

# TIDBITS FOR PARENTS

## College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

WELCOME and congratulations on having your son or daughter admitted to the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) at the University of California, Riverside. They are about to embark on an exciting intellectual journey, and we are delighted that you have entrusted UCR with their undergraduate career. We accept this responsibility with seriousness and excitement. We hope that the information below will be useful in your continued support of their academic pursuits.

- UCR is a mandatory advising campus. Whether a declared major or an undeclared student, every student is assigned an academic advisor who will assist him/her in course selection each quarter. In addition, the CNAS Student Academic Affairs Office has staff advisors who are eager to talk to students about a range of topics from specific courses to majors. They are available every weekday.
- For students who come from a semester academic system, the pace of the quarter system may seem very fast. Thus, students need to carefully select their course load and to remember that each unit of course credit requires three hours of work each week. For example, for a 4-unit course scheduled to meet 4 hours per week, students are expected to spend 8 hours of preparation outside of class in addition to the 4 hours spent in class each week. Thus, four 4-unit courses will require a commitment of 48 hours a week spent in studying, working problems, writing papers, attending class, etc.
- The selection of a major is a very personal process. It involves not only a student's sense of where their intellectual interests and talents lie but also an understanding of where they wish to be after they earn their degree. Sometimes students feel pressure to choose a specific major. Please support your son or daughter in their pursuit of a major that works best for them.
- Students who have not met the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement should take an English writing course at the UCR summer session this July/August. Working to complete this requirement during the summer is **very important** for the student's degree progress.
- UCR considers your son/daughter to be an adult and responsible for meeting deadlines and requirements. It is the student's responsibility to meet deadlines and degree requirements. Deadlines are published quarterly in the Schedule of Classes; all academic requirements are in the [UCR Catalog](#). Please be assured that students seeking help will find that UCR has a faculty and staff ready, willing, and able to assist and encourage. Students need only ask.
- As a part of the "student-as-adult" mentality and based on federal law (FERPA), no one at UCR can provide you access to your son's or daughter's records without their written consent. Thus, without this consent, no one at UCR can give you any information about your son's or daughter's grades.
- If your son/daughter will be living at UCR and you have a computer at home with internet access, you may wish to maintain contact through e-mail. E-mail is available to all UCR students. You will be delighted by the regularity of communication and smile at the savings on your phone bill.
- If you wish to become involved with other UCR parents, contact the UCR Parents' Association at the Alumni and Parent Relations office (951) 827-4511.
- Verification of UCR student status for the family insurance rates can be obtained at the Student Special Services office (951) 827-3861.
- Visit UCR and college web sites:  
<http://www.ucr.edu/students.html>  
<http://www.cnasstudent.ucr.edu>  
<http://www.cnas.ucr.edu/ugrad/index.html>



# College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

- LIFE SCIENCES MAJORS:

**Biochemistry**                      Biology Option, Chemistry Option, and Medical Sciences Option

**Biological Sciences**              Bioinformatics and Genomics Track; Biology Track; Cell, Molecular, and Developmental Biology Track; Conservation Biology Track; Entomology Track; Environmental Toxicology Track; Evolution and Ecology Track; Medical Biology Track; Microbiology Track; and Plant Biology Track

**Biology**

**Botany and Plant Sciences**

**Entomology**

**Neuroscience**

- MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES MAJORS:

**Mathematics**                      Applied Mathematics Options in Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Environmental Sciences, Physics, and Statistics; Computational Mathematics Option; and Pure Mathematics Option

**Statistics**                              Quantitative Management Option and Statistical Computing Option

- PHYSICAL SCIENCES MAJORS:

**Chemistry**                              Chemical Physics Option, Environmental Chemistry Option, and Pure Chemistry Option

**Environmental Sciences**          Environmental Education Option, Environmental Toxicology Option, Natural Science Option, Social Science Option, Soil Science Option, and Joint Program with CSU Fresno Option

**Geology**                                  Biogeography Option, General Geology Option, Geobiology Option, and Geophysics Option

**Geophysics**

**Physics**