

Freshman Summer Start Program

UC SANTA BARBARA
Summer Sessions

2026

START STRONG



This innovative six-week program is designed to give incoming first-year students a smooth, **confident transition** into life at UC Santa Barbara. You will earn full academic credit by taking UCSB courses while engaging in a variety of curated academic and social activities.

Dive into your UC Santa Barbara experience by choosing from a wide selection of in-demand courses that build momentum, expand your interests, and advance your **academic goals**.

Live alongside your peers and immerse yourself in a welcoming, **close-knit community**. Through social activities such as local hikes and game nights, you'll build **lasting friendships** and be embedded in campus life before Fall begins.

2026 Timeline

Application

April 13th

June 30th

**or until spots fill, apply early!*

Program

August 3rd

September 12th

BENEFITS

For Freshman Students



Get a strong start academically by enrolling in 7–13 units that count toward major or general education requirements.



Choose from 60+ courses to explore your academic interests



Connect with hundreds of other incoming freshmen to build a social foundation of friends you will rely on throughout your undergraduate career.



Develop connections with faculty in small, supportive classes through First-Year Discovery Seminars, faculty-led field trips, and fireside chats.



Discover campus opportunities including undergraduate research, leadership positions, student clubs, and on-campus jobs, to make the most of your time at UCSB.



Gain a comprehensive intro to essential campus resources, services, and opportunities so you feel prepared and confident for Gauchito life.



ESTIMATED COSTS

- \$291.00** Per-unit Course Fee (7 unit min.)
- \$33.87** Student Technology Fee
- \$575.09** Campus-based Fee
- \$50.00** Programing and Activity Fee (non-refundable)
- \$25.00** Application Fee (non-refundable)
- \$4,105.00** Housing & Meals*

* Estimated fees based on triple occupancy. Cost is higher with single or double occupancy.

In Summer 2026, undergraduate unit fees are being capped at 12 units, so you can take up to 13 units, but won't pay for more than 12!

FINANCIAL AID AND SAVINGS

Financial aid is available for eligible students, and thanks to FSSP-specific grants and scholarships, the average aid award for FSSP students is nearly twice as much as for other students studying in Summer. In fact, over \$1 million in aid is typically distributed to FSSP participants each year!

Students who may not be eligible for federal aid, but are still concerned about affordability, can take advantage of the 12-unit Summer fee cap, or enroll in a course offering a course scholarship. **Visit the Financial Aid & Savings page** to learn about these and other summer savings opportunities.

**Note: Students will be considered for financial aid after submitting the 2025–2026 FAFSA. This should be done as soon as possible, but no later than June 30, 2026. The 2025–2026 FAFSA is in addition to the 2026–2027 FAFSA, which applies beginning in Fall 2026.*

DID YOU KNOW?

All students pay the same tuition and fees as a California Resident during Summer months, allowing international and out-of-state students to benefit from cost savings!

TWO EASY STEPS TO ENROLL

1. Submit your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) for Fall 2026 with the UCSB Office of Admissions by May 1, 2026.
2. Visit summer.ucsb.edu/fssp and complete the Freshman Summer Start Program online enrollment form starting April 13, 2026.

FSSP Voices



Exploring the campus before it got crowded was an invaluable aspect of FSSP. **The quieter atmosphere** allowed me to discover various parts of UCSB, connect with professors, and seek advice academically. This allowed me to plan out my courses for the year and **build a foundation** for academic success.

— Thomas Zheng, FSSP Alumnus

“ The most rewarding part of FSSP was being able to **gain the confidence** that I will succeed at UCSB. I was able to become **quickly acquainted** to the resources and layout of the campus, which would have been hard in the Fall when more students come.

— Kyra Maeda, FSSP Alumna





CONNECT with us



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summer.ucsb.edu/fssp

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Program Dates:
August 3 – September 12, 2026

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