessions
- Work on a research project
- Talk about life after graduation
- Apply for graduate school
- Research & develop list of potential employers
- Practice interviews

UCMERCED
Center for Career & Professional Advancement

Student Services Building (SSB) 230
careercenter@ucmerced.edu
(209) 228-7272
hire.ucmerced.edu
START WITH SUCCESS
Join us to meet some of the DARTS family, learn about this welcoming program, and prepare yourself for a successful semester!

DARTS Meet and Greet | Orientation
August 31 | 3 – 6PM | California Room
All transfer and returning students are invited to join us for the first social of the semester. Learn about program benefits and sign up, if you haven’t already. Program participants (Scholars) will be introduced to their Fellows (assigned mentors) and receive their passports!

DARTS Community Outreach
September 1-4 | 10am- 2pm | In front of the Kolligian Library
Transfer and returning students are invited to join us for games and fun designed to help you learn more about the community. We will offer a preview of upcoming events and answer any questions you may have about campus resources.

TRANSFER AND RETURNING STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK
Resource Final Presentation by USTU
Monday, Sept. 21st | 2:30-4:30 | In front of Kolligian Library

Transfer Tuesday: Pen the Perfect Personal Statement
Tuesday, Sept. 22nd | 2-3pm | Student Services Bldng. 250

Etiquette Dinner
Wednesday, Sept. 23rd | 5-7:30pm | California Room

Leadership Connected-The Impact of Positivity
Saturday, September 26, 2015 | 9:30-4pm
(for more information, visit studentleadership.ucmerced.edu)
Welcome to ASCEND Part 2! The ASCEND Planning Committee designed ASCEND Part 2 for you, both new first year and transfer students. ASCEND Part 2 builds upon the first year sessions held on Monday and the TRANSCEND sessions held on Tuesday morning. ASCEND Part 2 allows you to select among a series of workshops to explore topics of interest to you and which will help you in the days and weeks ahead.

- Do you want to know how to get involved in undergraduate research?
- Are you thinking about medical school, veterinary school or law school?
- Would you like to study abroad?
- Were you wondering how to find a job on campus or arrange an internship?
- Are you curious about what is involved and expected in a college science lab course?

You can find answers to these questions and more at ASCEND Part 2!

ASCEND Part 2 will:

- Provide you an opportunity to meet and get to know some faculty, advisors, and opportunities in your School
- Allow you to select among a small group of specialized workshops to help you feel more confident when classes begin this week
- Introduce you to some of the programs that are now available to you as a UC Merced student: CalTeach, Service Learning, Education Abroad, etc.
- Acquaint you with additional resources on campus that you might want to take advantage of in the months ahead

**PLEASE NOTE:** After the welcome receptions, most of the sessions are offered twice, so if you can’t get into one that interests you at 2 PM, check to see if it is offered at 3 PM.
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM

Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts (SSHA) Welcome Reception
COB 2nd Floor
Come meet the Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts faculty and Advising staff. During this welcome reception, you will learn more about what SSHA has to offer. SSHA faculty will be hosting information tables on their disciplines and answering questions regarding courses and academic programs. The SSHA Advising staff and Peer Mentors will be available to discuss tools available to help you be successful in your first year.

Students in the following majors should attend this session:

School of Natural Sciences (SNS) Welcome Reception
Science and Engineering 1, 1st Floor
Come meet the School of Natural Sciences faculty, Advising, and student program staff. During this welcome session, students will learn more about what SNS has to offer. SNS faculty will be hosting information tables on their disciplines and answering questions about courses and academic programs. SNS Advising, Peer Mentors, and program staff will be available to discuss tools and SNS resources available to be successful in your first year.

Students in the following majors should attend this session:
Applied Mathematical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Earth Systems Science, Physics and Undeclared Natural Sciences

School of Engineering (SoE) Welcome Reception
Science and Engineering 2, 1st Floor
Have questions about your major or another major within Engineering? Come meet representatives from all engineering majors for the SoE. SoE representatives will be hosting information tables on their disciplines and answering questions regarding their academic programs. The SoE Advising staff will also be available to discuss course planning and Mandatory 1st Year Advising.

