

Introduction:

Welcome to what we think is one of the greatest universities in the United States and to one of the most rewarding and interesting departments- Anthropology! Whether you're more interested in cultural, biological anthropology or archaeology, we've got you covered with helpful information and tips to make sure that your transfer goes smoothly and that you're a success within the department.

Advising

Start your CSUN career off right by getting the right academic advising. The Department of Anthropology has its own Peer Advisor, whose office is in Sierra Hall 242 (the Keith Morton Memorial Office). Usually a graduate student in the department, the Peer Advisor has been trained to advise undergraduates and has in-depth knowledge of the Anthropology faculty and curriculum, so s/he is definitely your first choice for academic advisement. The Peer Advisor can also direct you to other helpful campus resources should you need them, so don't hesitate to drop in and make his or her acquaintance. Office hours are posted outside the office and in the Anthropology Department main office, Sierra Hall 232. You can sign up for an appointment in the main office, as well.

Another option is to visit CSBS Undergraduate Advisor Tony Quach in SH 130 or an advisor in the EOP Office, SH 204. Either way, begin to plan your path to graduation your first semester at CSUN. You can find Degree Planning Guides and STAR Act Plans, which help you map your path to graduation, here:

4 year degree plans for Anthropology:

<http://www.csun.edu/catalog/planning/plans/2014/anthropology-7-2/>

STAR Act plans for Anthropology:

<http://www.csun.edu/catalog/planning/staract/2014/anthropology/>

Approaching professors:

It's shocking to think that professors are humans too, but they are. Often students are afraid to go speak to professors for a myriad of reasons. Don't be! They have office hours for a reason. The anthropology department's professors are world-class scholars, but they're also hard working people who are invested in their students. If you have questions or concerns about class work, go see them. If you have interests that align with theirs, visit their office hours and introduce yourself! If you're nervous, bring an article in and ask them about it. Keep in mind that these professors are the ones that will have student job opportunities cross their desk- and if you let them know what you're interested in, the job could be yours! They also write letters of recommendations for jobs or for graduate school, so it's in your best interest to interact with them. Keep in mind that profs sometimes aren't as familiar with the ins and outs of graduation requirements or financial aid, so for those kinds of questions, you're better off visiting one of the advisors mentioned above.

Remember that it's best to keep things professional though. The proper way to speak to a professor is call them 'Professor' or 'Dr.' before their last name. Professors respect you and your work, so it's best to show them respect by calling them by their proper titles. Your professors are not your friends, so keep interactions professional; interact with them as you would with a supervisor or boss at work.

Here's a handy dandy link to professors: <http://www.csun.edu/social-behavioral-sciences/anthropology/full-time-faculty>

Click on any of their names for more information about them.

Graduate students are another great resource for information, job opportunities and networking. Graduate students are often in 300, 400 and 500 level courses with undergraduate students. If you feel uncomfortable about an assignment or if you're not sure if your paper is good enough, ask a graduate student to read it over or to offer suggestions. They're struggling students too, so you already have something in common!

Get involved:

One key to success is to hit the ground running! Once you're accepted, get involved! Making connections and friends with your peers will ease the transition and can help make a big university seem like a smaller group of friends with similar interests. The Anthropology Student Association (ASA) is a great way to meet fellow students. The club meets regularly during the academic year and sponsors fun day trips and activities. For more information and regular updates, check out the ASA's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/CSUNAnthroSA?fref=ts&ref=br_tf

The Matador Involvement Center (MIC) has more resources on getting involved. Including fraternities and sororities, other clubs and volunteering opportunities and leadership development programs. Check them out here: <http://www.csun.edu/mic>

On-campus jobs also provide a great way to meet fellow students on campus, and let's face it, who can't use the extra cash during the school year? There are wide ranges of jobs- everything from making coffee at the Freudian Sip to tutoring fellow students or assisting professors. To find opportunities online, go to the CSUN website and just type in "student jobs" in the search field. You'll be shocked at how many opportunities come up! You can also look for anthropology jobs on campus at <http://www.csun.edu/social-behavioral-sciences/anthropology/student-employment-opportunities>

Getting involved is vital to being a successful student. You'll be building yourself a support network of friends, coworkers and professionals that can cheer you on in your academic journey. You're not alone and your Matador community is here to show you that!

Field Schools:

Up for a little adventure while you learn? Check out all the different field schools that are available for anthropology students at CSUN. The Pimu Catalina Archaeological field school is usually about a month long during the summer. You can learn the basics of archaeological fieldwork with hands on practice! If museums are more your style, check out the Ica Field School for the handling and analysis of organic artifacts. It is in Peru (yay for travel!) and can be taken for academic credits. Lastly, the Sinope Archaeological field school in Turkey is a great opportunity for travel and hands on learning for archaeological field techniques *and* it can be taken for 8 units! All of these are great options that offer you the chance to get valuable skills while interacting with fellow students and professionals within the anthropological discipline. Check out more about these schools here: <http://www.csun.edu/social-behavioral-sciences/anthropology/csun-summer-archaeological-field-schools>

Careers in Anthropology:

It is sometimes shocking how little our families or friends know about anthropology and what kinds of careers are available for anthropologists. The truth is that many employers look for valuable undergraduate degrees that teach students how to be observant, detail oriented, good researchers and self-awareness. The good news is, anthropology teaches students all this and more. The world is more culturally aware, and anthropologists are uniquely situated to not only bring cross-cultural awareness to work place, but to navigate it for business purposes. Anthropology also provides a great basis for social work, community planning and leadership, or international business. With additional training through an MA or Ph.D. program, you could also become a professor, teacher, or researcher. Other careers include museum professionals, archaeologists or ethnographers. The possibilities are endless for anthropologists! This is another great topic to speak to a professor about.

