Welcome to UCR!

Congratulations on becoming part of our CNAS Family!
What does the Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs do?

- Oversee undergraduate recruiting, academic advising, enrollment management and student success programs for the college.
- Monitor the academic status and progress of all undergraduates in the college.
- Develop and enforce undergraduate policies and regulations, and grant exceptions to those when warranted.
- Faculty advisor for all Undeclared CNAS students.
Undergraduate Academic Advising Center (UAAC)  
1223 Pierce Hall

Working with the undergraduate faculty advisors in the majors, our 14 professional academic advisors help ~4,700 undergraduate students to:

- understand and follow University policies and regulations.
- stay on path to their degree.
- explore and assess their strengths and challenges.
- strive for their best possible performance.
- find major options that best suit their interests and talents.
Undergraduate Majors in CNAS

Life Sciences

Biochemistry, Biology, Cell, Molecular & Developmental Biology (CMDB), Entomology, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Plant Biology

Mathematical Sciences

Mathematics, Mathematics for Teachers in Secondary Schools, Statistics

Physical Sciences

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

Undeclared

General, Life Sciences, Mathematical, Physical
~ 4,700 undergraduates in CNAS
Your student’s first steps along the pathway to their CNAS degree come up tomorrow:

- **Getting into the right Math course** – Math is the language of science. Scientists are never “done” with Math, so they have to learn to master it. 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 Exam Placements

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 at UC depends on their scores on:

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

- **Calculus-ready**: Math 8B, 9A, 9B, or 9C
- **Pre-Calculus**: Math 5 or 8A
- **Intermediate Algebra**: ARC 35

To reduce their **time-to-graduation**:

Students who are *not* Calculus-ready should take Pre-Calculus at **UCR Summer Bridge**.

Students who are *not* Pre-Calculus-ready must pass ARC 35 at the **UCR Academic Resource Center** either this Summer or Fall, in order to remain in CNAS. **Once chance only to pass.**
3 Possible English Placements:

- **English 1-ready**: Engl 1PA, 1A, 1B, or 1C
- **Pre-English 1**: Engl 4
- **Basic Writing**: BSWT 3

Pre-English 1 students can take Engl 4 at UCR Summer Bridge to be ready for Engl 1A in Fall. No BSWT3 courses offered in Summer.

Students who place into BSWT 3 or ARC 35 are two quarters away from where they should be as beginning CNAS Freshmen, and should take one of these courses this Summer to get caught up.
Why are MAE/AWPE placements at UC sometimes different than high school grades may indicate?
Why are MAE/AWPE placements at UC sometimes different than high school grades may indicate?

“Where are California high schools ranked in the nation?”

“Where is UC ranked in academic quality for universities nation-wide?”
Why are MAE/AWPE placements at UC sometimes different than high school grades may indicate?

“Where are California high schools ranked in the nation?”

“Where is UC ranked in academic quality for universities nation-wide?”

So sometimes California students have to make up for that gap when they enter UC.
UCR Summer Bridge Program

- Can take one of two Courses - $2,240
  - Pre-Calculus: July 28 – Sept. 14
  - English 4: July 28 – Sept. 14

- It is more important to become Calculus-ready than English 1-ready for Fall, because students can’t advance in CNAS courses without Calculus.

- Financial Aid is available (see web site).

- On-campus Housing is available ($3,024).

http://summerbridge.ucr.edu
ARC 35 - Intermediate Algebra

- For students not yet ready for college-level work in mathematics:
  - Course is not for college credit, so no financial aid coverage.
  - Students must pass the course to be eligible to take Pre-Calculus.
- Fees: $280
- Offered in Summer (7/29-9/15) or Fall.
- Can take ARC 35 only once – must pass it to stay in CNAS.

http://arc.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.
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.

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 excel is now much greater.
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

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

- This is very different from High School.
- Holding down a part-time job makes it very difficult.
- Expecting them to come home every weekend to participate in family activities makes it very difficult.

Goal number one is for them to focus on coursework and graduate with a degree in four years!
Promotes student success with unique Learning Communities: groups of 24 students who move through the same CNAS Freshman courses all year long.

Requires enrollment in Math course + Chemistry course + Freshman Advising Seminar in Fall.

Participate in seminars & workshops throughout the year.

Supplemental instruction (intensive tutoring).

Enrollment limited to ~700 Freshmen (60% of Freshmen).

Opportunity to apply for a paid research position ($3,000 stipend) with a faculty member in Summer 2014 (pending funding).
Programs for Freshman Year Success:
Fall Freshman Discovery Seminar (NASC 93)

Nucleus for the Learning Communities.
Only 24 students per section.
1 hr. Seminar led by a Professor in CNAS.
1 hr. Discussion led by UAAC advisor.
- Learn about doing Science and Math directly from faculty
- Utilizing campus educational resources (Library, Internet, etc.)
- Study skills and time management
- Opportunities for undergraduate research at UCR
- Career options in the major
- Graduate and professional school preparation
- How to obtain letters of recommendation
- Ethics and academic integrity
Getting into Medical School

Medical School is very competitive, requires:

- Exceptional grades (3.6 - 4.0) and MCAT scores
- Exceptional diagnostic and analytical skills
- Exceptional community service record
- Exceptional leadership and communication skills
- Exceptional letters of recommendation from faculty (not M.D.s)

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

No “one” best major for Medical School.
Matriculants to US Medical Schools by Primary Undergraduate Degree Type, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Matriculants, 2012</th>
<th>MCAT VR Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>MCAT PS Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>MCAT BS Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Total MCAT Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>GPA Science Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>GPA Non-Science Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>GPA Total Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Total Matriculants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.64</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>3.78</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>10,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.59</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>3.73</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math and Statistics</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>3.68</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.62</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>3.68</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>3,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.65</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>2,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>3.64</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>2,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized Health Sciences</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.62</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Matriculants</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.63</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>3.68</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>19,517</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The table presents the most recent MCAT scores.
** SD = Standard Deviation

Source: AAMC 12/17/2012 Table 18, Applicants and Matriculants Data

Last column: half are non-life science majors!