Students in the following majors should attend this session:
Bioengineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Material Sciences and Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Undeclared Engineering
Undeclared Majors Welcome Reception
SSB 160
Wondering what is ahead for you as an Undeclared major? Curious about how you will go about selecting a major? Come and meet some of the staff and advisors who will working with you during the coming academic year. They will answer these questions and many more. Staff from Undergraduate Education, Student Affairs, and the Calvin E. Bright Success Center will be present.

All students who have not yet declared a major, who are Undeclared, should attend this session.

THERE MIGHT BE TIMES WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE THE COURSES ARE TOO DIFFICULT AND YOU DON’T BELONG HERE, BUT YOU DO!
- UC Merced First-Year Student, Spring 2015

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm

How to Ace Your Chemistry Lab
COB 116
What does a good lab report include? Learn how to produce an excellent lab report by attending this interactive presentation given by actual Teaching Assistants (TAs).

Deborah Lair, Lecturer, School of Natural Sciences

How Do I Get to Law School from Here?
SSB 160
UC Merced alumni are already practicing law and studying in top law schools. Find out how to start on this pathway. The law profession seeks diverse, bright talent like you! We will be joined via Skype by Lynda Cevallos from Washington, D.C., to talk about how the Council for Legal Education Opportunity can help you reach your goal.

Elizabeth Boretz, Director, Calvin E. Bright Success Center

Engineering Service Learning: Experience in the Service of Others
COB 110
Experience is what sets you apart from your peers. Come discover how The Foster Family Center for Engineering Service Learning can help you gain professional experience by serving others.

Christopher Butler, Assistant Director, The Foster Family Center
The Information Technology (I.T.) Survival Guide
COB 263
Discover what you need to know about I.T. as you pursue academic success. Information technology enhances your college experience.

IT Service team

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Resource Center Introduction
COB 267
Learn about the STEM Resource Center’s support for social and academic experiences including research and internship opportunities for undergraduate students.

Petia Gueorguieva, Coordinator, STEM Center

CalTeach Program Opportunities at UC Merced
COB 114
This session will introduce you to the opportunities that the CalTeach program offers UC Merced students. Learn how you can participate in our community service learning fieldwork courses, where you can gain experience working with students in local elementary, middle and high schools. In addition, find out how you can take undergraduate courses that will count towards a teaching credential in California. No matter your major or career goals, learning how to teach others is an essential skill that is sure to boost your resume.

Chelsea Arnold, CalTeach Director, School of Natural Sciences

Obtaining a Competitive Career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
SSB 130
Do you have questions on how to make the most of your college experience? Look no further! This workshop will answer your career questions and provide a suggested timeline with specific steps to achieve student success.

Robert Goodman, STEM Career Specialist, Center for Career and Professional Advancement

“IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE YOUR LEARNING, MAKE SURE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CAMPUS RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU SUCH AS OFFICE HOURS, PEER ASSISTED LEARNING SERVICES (PALS), AND MANY OTHERS...”
- UC Merced First-Year Student, Spring 2015
**Career Tips on How to Make the Most Out of Your College Experience for Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts (SSHA) Students**

SSB 120

Learn the steps needed to successfully compete for an internship or career by hearing more about the academic and experiential learning philosophies at UC Merced.

*Myra Fernandez, Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts Career Specialist, Center for Career and Professional Advancement*

**So You Want to Be a Health Professional (Doctor, Dentist, Pharmacist, Nurse or Veterinarian)?**

COB 120

A career in a health profession to help others may be personally rewarding. Find out about the different health careers, required coursework, testing, extracurricular activities, and campus services to support your goal.

*Erica Robbins, Director of Student Services, and Kelly Van Zandt, Advisor, School of Natural Sciences*

**Exploring Undergraduate Research Opportunities**

COB 105

This workshop will introduce you to some of the cutting-edge research taking place at UC Merced and provide advice on how to get involved in the action as an undergraduate.