Student Resources:

CSUN is dedicated to providing free resources for students so they can excel. Did you read that right?? FREE!

One key area many students struggle with is their writing skills. Luckily, there are workshops available for developing writing skills. The Social Science Writing Project (SSWP) is hosting 20 different workshops on a variety of writing issues. Check out SSWP and their workshops at: <http://www.csun.edu/sswp>

There's also free walk in tutoring sessions that you can go to for both writing and statistics for students in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (hint: that's you!). Check out their website for available tutoring times and for more information on how to get involved: <http://www.csun.edu/csbs-tutoring/about.html>

Klotz Student Health Center

For any health problems you may be experiencing, including stress, the Klotz Student Health Center welcomes you. Their physicians are board-certified and trained in various specialties, and offer services from massage and chiropractic to women's and men's health. <http://www.csun.edu/shc>

University Counseling Services

CSUN is dedicated to making each and every student happy and healthy. The University Counseling Services provides free counseling to individual students, group counseling and workshops on academic, mental and personal wellness issues. They have a wonderful professional team of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, pre-doctoral interns and administrative staff to assist you in any way they can. Check out the website <http://www.csun.edu/counseling>! They have mental health screenings you can take online, and they even have a self-help library you can access in case you want to do more research.

One of the best benefits of the University Counseling Services, besides their free counseling and brilliant staff, is their Experience Confidence and Enjoyment in Learning (ExCEL) program. If you feel like you've lost the enjoyment of learning, then ExCEL might be for you. The program is designed to increase your confidence and joy in learning, while teaching you how to overcome the minor setbacks that sometimes come with life. They even offer a one unit course called Raise your GPA (EDUC 201)! For more information check out their website at <http://www.csun.edu/counseling/excel>.

As always, if you need [emergency assistance](#) for a life-threatening situation, dial 911 or the campus police at (818) 677-2111.

DRES

The Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) is dedicated to making sure that each student is given an opportunity to shine! The DRES can arrange for you to have an in-class note taker, can procure class material in alternate forms such as Braille or electronic text, and can even find, train and employ personal care attendants, if necessary. You can register for services here: <http://www.csun.edu/dres/register-services>. You can set up appointments, meet with a counselor, and develop a plan for your successful academic future.

They also offer the Thriving and Achieving Program (TAP) that supports the personal, academic and career oriented success of students with mental or physical learning disabilities. They offer a variety of resources from academic coaching to seminars for meeting and interacting with other students. For more information check out their website here: <http://www.csun.edu/dres/thriving-and-achieving-program>.

Veterans Center

The Veterans Resource Center (VCR) is designed to transfer students from military service to academic success at CSUN! The VCR offers support to student veterans, reservists and members of the National Guard, as well as their dependents. They offer resources, community events to meet and greet one another, scholarships, and assistance with finding jobs. The website has more information for the various social events they support: <http://www.csun.edu/vrc>. They can also help you find other resources for support and health such as the Veteran Affairs (VA) Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System or can hook you up with Operation Mend out of UCLA's health care center.

Pride Center

The Pride Center supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ), and questioning students, faculty and staff. It's an inclusive center aimed at making CSUN a more inclusive and supportive environment for LGBTQ students and staff. The Pride Center is located in the University Student Union. Go on over for a Tuesday Talk (every Tuesday from 7-8pm) about LGBTQ issues or go to support one of the coffee social mixes! Maybe you're more interested in being a Peer Mentor or mentee, where you can meet with another student who has a similar experience as yours? The Pride Center offers a great opportunity to get involved, to improve CSUN's social environment and to find or give support to your fellow students. To learn more about Tuesday Talks, Coffee Nights or the Peer Mentor program, check out their website <http://www.csun.edu/pride/programs> or go on over to the University Student Union and check them out in person!

SRC

The student Recreation Center is a great way to get healthy and meet new people! The gym offers discounts to students for personal training, and group fitness classes and even intramural sports! Intramural sports are student sports teams that play against each other throughout the semester. From basketball to ultimate Frisbee, you can't go wrong joining a team!

Signing up is a breeze and guess what? It's free for CSUN students!!! Get your student ID ready to sign up and scan your hand on the biometric scanner. All you need to go in and out from when you register onwards is your hand to get scanned! You can rent out lockers for the semester, shower after workouts and you can even bring guests! Everything you need to know is on their website <http://www.csun.edu/src>, or you can just walk in and take a tour!

Library and Research

One key skill that employers look for, regardless of what you major in, is the ability to research and put together information. It's a good thing that CSUN has the Oviatt Library

and all of its impressive resources. For research assistance, you can ask a librarian! No really, you can! You can go in to the library and ask at the reception desk, submit a form online, call, OR you can even live chat with them from your computer OR send a text

! Check out the website for more information on all of these:

<http://library.csun.edu/ResearchAssistance/AskUs>. The website also has important tools for helping you properly cite your sources and even has how to videos and instructional manuals to help you. The library staff can even help you locate sources at other institutions *and* can get them for you. The possibilities for research are endless at the Oviatt, so make sure to take advantage of their resources!