Medical schools are looking for diverse applicants interested in the human condition, with broad educational training and life experience; not quickly-graduated, narrowly-educated students.
Strategies for Getting into Graduate and Professional Schools

- Study what makes them passionate.
- Major in what makes them exceptional (A’s, B’s).
- It may take some time to find the right major.
- They know Math, Chemistry, Biology and Physics as the basic sciences – but should expand their horizons beyond what they know from High School.
- Sample some of the smaller less familiar majors and see what they find.
- Establish a record of research and service.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of Majors</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>S:F Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</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>1:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entomology</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The competition they face for faculty time and research opportunities may vary among different majors.
Fostering your student’s maturity and confidence

At UCR we fully understand the nature and diversity of our Freshmen:

- Most are still maturing and learning how to make well-informed decisions.
- Some are first-generation students with no college-experienced peers at home.
- Some are coming from socioeconomically-challenged families.
- Some are coming from homes where English is not the primary spoken language.

That’s why we place such an emphasis on academic support for our Freshmen.

We use centralized mandatory advising and the Learning Communities to get new students started out on the right foot.

We try to engage them in research and faculty mentoring as soon as possible, to give them professional guidance and academic rigor.

These early intervention efforts distinguish CNAS and UCR from other campuses.
In spite of everyone’s best efforts, new Freshmen sometimes encounter difficulties:

- **Away from home:** personal/emotional support network has to be re-established.
- **Rapid pace of quarter system:** requires good time management and rigorous study habits.
- **Distractions and temptations:** Dorms, WoW, Facebook, new relationships, partying, etc.
- **Over-commitment:** part-time job, pledging.
- **Self-imposed pressure:** to become an independent adult (too proud to ask for help).
- And…
Parental/Family 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. I’ll be delighted with whatever exciting major you decide to thrive in!”

Give them the flexibility to discover 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 sign of intelligence: a wise recognition that their talents and best career opportunities lie in a different direction.
Besides CNAS Advising (UAAC) and faculty mentoring, there are many campus resources to help students:

- **Academic Resource Center**: tutoring, study skills, time management workshops.
- **Counseling Center**: professional, confidential counseling on personal well-being.
- **Health Center**: medical care, flu shots, basic prescriptions.
- **Career Center**: career assessment, resume writing and interviewing skills.
- **The Well**: healthful living, stress relief, therapy dogs, yoga & meditation, peer mentoring.
Parents’ Rights Quiz: true or false:

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

› Can the Dean/Professor/Advisor tell me how my student is doing in their classes and their major?

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

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

When your student was in K-12, FERPA gave you rights to access their educational records.

Now that your student is in college (no matter what their age), this same law transfers ownership of the records directly to the student.

In the eyes of the government (and UC), they are adults with all rights held accordingly.
Under FERPA:

- Permission to directly read your student’s grades and some financial 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 action does not authorize faculty or staff 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 willingly filled out a FERPA release form, signed it, indicated what information we can convey, and personally turned it in to our advising center with their proper identification.
Types of parental phone calls and emails that we are prohibited from answering under FERPA.

- Questions about a student’s specific academic status and major.
- Questions about a student’s specific instructors, courses, grades, awards, scholarships, etc.

Types of parental phone calls and emails that we can answer.

- General questions about CNAS student academic policies and procedures.
- General questions about the nature of CNAS courses, instructors, grades, awards, etc.
Who should you contact for questions about your student’s situation?

- The Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs and the UAAC Director have full access to and knowledge of all CNAS student academic records. *It’s our job!*

- The Dean, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Chancellor have limited access to student records, so they will refer you to us.
CNAS Associate Dean’s advice for the Summer before Freshman year

Maintain your trust with your student, so that they keep you informed willingly. They want to become independent young adults, but as maturing children they still need your praise and emotional support. This Summer:

- Ask your student: what are their expectations and goals for their Freshman year at UCR?
- Establish a level of comfort for both of you in how they will communicate their academic status and progress to you.
- Have frank discussions now about how they will handle any potential challenges and opportunities in college and life.
- Both of you will then be well-prepared for their success at UCR!
# MANDATORY CNAS ORIENTATION
## NEW 2013 FALL QUARTER STUDENTS

Included in each Freshman Orientation session below is time for the freshmen to meet with their major academic advisor (or an undeclared advisor) for major-specific advising for approximately 1.5 hours.

## Freshmen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Day, Date, Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology Freshman</td>
<td>Monday, September 23rd</td>
<td>8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Names A-L. Microbiology and Entomology</td>
<td>Bourns Hall B118</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology Freshman</td>
<td>Monday, September 23rd</td>
<td>1:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Names M-Z.</td>
<td>Bourns Hall B118</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Biochemistry Freshman</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 24th</td>
<td>8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Freshmen majors in Cell, Molecular &amp; Developmental Biology, Neuroscience, Undeclared Life Sciences, and Plant Biology</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 24th</td>
<td>1:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Freshmen majors in Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, Geology, Mathematics, Mathematics for Secondary School Teachers, Physics, Statistics, &amp; Undeclared Mathematical &amp; Physical Sciences</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 25th</td>
<td>8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Freshmen majors in Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, Geology, Mathematics, Mathematics for Secondary School Teachers, Physics, Statistics, &amp; Undeclared Mathematical &amp; Physical Sciences</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 25th</td>
<td>8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you

This Powerpoint presentation will be posted to http://cnasstudent.ucr.edu

Questions?