*Rudy Ortiz, Professor, School of Natural Sciences and Jesus Cisneros, Director, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center*
So You Want To Be A Chemist…
COB 265
You’ve declared a Chemical Sciences major, so now what? See what a successful four-year course plan looks like, learn about research and career opportunities, and meet some of the chemistry faculty.

Hrant P. Hratchian, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Erik Menke, Associate Professor of Chemistry, School of Natural Sciences

Reality Check for Natural Sciences and Engineering Students
COB 113
The most successful students know what campus resources to take advantage of, and take advantage of them early. How do you know what resources will most benefit you? Come to find out! This session will also discuss expectations for STEM intro courses and how to identify your weaknesses--because we all have them in some capacity or other--and how to proactively address them.

Carrie Menke, Lecturer, School of Natural Sciences

Globalizing Your Undergraduate Experience
SSB 170
Build life-long, enjoyable skills and complete degree requirements abroad while taking advantage of financial aid. Come to learn why college is the best time to go abroad.

Craig Harmelin, Assistant Director, Office of International Programs

Make Your Life Easier: Learn CatCourses Now
COB 281
CatCourses is the on-line learning management system that many professors use for assignments, readings and discussions. Learn how to navigate in CatCourses now! You will have one less thing to learn once the semester begins.

IT Service team

NSUS 10: Focus on Your Success
COB 279
Dr. Mattoon will present an overview of successful strategies embedded in NSUS 10, a 2-unit course for Natural Science majors and any interested students enrolled in math and/or science classes. This interactive class uses an inexpensive text, invites supportive guest speakers and engages students in two hours of discussion topics each week.

Stan Mattoon, Lecturer, School of Natural Sciences
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm

Exploring Majors: Discovering Passion
SSB 160
Learn how to explore majors, identify your strengths, and connect your interests to majors and careers. Undeclared Advising and Center for Career and Professional Advancement (CCPA) staff will help you in this endeavor. At the end of the session, advisors from the Schools will be available to answer questions about changing majors.

Stacie Jenkins, Undeclared Advisor and Lezly Juergenson, Career Counselor, Center for Career and Professional Advancement

How to Ace Your Chemistry Lab
COB 116
What does a good lab report include? Learn how to produce an excellent lab report by attending this interactive presentation given by actual Teaching Assistants (TAs).

Deborah Lair, Lecturer, School of Natural Sciences

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Experience is what sets you apart from your peers. Come discover how the The Foster Family Center for Engineering Service Learning can help you gain professional experience by serving others.

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Chelsea Arnold, CalTeach Director, School of Natural Sciences

Obtaining a Competitive Career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

SSB 130

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A career in a health profession to help others may be personally rewarding. Find out about the different health careers, required coursework, testing, extracurricular activities, and campus services to support your goal.

Erica Robbins, Director of Student Services, and Kelly Van Zandt, Advisor, School of Natural Resources

“SUCCESS IS NOT FINAL, FAILURE IS NOT FATAL; IT IS THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE THAT COUNTS.”
- Winston Churchill

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Build life-long, enjoyable skills and complete degree requirements abroad while taking advantage of financial aid. Come to learn why college is the best time to go abroad.  
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Make Your Life Easier: Learn CatCourses Now  
COB 281  
CatCourses is the on-line learning management system that many professors use for assignments, readings and discussions. Learn how to navigate in CatCourses now! You will have one less thing to learn once the semester begins.  
_IT Service team_

NSUS 10: Focus on Your Success  
COB 279  
Dr. Mattoon will present an overview of successful strategies embedded in NSUS 10, a 2-unit course for Natural Science majors and any interested students enrolled in math or science courses. This interactive class uses an inexpensive text, invites supportive guest speakers and engages students in two hours of discussion topics each week.  
_Stan Mattoon, Lecturer, School of Natural Sciences_
RESOURCES

There are more resources available at UC Merced to help you develop and thrive as a scholar and individual than can fit into this booklet. It is up to you to seek out and make use of the wealth of resources available. To get you started, the following pages provide information to help you start your academic career at UC Merced!

