GRADUATE STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024 Edition

California State University SAN MARCOS | OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Graduate Students,

Welcome to the spring semester! As we start the new term, I want to extend a warm welcome to all of you. This semester brings new opportunities for learning, growth, and achievement, and I am excited to see what we can accomplish together.

I encourage you to take full advantage of the resources and support available to you through the Office of Graduate Studies and our university community. Whether you are just beginning your graduate studies or are nearing the completion of your program, know that we are here to support you every step of the way.

I wish you all a successful and fulfilling semester ahead. Let's make this spring semester one to remember!

Wishing you a productive and rewarding fall semester ahead!

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





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Important Spring 2024 Dates

February 15
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 Feb 15)

After February 16
Withdrawal from course(s) require approval and may be granted by petition for serious and compelling reasons only

March 15
Deadline to Apply to Graduate through MyCSUSM if you will be completing your program/degree requirements this Spring or Summer 2024

March 18-23
Spring Break

April 1
Campus Closed - Cesar Chavez Day (observed)

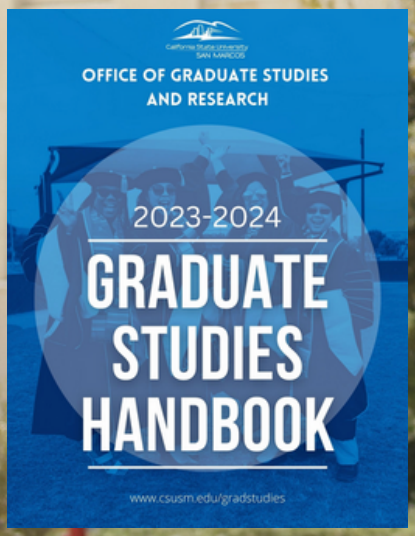
May 9 at Noon
Spring Electronic Thesis-Dissertation Submission Deadline

May 17-18
Commencement

May 31
Spring 2024 official grades available on MyCSUSM.

***For additional important Spring deadlines, click here.**

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.



Graduate Studies Handbook

The Graduate Studies Handbook outlines key university policies for general graduate school requirements and timelines. It is very important for you to become knowledgeable of these policies and attend to them as you progress through your graduate program curriculum. It is meant to go hand-in-hand with the University Catalog and your own Graduate Program's policies.

The handbook can be accessed online here.

Congratulations to our Fall 2023 Graduates!

Cal State San Marcos held its first-ever fall commencement on Sunday, December 17th at the Sports Center on campus. This milestone made CSUSM the first public university in San Diego County to host a fall commencement. The event was a resounding success, with over 500 graduates participating and a guest attendance exceeding 3,600 across the three ceremonies held throughout the day. The atmosphere was electric, with cheering crowds and jubilant graduates celebrating alongside faculty, staff, and administrators.

Before each ceremony, graduate students were invited to an intimate hooding ceremony led by Dean De Leone and their respective College Deans. During this special moment, graduates were hooded by faculty from their programs, and commemorative photos were taken to mark this significant occasion.





Calling All Spring 2024 and Summer 2024 Graduates!

If you anticipate completing all of your degree requirements by the end of this Spring or Summer 2024 term, you must **APPLY TO GRADUATE** by **March 15th!** All students must apply to graduate to have their files reviewed for degree conferral. To do so, log into your Student Services Center via MyCSUSM and locate the “Apply for Graduation” field under Academics. Follow the prompts and select the Spring 2024 or Summer 2024 term for graduation.

Spring GradFest 2024 will be on Tuesday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 13th, 2024 from 10am to 6pm in the USU Ballroom (2nd floor). Watch your CSUSM email for more information on GradFest Events, Contests, and Vendors.

Save the date for Friday, May 17th and Saturday, May 18th for May 2024 Commencement.The final May 2024 commencement schedule will be posted by the end of March.

The commencement registration link has NOT yet been sent out, and will be sent to all eligible Spring 2024, Summer 2024, and Fall 2023 (that did not participate in the December 2023 commencement ceremonies) graduates via their CSUSM email address during the second week of April.

NOTE: Applying to graduate and registering for commencement are two different processes. Graduates will receive communications on commencement based on the graduation term they have noted on their graduation application. All graduates must apply to graduate via their MyCSUSM account to receive communications from the commencement office.

2024 GRAD SLAM

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!!!!!

The **Annual Grad Slam** is a campus-wide competition where both undergraduate and graduate students showcase their impactful & innovative research, scholarship, or creative activity in front of a live audience & a panel of judges.

Student participants will make 1 presentation slide and give a 3-minute oral presentation before juries of professional experts from faculty, major corporations, foundations, and community members. Presentations from all disciplines are invited.

CASH PRIZES include: $500 for Best Graduate STEM presentation, $500 for Best Graduate STEM presentation, $300 for Best Undergraduate presentation, and more!

Register **HERE** by **Monday, March 25th** and for questions contact gradstudies@csusm.edu or csusmgrc@gmail.com



Elisha Rainwaters
Sociological Practice
2023 Non-STEM Winner
"The Impact of COVID quarantine in local independent musicians"



CONVERSATION WITH THE CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

Join us for an open conversation with **Dr. Aswad Allen**, CSUSM's Chief Diversity Officer, **focusing on graduate student** experiences, concerns, and opportunities. Your attendance is highly encouraged, as the graduate student experience may often feel overlooked yet is vitally important to our CSUSM community.

The event will be held on **April 22nd from 11am-12:15pm** in the Administration Building 6201or can be attended via Zoom. **Please RSVP HERE**. Light refreshments will be provided.



