

Subject: Grad School Updates, Resources & More!



Charles De Leone, Ph.D.
Dean of Graduate Studies and Research

Welcome to the Fall 2026 Semester!

I'm delighted to welcome our new and returning graduate students to CSU San Marcos. Whether you're joining us for the first time or continuing your graduate journey, we're excited to have you as part of our community and look forward to all that you will accomplish this year.

At CSUSM, we are proud to foster a supportive, inclusive, and innovative graduate community where students are encouraged to learn, explore, collaborate, and grow. Your ideas, research, scholarship, and contributions enrich our campus and help shape the future of our university.

Wishing you a successful, meaningful, and inspiring Fall 2026 semester.

Watch Dean De Leone's Welcome

Go Cougars!

Remarks from President Neufeldt to Our Graduate Community



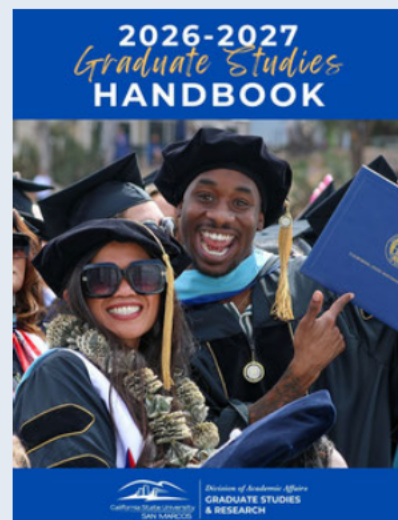
Watch President Neufeldt's Remarks

Graduate Studies Handbook

Reviewing the [Graduate Studies Handbook](#) is key to navigating University and CSU policies during your graduate coursework.

It is designed to be used together with the [University Catalog](#) and your Graduate Program's specific policies.

Handbook



Important Fall 2026 Dates

**September 27**

Last day to drop class(es) with no academic record for courses in the full session of the term (i.e. students must submit withdrawal petition in order to officially withdraw from courses after 11:59pm PST on Sep 27)

Beginning September 28

Census Day - Withdrawal from course(s) require approval and may be granted by petition for serious and compelling reasons only

November 1

Deadline to [Apply to Graduate](#) through MyCSUSM if you will be completing your program/degree requirements this Fall 2026

November 23

Last day to petition for a Mid-Session Withdrawal with an approved serious & compelling reason (not eligible for a refund); see [Course Withdrawal](#) page for more information.

December 19

Last day of Fall semester.

December 20

Fall 2026 [Commencement](#) at FrontWave Arena

January 8, 2027

Fall 2026 official grades available on MyCSUSM.

Note: Academic Programs operated through Extended Learning have refund policies that do not necessarily coincide with the University Add/Drop period. In addition, courses that are less than 16 weeks will have a different refund policy. Please refer to that terms Enrollment Calendar and [Extended Learning](#) for specific details.

Additional Fall 2026 Deadlines

20th Annual Graduate Studies Orientation



On August 26th, OGSR hosted the 20th Annual Graduate Studies Orientation, welcoming our incoming graduate students into the CSUSM community. The evening was filled with energy, connection, and inspiration as students had the opportunity to hear from campus leadership, alumni, and peers..

We are so grateful to all our campus partners, alumni, and student leaders who helped make this event a success and to our new graduate students for bringing their excitement and enthusiasm.

If you were unable to attend the Orientation in-person, please contact gradstudies@csusm.edu for access to our Virtual Orientation.

Academic Requirements Report

Students have access to all their academic information and progress through the Academic Requirements Report (AAR) found in the Student Center of their on-line MyCSUSM account.

The ARR lists all your program requirements needed to complete your degree and students are encouraged to



run the report often to ensure timely progression.

For assistance or correction on the ARR, please contact your Faculty Graduate Coordinator.

ARR Viewing Instructions

Future Faculty Programs



Interested in taking the next step toward a career in academia?

The CSU Chancellor's Office offers two excellent programs designed to help students prepare for future faculty careers through doctoral study. These initiatives provide faculty mentorship, financial support, research opportunities, and more to enhance students' academic journeys.

The **CA Pre-Doctoral Program** awards funds to juniors, seniors, and graduate students to enable them to explore and prepare to succeed in doctoral programs in their chosen field of study. These \$5,000 awards are for travel to prospective institutions and professional meetings, fees for applications tests, test prep. In addition to working with their faculty mentor, they also have an opportunity to conduct research at a UC or other doctoral-granting institution located in the United States.

The **Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP)** prepares promising doctoral

students for CSU faculty positions by providing financial support, mentorship by CSU faculty, and professional development and grant resources. Benefits include bi-annual \$1,500 travel grant for fellow and mentor, \$2,500 annual grant for professional development and scholarly activities, up to \$30,000 in forgivable loan, NCFDD membership, faculty mentorship, and more!

Contact gradstudies@csusm.edu to learn more!

Congratulations to our 2026-2027 CDIP Fellow and Sally Casanova Scholars!