“SUCCESS IS THE SUM OF SMALL EFFORTS - REPEATED DAY IN AND DAY OUT.”
- Robert Collier
Provided below is a brief introduction to some of the most commonly used acronyms you will hear used at UC Merced. Before you know it, you will be speaking UC Merced in no time!

**Locations**
- **AOA** - Academic Office Annex
- **COB** - Classroom and Office Building
- **CTK Quad** - Carol Tomlinson-Keasey Quad
- **DC** - Yablokoff-Wallace Dining Center
- **KL** - Kolligian Library
- **S&E (1&2)** - Science & Engineering Buildings
- **SAAC** - Student Activity & Athletic Center
- **SSB** - Student Services Building
- **SSM** - Social Sciences & Management Building

**Programs, Services, & Resources**
- **ASUCM** - Associated Students of UC Merced
- **BLS** - Bobcat Leadership Series
- **CAB** - Campus Activities Board
- **CARE** - Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education
- **CCPA** - Center for Career & Professional Advancement
- **CAPS** - Counseling and Psychological Services
- **DARTS** - Degree Attainment for Returning & Transfer Scholars
- **EAP** - Education Abroad Program
- **OIA** - Office of International Affairs
- **OSL** - Office of Student Life
- **PALS** - Peer Assisted Learning Support
- **SAP** - Satisfactory Academic Progress
- **SMP** - Success Mentor Program
- **TA** - Teaching Assistant
- **TAPS** - Transportation and Parking Services
- **USTU 010** - Undergraduate Studies 10 (seminar course)
- **YLP** - Yosemite Leadership Program
These principles reflect our ongoing efforts to increase access and inclusion and to create a community that nurtures lifelong learning and growth for all of its members. We encourage every member of the UC Merced community to join us in our collective pursuit of these principles:

- We recognize and celebrate the identities, values and beliefs of our community.
- We affirm the inherent dignity and value of every person while cultivating a campus climate rooted in mutual respect and compassion.
- We uphold the right to freedom of expression and encourage a culture of dialogue, understanding, and civility in all interactions. We seek to create a campus where a rich tapestry of ideas is shared, collaboration is embraced, and innovation is promoted.
- We pursue excellence in teaching and learning through contributions from all community members fostering a culture of open exchange.
- We promote opportunities for active participation and leadership in our communities.
- We champion civic engagement, environmental stewardship, research and teaching that connect theory and practice to learning and doing.
- We take pride in building, sustaining and sharing a culture that is founded on these principles of unity and respect.
Quick Access To
- Financial Aid
- Academic Advising
- Peer Tutoring
- Disability Services
- Office of Student Life
& More!

Visit: ascend.ucmerced.edu/resources
The Success Mentor Program (SMP) empowers first-year students to make a successful transition to academic and social life at UC Merced through one-on-one mentoring with upper-division students and community-based initiatives. Success mentors support and empower first-year students to develop strategies and skills that will enhance academic, intrapersonal and interpersonal development and a sense of Bobcat pride.

Learn More
Visit us online at mentoring.ucmerced.edu
Contact us at successmentors@ucmerced.edu
The Office of Student Life of the University of California, Merced presents:

**WELCOME WEEK 2015**
August 24th - September 4th

“Discovering Your Journey to Success”

Get Ready for the Following Events:

- Target Night
- Wii and Game Night
- CABapalooza
- Welcome Back Dance
- Comedy/Magic Night feat. Justin Willman
- The Odyssey Trip

...plus many more!

Formal brochure with a complete list of events can be downloaded or found at:

http://studentlife.ucmerced.edu/content/welcome-week

**SAVE THE DATE, BOBCATS**

For more information, please contact Enrique Guzman at eguzman@ucmerced.edu
whether it’s 2am or 2pm...
SUCCESS IS A CLICK AWAY
online workshops available 24/7
LEARNING.UCMERCED.EDU

CONTACT: LEARNING@UCMERCED.EDU
A RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS

UC Merced Food Pantry Distribution

The third Friday of every month
10:00am-2:00pm

Merced College/Tri-College Space
(Across from Mercy Hospital)

Sign up each month @
http://studentlife.ucmerced.edu/content/food-pantry-sign-form

Questions? Contact vdoty@ucmerced.edu
Look for Library contests & special events during Welcome Week.

