Welcome to UCR!

Congratulations on becoming part of our CNAS Family!

Barbra Wallace, M.A.
Director, CNAS Undergraduate Academic Advising Center
Some things you should know about us

» B & M: UCR Freshman back in the Pleistocene.

» B & M: Graduated from UCR with Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in CNAS.

» M: Since October 2009: 50% time as Dean, 50% time as Professor.

We all value and understand the UCR undergraduate experience!
Our staff help 4,700 undergraduate students to:

- navigate a path to their degree.
- explore and assess their strengths and challenges.
- attain their best possible performance.
- find productive options if their initial degree goals cannot be met.
16 Majors in CNAS

Life Sciences
Biochemistry, Biological Science, Biology, Entomology, Neuroscience, Plant Biology

Mathematical Sciences
Mathematics, Mathematics for Teachers in Secondary Schools, Statistics

Physical Sciences
Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, Geology, Geoscience Education, Geophysics, Physics

Declared
CNAS Majors

- BCH 757
- BIOL 1068
- BLSC 1120
- CHEM 142
- ENSC 144
- ENTM 31
- GEOL 25
- GEPH 1
- MATH 227
- NURO 211
- PHYS 83
- STAT 26
- PLBL 26
- NAUX 815
Their first steps in the pathway to a CNAS degree come up tomorrow:

- **Getting into the right Math course** – success in all of their subsequent CNAS courses depends on it.
- **Getting into the right English course** – they have to be able to comprehend and communicate the ideas of Math and Science.
Math and English Placement Results

While your student’s excellent grades got them into the University of California, whether or not they are really ready for Freshmen Calculus and English Composition depends on their scores on:

- AP/IB exams and community college transfer work
- Math Advisory Exam (MAE)
- Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE)
3 Possible Math Placements

- **Calculus-ready:** place into Math 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C
- **Pre-Calculus:** place into Math 8A, 5
- **Intermediate Algebra Workshop (IAW):** place into LNCR 35

Students who are not Pre-Calculus-ready can take LNCR 35 at the **UCR Learning Center** this Fall.
3 Possible English Placements

- **English 1-ready:** place into Engl 1A, 1B, 1C
- **Pre-English 1:** place into Engl 4, 5
- **Basic Writing:** place into BSWT 3

Students who place into BSWT 3 or LNCR 35 are two quarters away from where they should be as new Freshmen in the Fall.
LNCR 35 - Intermediate Algebra Workshop

- For students not yet ready for college-level work in mathematics:
  - Course is not-for-college-credit.
  - Taught at the UCR Learning Center.
  - Students must pass course (C or better) to be eligible to take Pre-Calculus.

- Fees: $280
- Offered in Fall.
- Must pass IAW by end of Fall to stay in CNAS.

http://www.learningcenter.ucr.edu
Anatomy of a CNAS bachelor’s degree

180 units minimum (~ 45 classes @ 4 units each)

› Minimum 2.0 GPA (C average).
› Minimum 2.0 GPA in all upper-division major courses.
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They stood out in high school. New peer group – “C, D and F” students in H.S. are not here. The level of effort needed to stand out is now much greater.
They must be ready for a **big jump** in academic effort and maturity.
Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning

C = dutifully memorizing, not much more

B = applying knowledge in a critical, analytical fashion

A = critical/analytical thinking and integrating concepts
Earning a Bachelor’s degree in CNAS is equivalent to a 50-hr per week job

- They should study 2 additional hours for every hour spent in the classroom:
  
  16 units = 16 hours in class + 32 hours studying = 48 hrs/wk

- Holding down a part-time job makes it very difficult.

- Expecting them to come home every weekend to help with family activities makes it very difficult.

Goal number one is for them to focus on coursework and graduate with a degree in four years!
Programs for Freshman Year Success: CNAS Freshman Scholars Program

- Requires enrollment in Math course + Chemistry course + Freshman Advising Seminar in Fall 2010.
- Promotes student success with unique Learning Communities: groups of 24 students that move through the same CNAS Freshman courses.
- Participate in seminars & workshops throughout the year.
- Enrollment limited to 700 Freshmen.
- Opportunity to apply for a paid research position ($2,000) with a faculty member in summer 2011.
Programs for Freshman Year Success: CNAS Fall Freshman Advising Seminars

Part of CNAS Freshman Learning Communities.
Only 24 students per section. Each led by a Professor in CNAS. Discussion group led by UAAC advisor.