Hollyann Balandra
Sally Casanova
Scholar

Sociological Practice
Master's Student -
CSUSM

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Allison Monterrosa



Yuliana Rojas
Sally Casanova
Scholar

Sociological Practice
Master's Student -
CSUSM

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Marisa Salinas



Madison Wagner
CDIP Fellow
CSUSM c/o 2022

Organic
Chemistry Doctoral
Student - Scripps
Research

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Robert Iafe

Policy Spotlight: Graduate & Post-Baccalaureate Student Course Repeat



Course repeats require approval from your graduate coordinator and fall into one of two categories: grade forgiveness (the new grade replaces the old one, up to a 9-unit limit per program) or grade averaging (both grades count toward your GPA once the forgiveness limit is reached). The system automatically applies forgiveness first, then averaging but if you'd prefer forgiveness applied to a different repeated course, you can request a change through the Registrar before completing your program.

Note: All grades for a given course, regardless of whether it is retaken for grade forgiveness or grade averaging, will be maintained as a part of the student record and will appear on the student's transcript, but, the student may only earn credit once for that course for their current program.

[Review the Full Policy](#)



The **Graduate Representatives Council (GRC)** actively champions the interests of graduate students, working closely with the Office of Graduate Studies and Research to address key concerns and enhance the graduate experience. The Dean of OGSR regularly consults the GRC to gather valuable student insights, ensuring that

Meet your 2026-2027 GRC Leadership

Executive Board

Nessa Jamalian, President
Biological Science

Jayden Perez, Vice President
History

Cory Jordan, Treasurer
Psychological Science

College Representatives

Mona Saii, CHABBS

solutions are student-centered and impactful at CSUSM.

GRC also hosts events to spread awareness and support services within the grad student community.

Contact GRC to learn how to get involved!

Psychological Science

College Representative Seats for COBA, CEHHS, CSTEM available!

Follow GRC on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



Need Professional Headshots?

CSUSM [Media Production Studios](#) offers professional headshots for our graduate community at no cost.

Studio times are available Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm.

For more information, contact mps@csusm.edu

[Book a Photo Session](#)

The Next Step: CSU Graduate Career Readiness



Ready to translate your graduate school experience into career-ready skills?

[The Next Step: CSU Graduate Career Readiness](#) is a free, self-paced, eight-module program available to all CSU graduate students, developed by graduate education leaders and faculty across eight CSU campuses.

Grounded in the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) eight career readiness competencies — including communication, leadership, critical thinking, and professionalism — the course helps you reflect on your academic and professional experiences and learn to communicate them effectively to employers.

Complete each module at your own pace and earn a LinkedIn-shareable badge for every competency. Finish all eight, and you'll earn the full CSU Graduate Career Readiness micro-credential — a great addition to your resume, CV, or LinkedIn profile.

Whether you're preparing for the academic job market or exploring careers beyond academia, this is a simple, no-cost way to build confidence and showcase the value of your graduate education.

[Log in](#) with your CSUSM profile to get started today!

What's New from OGSR?



We're excited to launch a few new resources and social media series this semester to support you throughout your graduate journey as support those who are interested in graduate school.

Graduate Resource Tuesdays - Every Tuesday, follow us on social media as we highlight a different campus resource available to support graduate students — from academic support and wellness services to funding opportunities and professional development. Make sure you're following along so you never miss a resource that could help you along the way!

Career Pathways Series - Not sure what graduate degree fits your future — or want to see what's out there beyond your own program? Our new Career Pathways series spotlights a different CSUSM graduate program in each post, helping prospective and current students explore the full range of graduate education pathways available on our campus.

Graduate eLibrary - Looking for research tools, learning resources, or ways to support your professional growth? Check out our [Graduate eLibrary](#) — a digital hub designed specifically for graduate students, offering resources to support you throughout your academic and professional journey.

Student Travel Resources

Presenting your research at an upcoming conference? The Office of Graduate Studies and Research has funding to help. Students presenting work completed at CSUSM can receive \$50–\$500 toward eligible presentation or travel expenses.

Funds are limited and awarded on a rolling basis, so apply early to make sure your request can be supported. Eligibility and application process can be found

here.

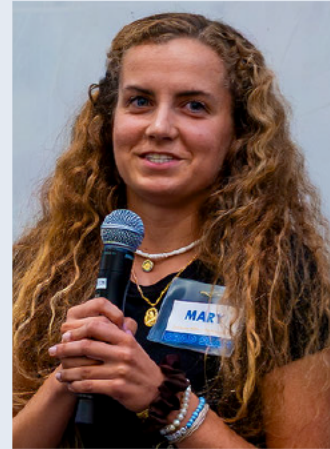
SAVE THE DATE

[Student Excellence Award](#) | November 3, 2026 -
Application Deadline

[Student Poster Showcase](#) | November 3, 2026 -
Application Deadline

[CSUSM Student Research Symposium](#) | February
8, 2027

[CSUSM Grad Slam](#) | March 5, 2027 - Registration
Deadline



Your Graduate Studies Team

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Nam Nguyen | Graduate Studies Program Lead

Jake Stewart | Graduate Assistant

Contact us at gradstudies@csusm.edu or at (760)750-4066

Stay Connected with Us!

- [OGSR Instagram](#)
- [OGSR LinkedIn](#)
- [GRC Teams Channel](#)



Division of Academic Affairs
**GRADUATE STUDIES
& RESEARCH**

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