

UCSB using summertime to squeeze in students

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Summer school attendance at UCSB has grown by more than 23 percent over last year because of the university's effort to graduate more students by adding more summer classes and expanding off-campus programs.

UCSB is close to the maximum number of students allowed on campus during fall, winter and spring quarters. But the number of UC-eligible high school seniors in California is increasing, leaving UCSB and other UC schools scrambling to accommodate more students by shifting its population.

In addition to adding about 1,200 students to the campus this summer, the school plans to send more of its students to a Ventura satellite campus and to its study-abroad and Washington, D.C. programs.

"Most people would be happy if we had a summer session that is 40 percent attendance of a normal session," said Loy Lytle, director of summer sessions. The 7,000 students projected for this summer represent about 36 percent of a normal quarter.

UCSB looking to use space more efficiently

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This is the first year UCSB, UCLA and UC Berkeley campuses are working to create a full-fledged fourth quarter by enticing tenured professors to work during their vacations for higher pay than the rest of the year. Typically, the summer session is dominated by lower-paid, nontenured lecturers. And the school is attracting students through lower fees and financial aid.

In the past, summer sessions had to be self-supporting, but this year the state is providing funding like it would during a regular quarter.

Administrators are aware, however, that some students will not be excited about studying while their friends are free on summer break. Also, news of the additional state funding that led to a commitment to increase summer enrollment at UCSB came after planning for the summer session was underway.

"I didn't think we'd be able to do this well this quarter," said Bob Kuntz, assistant chancellor, UCSB Office of Budget and Planning.

Like grade schools that have gone to year-round schedules to accommodate growth while forestalling costly construction, state officials would like universities to use their campuses more efficiently. Eventually, more UC campuses may go to

year-round schedules. Some California State University campuses already have.

Ambitious students in some disciplines can earn a bachelor's degree in three years through an accelerated program. That would make room for more new transfers and freshmen.

In all, 23 percent more students are expected to enroll at UCSB this summer over last — an estimate based on last year's summer enrollment. It will be tentative until after the first summer classes start Monday because students often add and drop summer courses at the last minute.

The school is supposed to increase the number of students in summer school and in off-campus programs by about 2,500 over 10 years.

By contract with the county and the city of Santa Barbara, UCSB is limited to a maximum average of 20,000 students on its main campus during fall, winter and spring, said Mr. Kuntz. The school is at 19,000 currently and is expected to reach its cap in a few years. About half of the growth is undergraduate and half is graduate students.

As part of its growth, the school is building roughly 2,000 student-housing units, some for undergraduate and some for graduate students. It is also building professor housing to help faculty afford the area's cost of living.

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