

MAY — JUNE  
2009



# The Advising Alert

2008 - 09

## SPECIAL POINTS OF

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## Advanced Registration Unit Limit Change

Recommended by the President's Advisory Committee on Enrollment Planning and approved by the President's cabinet, policy regarding the maximum unit load for advanced registration has changed. Usually, students are able to register for up to 17 units during advanced registration. Effective immediately for Fall 2009, students will be able to enroll in up to 14 units during advanced

registration. Beginning on August 10<sup>th</sup>, students will be able to register for up to 18 units without an Excess Units petition.

By allowing a maximum of 14 units during advanced registration, students will be forced to register for their highest priority courses first. This new restriction will also ensure that classes will not fill as quickly as usual, giving other students a

greater chance of enrolling into the classes they need.

The 14-unit limit applies to both new and continuing students, and all students have been notified via a MySJSU message. Additionally, all Enrollment Services websites have been updated, and an announcement has been posted on the MySJSU portal page at <http://my.sjsu.edu/students/news/index.htm>.



### Message Posted to Student Accounts:

#### IMPORTANT! Maximum Unit Policy Revised

In order to balance the availability of classes, please note the following changes to enrollment limits during the Fall 2009 registration cycle:

#### Advance Registration Monday, June 8 - Sunday, August 16

Enrollment limited to 14 units through Sunday, August 9

Enrollment limited to 18 units from Monday, August 10 through Sunday, August 16

#### Late Registration: Monday, August 24 - Friday, September 11

Enrollment limited to 18 units

## Thanks, Advisors!

We all saw the throngs of graduating students dressed in their caps and gowns. We saw their beaming families and we felt the enthusiasm that always accompanies commencement ceremonies. Guess what? They couldn't have done it without you. With proper advising and guidance, thousands of students just earned a degree. Thank you!





## What's NEW in the Colleges?

As you read through this edition of *The Advising Alert*, you will notice something different. Usually, we focus only on general academic advising updates and issues, but this month, we wanted to highlight some of the new advising initiatives from SJSU's colleges and share them with the SJSU advising community. We were fortunate to have the Advising Council's Advising Liaisons provide us with information or leads to sources who provided us with the information pertaining to the various colleges. Not all of the colleges are represented in this issue, but they will be featured in future issues.

### Advising Brown Bag

With all of the academic policy changes, advisors need a forum to ask questions and get further explanations. Therefore, the Advising Council coordinated a Brown Bag meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2009. In this meeting, Dr. Steve Branz, Associate Dean of UG studies presented a valuable worksheet that detailed and organized new policies for this fall. If you haven't received the worksheet, please request an electronic version.

The Advising Council invites participation from the SJSU advising community for the development of future advisor training meetings and brown bag sessions. If you would like to get involved with the professional development of other advisors, please send email containing your contact information and how you would like to get involved.



### The Freshmen are Coming!

June 15<sup>th</sup> will be the kickoff date for the first of eight Freshman Orientation sessions. Coordinated by Student Involvement, the Orientation sessions are a collaborative effort from departments across campus. Orientation dates are as follows:

- Monday - Tuesday, June 15-16
- Thursday - Friday, June 18-19
- Thursday - Friday, June 25-26
- Monday - Tuesday, June 29-30
- Monday - Tuesday, July 6-7
- Thursday - Friday, July 9-10
- Thursday - Friday, July 16-17
- Monday - Tuesday, July 20-21

# Engineering Student Success Center

Have you seen the new Engineering Student Success Center (ESSC)? If not, you should see it. With thanks to Charles W. Davidson for his sizeable grant, the new spacious bright blue ESSC (Engineering Building room 344) offers a variety of services to Engineering students including GE advising, probation advising, tutoring, career and graduate school guidance, and scholarship information. The Executive Director of the Center, Dr. Vanessa Rivera, says "Our students are front and center in our academic enterprise. For the Center's staff, students come first."