Follow us on social media.

@UCMERCEDLIB  @UCMERCEDLIB  @UCMERCEDLIBRARY

Visit our calendar for upcoming events and workshops.

connect. collaborate. create.

library.ucmerced.edu
The Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center within the Office of Student Life at the University of California, Merced, aspires to educate and develop leadership competencies while empowering students to thrive as lifelong learners and leaders in the 21st century by fostering mindfulness and capabilities.

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.”
—Warren Bennis

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Leadership Conference

Yosemite Leadership Program (YLP)

Leadership Awards

Three Tier Leadership Certificate Program

Tier 1: Bobcat Leadership Series

(Preferred qualification for student employment.)

Tier 2: PAWS Leadership Seminars

Passion Action Wellness Service

Tier 3: Leadership in Action Capstone Program

Emerging Leader Retreat

LeaderShape

Leadership Consultations and Workshops

For more information, contact Steve Lerner, Assistant Director of Student Life, Kolligian Library 167, slerner@ucmerced.edu or visit the website: STUDENTLEADERSHIP.UCMERCED.EDU
CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Contact Us

careercenter@ucmerced.edu
(209) 228-2722
hire.ucmerced.edu

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8am-4:30pm
Student Services Building
SSB 230

Follow us!
@hireucmerced

Services

Workshops & Events
• Cover Letter
• Resume
• Networking
• Company Info Sessions
• Graduate School Info Sessions
• Career & Internship Fair

Career & Professional
• Career Assessment Test
• SSHA Career Advising
• STEM Career Advising
• Job Postings: On-Campus and Off-Campus

RESOURCES
How to get started:
- Sign in with your UCM log in information
- (Top right) Click on your name, go down to settings to edit/add info. (Privacy settings, notifications, etc.)
- Click the (Organizations) tab and surf the clubs available.
- Under (Campus links) you can find direct links to different campus departments and service center pages.

What to know:
- All clubs and organizations must post events on CatLife so stay informed!
- You can also keep track of your community service hours for any group/activity.
- If you would like to create an event, just go to your clubs page and click on the (Events) tab.
- Explore, and discover your passion!

CatLife.ucmerced.edu
Peer academic advisors are experienced students trained to advise freshmen. They can help you understand degree requirements, course selection and registration, and university policies. Peer academic advisors are excited to meet you and share their own academic experience with you. This service is provided by the Bright Success Center and Undeclared Advising.

Learn more at Learning.ucmerced.edu
PALS offers support in:
- Math
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Economics
- Psychology
- Writing
- and many more subjects!

Learn more or contact us at:
learning.ucmerced.edu/bit.ly/PALS_schedule
ACADEMIC SUCCESS SESSION

Please do not write on this page until instructed to do so.

1.

2.

3.

4.
REFLECTION EXERCISE

Please do not write on this page until instructed to do so. Thanks!

1. What did you learn at the ASCEND Conference today?

2. Given what you have learned today (and in the past) about academic success, what things (be specific) are you going to do in the weeks ahead to be academically successful? What new strategies that you have learned about are you going to put into practice?
The ASCEND New Student Success Conference Planning Committee would like to thank the following individuals, units and sponsors for supporting the conference. Without their continued backing, this conference would not have happened.

THANK YOU!

- Chancellor Dorothy Leland
- Vice Chancellor Charles Nies
- Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education Elizabeth Whitt
- Units from across the Division of Student Affairs
- Deans, faculty, advisors and staff from:
  - School of Engineering
  - School of Natural Sciences
  - School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts
- Information Technology
- Kolligian Library
- Development and Alumni Affairs
- Student Peer Groups: HEROES and Success Mentors

Your Next Step

Build upon what you’ve learned during ASCEND, and participate in as many of the activities offered during Welcome Week as your schedule allows!

“DISCOVERING YOUR JOURNEY TO SUCCESS”

WELCOME TO UC MERCED -

GO BOBCATS!
The University would like to thank the sponsors of the ASCEND conference. When you patronize these local businesses, please thank them for their support of this conference!