THE CHANCELLOR'S DOCTORAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE WITH DIVERSITY

DEADLINE TO APPLY: MARCH 15, 2024

The goal of the California State University **Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP)** is to increase the number of faculty with the qualifications, motivation, and skills needed to teach the diverse students of the CSU. CDIP prepares promising doctoral students for CSU faculty positions by providing financial support, mentorship by CSU faculty and professional development and grant resources.

If you are expected to start a Ph.D. program in Fall 2024 and aspire to teach at the CSU, we strongly encourage you to apply for CDIP as the program provides generous mentorship support, financial loans, professional and travel grants, and more!

For additional questions or application support, contact gradstudies@csusm.edu

Academic Requirements Report (ARR)



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.

To access your ARR:

1. Log into your Student Services Center through your MyCSUSM account.
2. Select the Academic Requirements link to run the report.

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



GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Don't miss this chance to shine! Nominate yourself for the **Graduate Student Spotlight**. It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase your achievements and inspire others in our CSUSM community. Selected students/alumni will be featured in our newsletters, OGSR's website and social media, and more! Take the leap and self-nominate today!

If you are a current student or alum of a CSUSM graduate program and want to share your work, please fill out this brief **FORM** and someone from the Office of Graduate Studies and Research will follow up with you about your submission.

ASI Cougar Pantry

The **ASI Cougar Pantry** serves all CSUSM students in an effort to decrease food insecurity on campus. The pantry stocks a variety of dry and canned goods, limited produce, milk, toiletries, and diapers. A service and initiative of the ASI Board of Directors, the ASI Cougar Pantry is managed by a team of students, interns, volunteers, and staff.

Each currently enrolled CSUSM student can visit the ASI Cougar Pantry in Commons 104 to shop once a week for free groceries!

- Location: Commons 104
- Hours: Monday - Thursday | 10:00am - 5:00pm
- Email cougarpantry@csusm.edu



Policy Spotlight

Graduate and Post Baccalaureate Student Course Repeat

Full text listed in CSUSM Catalog and Graduate Student Handbook

Courses that May be Repeated

1. A course may be repeated only with the permission of the graduate coordinator and when it is consistent with program policy. Students may be administratively dropped from repeated courses if they do not get the approval of their graduate coordinator. Usually, the repeated course should be the same as the initial course. However, the graduate coordinator may approve an alternative course if the original course is not offered when needed (as determined by the graduate coordinator).
2. If a student wishes to register for the course again only to refresh knowledge and not for grade adjustment, then they may do so enrolling with an audit and, therefore, not for grade adjustment.
3. Courses designated in the catalog as “may be repeated” can be repeated up to the maximum indicated in the course description and all grades received will be included in the calculation of the grade point average. Students may obtain permission from the program coordinator to have a subsequent attempt of such a course used for grade forgiveness instead. When such a course is repeated for grade forgiveness, the completion of the course will not result in the earning of additional units of credit.
4. Students may be permitted by the graduate coordinator to repeat a course taken as an undergraduate. This is not considered a case of grade adjustment since the grade of the original course is not used in post-baccalaureate or graduate GPA calculations. The grade earned in the repeated course will not replace the grade in the undergraduate records. The grade obtained in such a course will affect the cumulative GPA in the same manner as a normal course taken while enrolled in the program. However, the grade obtained will not affect the program GPA unless the units earned are approved by the graduate coordinator to satisfy a requirement for the degree.
5. Repeated courses that are not taken to satisfy requirements for the degree will affect the cumulative GPA in the manner described below (Course Grades Forgiven or Averaged). However, the grade obtained will not affect the program GPA.

Which Course Grades Are Forgiven, And Which Course Grades Are Averaged?

1. A maximum of nine (9) semester units of repeated coursework can be used for grade forgiveness while in a given program. Other repeated coursework will be for grade averaging. A program may impose a stricter limit allowing a smaller maximum number of units for grade forgiveness.
2. Upon completion of grades, the student system will automatically identify all repeated courses and apply grade forgiveness and grade averaging. Typically grade forgiveness will be applied to the repeated courses unless this would exceed the unit limit for grade forgiveness, in which case grade averaging will be applied instead.
3. Students may see on their transcripts which courses have been selected for grade forgiveness and grade averaging. Students who believe that they would be better served by a different choice of courses for grade forgiveness may submit a request to the Registrar to have a repeat with forgiveness transferred from one course to a different course. These requests must be made prior to completion of the program.

BECOME YOUR COLLEGE'S GRC REP

The Graduate Representatives Council (GRC) brings a unified voice to graduate students and provides support for graduate student issues and concerns in collaboration with the Office of Graduate Studies and Research (OGSR). In addition, the Dean of OGSR may seek advice from the GRC regarding graduate student issues that would benefit from the council's feedback to provide student-driven solutions to improve the graduate student experience at CSUSM.

Each College will now be represented by two current graduate students who will update their college's graduate peers on current news and community interests. Serving as your college's representative offers a unique opportunity to advocate for your peers' interests and contribute to shaping academic policies. It provides valuable leadership experience and networking opportunities within the university community. And of course, it looks great on your resume/CV!

If you are interested in serving as a GRC College Representative, contact csusmgrc@gmail.com for more information.



Upcoming Spring 2024 Events!



Be sure to check out the University Calendar for upcoming events such as the Social Justice Symposium, Sista Fest, 5th Annual Women's Leadership Summit, Landa Lakes: Two-Spirit Storytelling,Cougar Cinema, GradFest, Grad Slam, and MORE!

Meet the Grad Studies Team!

In partnership with your program's faculty and staff, the team at the Office of Graduate Studies and Research (OGSR) are eager to support you in your academic success. Should you have any questions, contact us at gradstudies@csusm.edu



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



Nam Nguyen, M.Ed.
Graduate Studies Program Lead