The ESSC staff was fortunate to have the center open during the spring semester. They have focused on developing and streamlining processes and procedures, and as a result have seen an improved flow of advising services. They have also been able to begin focusing on future developments within the center. As an example, Assistant Director Kate Bruffett and Professional Development and Practice Specialist Denise Orlando-Garcia are developing plans to focus on workshops for fall 2009. They plan to use a variety of workshop sessions to help

students improve their study skills, time management, professional etiquette, resume writing, and goal setting. They are excited about partnering with other campus departments to provide a holistic array of workshops and services to engineering students.

Additionally, CoE's ESSC has developed a peer advising program. Because of a grant from College of Engineering alumni Dave and Bette Loomis, the ESSC has hired four peer advisors who are themselves engineering stu-

dents, and are therefore knowledgeable about the particular needs of engineering students. The peer advisors work with the students to ensure their successful academic performance. Specifically in Spring 2009, engineering students on probation were required to attend one ESSC probation workshop and four individual meetings with a peer advisor.

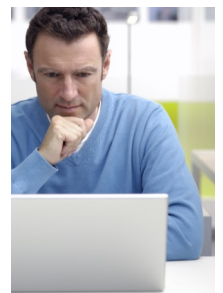
Overall, the ESSC is growing and developing quickly. Keep your eyes on their exciting new developments!

## Business: Increasing Standards to Ensure Success

When I asked Bruce Kravitz, Director of the Business Student Advising Center (BSAC) about updates in advising within the College of Business, he responded, "I have **always** been about graduation so most of what we do is academic planning, trying to ensure that all students know what they need to graduate and the order in which they should try to complete them. That includes GE as well as major requirements."

Therefore, the BSAC takes a comprehensive approach to working with students: it helps students from the time they declare Business as a major through graduation. They also advise their students who are on academic probation, as well as those who have been disqualified and wish to return to SJSU as matriculated students.

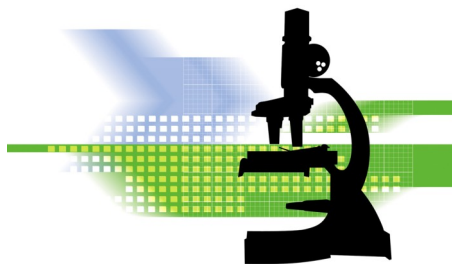
As part of the effort to graduate students, the College of Business has made a few changes that may seem small, but are really quite significant. Beginning in Fall 2009, the College of Business will have new grade minimums for Financial Accounting (BUS 20), Business Statistics (BUS 90), Finite Math (Math 70) and English 1B. Currently, students must earn grades of C- or better, but beginning in Fall 2009, students will need to earn at least a C grade. In changing the grade minimums, the College of Business has taken a proactive approach to ensure that students have a stronger foundation in some of the basic skills needed to be successful in the Business major, increasing their chances of graduating in a timely manner.



## Science: Graduating Super Seniors

Did you know that a student minimally needs 120 units to graduate? Of course, some majors require more units, but students who earn more than 150 units have come to be known as “super seniors”. In fact, some of SJSU’s super seniors have upwards of 200, 300, and even 450 units! Whatever the reason for the excessive units, SJSU is developing measures to move super seniors to graduate and the College of Science (CoS) has been a pioneer in this effort.

With the assistance of various colleagues including the Advising Council and the College of Science’s Council of Chairs, Dr. Maureen Scharberg, Associate Dean of CoS developed a proactive strategy for moving super seniors to graduate. First, Dr. Scharberg reviews which super seniors in CoS have applied for graduation and which have not. Next, she asks Undergraduate Studies for copies of the graduation worksheets for those students who have applied for graduation. Then, advisors review these worksheets to make sure that students are enrolled in the appropriate courses and to look for problems such as additional course



requirements that need to be fulfilled. Finally, advisors contact the students and work with them to resolve the issues without unnecessary delays.