- Research by faculty at UCR
- Campus educational resources
- Opportunities for undergraduate research at UCR
- Career options in the major
- Graduate and professional school preparation
Getting into Medical School

› Medical School is very competitive, requires:
  › Exceptional grades (3.8-4.0)
  › Exceptional diagnostic and analytical skills
  › Exceptional community service record
  › Exceptional leadership and communication skills
  › Exceptional letters of recommendation

› So, students should find a major in which they can be exceptional – they may need to explore different majors and courses.

› There is no “one” best major for Medical School.
Same Strategy Applies to Getting into Graduate and Professional Schools

- Study what makes you passionate.
- Major in what makes you exceptional.
- It may take some time to find the right major.
- Math, Chemistry, Biology and Physics are the basic sciences – but expand your horizons beyond what you know from High School.
- Sample some of the smaller less familiar majors and see what you find.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>S:F Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology/Biosci</td>
<td>2188</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>91:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>54:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>3:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geology/Geophysics</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Biology</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.9:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entomology</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0.9:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The competition you face for faculty time and research opportunities may vary among different majors.
In spite of everyone’s best efforts, Freshmen sometimes encounter difficulties:

- **Away from home**: personal/emotional structure and support is less established.
- **Rapid pace of quarter system**: requires good time management and rigorous study habits.
- **Distractions and temptations**: WoW, new personal relationships, partying, etc.
- **Over-commitment**: part-time job, pledging.
- **Self-pressure**: to become an independent adult.
Parental Pressure to Perform

› Please don’t say: “I’m paying top $$$$ for your education at UCR, so you’d better get into Med School!”

› Please do say: “I’m very proud of you getting into UCR. Although I’ll be delighted if you get into Med School, I’ll be just as happy with whatever major you decide to thrive in!”

Give them the flexibility to find the path that suits them best, including changing majors if they struggle in their initial choice.

Changing majors is not a sign of failure, it’s a wise recognition that their talents and best opportunities lie in a different field of study.
Besides CNAS Advising, there are many resources to help students:

- **The Learning Center**: tutoring, study skills, time management workshops.
- **The Counseling Center**: professional counseling on personal and emotional well-being.
- **The Health Center**: medical care, flu shots, prescriptions.
- **The Career Center**: career assessment, resume writing and interviewing skills.
Parents’ Quiz: True or false:

› If my student is struggling academically or emotionally, does UCR have to inform me?

› Can I contact the Dean/Professor/Advisor and ask how my student is doing in school?

› Can I check online to see what grades my student is getting?
Answers:

› If my student is struggling academically or emotionally, does UCR have to inform me?  
  False, unless…

› Can I contact the Dean/Professor/Advisor and ask how my student is doing in school?  
  False, unless…

› Can I check online to see what grades my student is getting?  
  False, unless…
... your student has signed a FERPA release.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974
http://registrar.ucr.edu/QuickLinks/FERPA+Students.htm

When your student was in elementary and high school, FERPA gave you rights to access their educational records.

Now that your student is in college, this same law transfers ownership of the records directly to the student.

In the eyes of the government, they are now adults with all rights held accordingly.
Under FERPA:

- Permission to directly read your student’s grades and records on the UCR student web interface “Growl” can be granted by your student, if they willingly designate you as an “authorized user” under their account.
- However, this does not authorize us to convey any additional information to you as a parent.
- We can only speak with you about your student in person in their presence if they have filled out a FERPA release form, signed it, indicated what information we can convey, and personally turned it in to our advising center with proper identification.
Maintain your trust with them, so they keep you informed willingly. They want to become independent, but they also need your praise and support. This Summer:

- Ask your student: what are their expectations and goals for their Freshman year at UCR?
- Have supportive discussions about how they will handle any potential struggles and challenges in college.
- Establish a level of comfort for both of you in how they will communicate their academic progress to you.
- Both of you will then be well-prepared for their success at UCR!
Mandatory Fall Orientation for New Freshmen the first week of classes. Students must attend Orientation to obtain Major Advising in Fall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Day, Date, Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Biochemistry Freshman</td>
<td>Monday, September 20, 2010 Humanities Theatre 400</td>
<td>8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Biological Sciences Freshman</td>
<td>Monday, September 20, 2010 Humanities Theatre 400</td>
<td>1:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Biology Freshman</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 21, 2010 Bourns Hall B118</td>
<td>8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Freshman majoring in Entomology, Neuroscience and Plant Biology, and Undeclared Life Sciences</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 21, 2010 Bourns Hall B118</td>
<td>1:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Freshman Majoring in Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, Geology, Geophysics, Geoscience Education, Mathematics, Mathematics for Secondary School Teachers, Physics, Statistics, Undeclared in Mathematical Sciences and Physical Sciences</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 22, 2010 Humanities Theatre 400</td>
<td>8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you

Questions?