Prior to Dr. Scharberg’s request for worksheets, advisors had no systematic way of knowing if students had problems that would delay graduation, but her new procedures have allowed CoS advisors to be more proactive in working with students. Currently, Dr. Scharberg is researching possible ways for advisors to electronically and/or automatically receive graduation worksheets, which will further facilitate worksheet reviews and ultimately help students to graduate.

Of course, there are many students who have not applied for graduation. Among these students, advisors review transcripts to determine an anticipated graduation date. Students who have not applied for graduation are contacted for an appointment with an advisor. During the appointment, the student completes a graduation application and works with the advisor to develop an academic plan to graduate.

## H&A: Orientation and Creative Writing

The College of Humanities and the Arts (H&A) has two new and exciting developments: individual advising during orientation and a new Creative Writing concentration within the English major.

Orientation At freshman orientation, H&A advisors will provide major advising to all H&A freshmen prior to registration. In doing so, students will get the attention they need to learn more about major requirements, ask questions, and become familiar with interacting with advisors. Because major advisors will be involved with orientation, they will have greater contact with academic advisors, thereby fostering greater communication and collegiality between the two groups of advising professionals.

Creative Writing After two years of planning and coordination, the new English major with a concentration in Creative Writing is now official. Within the Creative Writing major, students will have the opportunity to take courses such as Advanced Composition, Fiction Writing, Poetry Writing, Speech Writing, Creative Nonfiction Writing, and they may also contribute to the REED Magazine (the English department’s annual magazine of creative works). By taking these courses and having works published in the magazine, students in the major will graduate with a portfolio of their best works that may be used for graduate school admissions, and to show to potential employers.



# Education: New Visibility, New Programs

If it seems to you that the College of Education (COE) has become more visible lately, then you are correct. This is true not only because the CoE received a grant from Connie Lurie to help increase visibility through professionally generated publication materials, but also because there is an increasing number of students seeking a teaching credential. While the CoE is ready and eager to help more students attain their credentials, like the entire CSU system as a whole, programs within the college have had to limit their enrollment. In the past, the college accepted up to 240 students for their Elementary Education credential program, but for Fall 2009, will limit enrolment to 199.



take significantly longer.

Second, beginning in Fall 2009, CoE will begin an Ed.D. program in Educational Leadership. The program is designed for people who want to become leaders in the public school system. “Graduates of the professional doctoral program will be transformational leaders who are grounded in an abiding belief that children and families can transform their lives and communities through education. These transformational leaders will relentlessly pursue a vision of education that inspires creativity, critical thinking, civic engagement and academic success.” (<http://www.sjsu.edu/education/edleadership/index.html>)

Although the college faced some challenges related to enrollment, it is very excited about two new programs that will be of interest to you and to your students.

First, the college has developed a concurrent program between Special Education and Elementary Education. Through this blended and accelerated program, students may pursue both the Multiple Subjects and Special Education Credential in two years, when earning these credentials would normally

*If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Bill Goodrich, Director of the Center for Careers in Education at 4-3713 or by email at [Bill.Goodrich@sjsu.edu](mailto:Bill.Goodrich@sjsu.edu), as he has a sincere passion for children and learning and is always open to talking to people about careers in education.*

## CASA: Advising Links on Websites

You have probably noticed that SJSU’s academic departments have websites that reflect their missions, values, and senses of creativity. Although this individualization means that some departments have truly amazing websites, it also means that the lack of continuity between websites may prove challenging for students who are searching for advising information. Although departments may have advising information on their websites, the information may be difficult to find because it may be in various places on the website.

The College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) is taking measures to address this issue by making sure that all schools and departments within the college have an “Advising” link on their home pages. The Advising link will minimally contain major forms, as well as roadmaps for each degree and concentration. Having an Advising link will give students an easily identifiable location for advising information.

The Advising link may also contain other useful information regarding advising. For instance, some departments such as Nursing and Occupational Therapy hold a special day for group advising of their different cohorts, and other departments, such as Nutrition, Food Science, and Packaging include their advising in a one-unit *Introduction to the Profession* course. Once the links are complete and functional, students will be able to easily find the information they need about how to access academic advising within their department.



# SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

