



Partners in Success

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University of California, Merced

New Student Orientation

Goals of this session:

- Consider your student's transition to UC Merced
- Recognize what your student will be experiencing during their first semester
- Identify resources to help your student while at UC Merced
- Understand how you can be a partner in your student's success



The Transition to UC Merced

*It may not be as much about learning how to be a successful student but rather how to be a successful student **HERE** at UC Merced.*

10 HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE TRANSITION TIPS



1 SHARPEN YOUR STUDY SKILLS



**2 DEVELOP
 TIME
 MANAGEMENT SKILLS**

**3 WORK ON
 READING SKILLS**

**4 BE READY TO
 WRITE A LOT**

5 TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

6 BE ASSERTIVE

**7 DON'T ALLOW
 PROCRASTINATION**



8 LEARN TO LAUGH AT YOURSELF

9 LEARN HOW TO BUDGET

**10 DON'T BE
 AFRAID OF HELP**





Culture of Care – Your Student Matters



- **We recognize and celebrate** the identities, values and beliefs of our community.
- **We affirm** the inherent dignity and value of every person while cultivating a campus climate rooted in mutual respect and compassion.



Common Challenges in the 1st Year



(Greenhal, 2018)



Resources to Help Your Student

DEAN OF STUDENTS

*At the first sign something is wrong,
reach out to us!*

*The Dean of Students Office and your
student's academic advisor are two
resources that can ALWAYS help
navigate campus life and beyond.*

INCREASED ACCESS AND RETENTION:

Intentional efforts to
increase student access,
persistence, engagement,
and success.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS:

Developing comprehensive
strategies to sustain high
touch practices.

INNOVATION AND INTEGRATIVE EDUCATION:

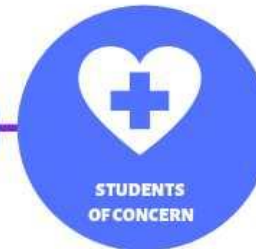
University-wide
collaboration to reach and
engage all levels of
students.



NAVIGATION



STUDENT SUCCESS



STUDENTS
OF CONCERN



ADVOCACY

WE ADVOCATE. WE CONNECT. WE CARE.



UNIVERSITY SUPPORT

**UC MERCED PROVIDES NUMEROUS
RESOURCES TO HELP YOUR SCHOLARS
GROW AND SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY,
AND PERSONALLY AS THEY PREPARE
FOR LIFE AFTER UC MERCED.**



Academic Resources

Bright Success Center
Math Center/Chemistry Center/University Writing Center/STEM Resource Center
Peer Assisted Learning Support (PALS)
Bobcat Advising Center
Library
Students First Center

Personal Resources

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
Student Health Services
Basic Needs (Food Pantry, Housing Support, Etc.)
Campus Advocacy, Resources, and Education (CARE)
Financial Wellness Coordinator
Recreation & Athletics
The Office of Student Involvement
The Office of Social Justice Initiatives and Identity Programs
Residential Education
Parental and Supporter Success Initiatives

Career Resources

Center for Career & Professional Advancement
Margo F. Souza Leadership Center
Community Engagement Center
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center

**Here are some examples of Campus Resources you all may hear about today. Please note this is not an exhaustive list.*



Faculty partners: Faculty offer office hours for students to come and check-in about the course.

Parents/Family/Support system partners: The majority of UC Merced students utilize the weekend to study and get involved on campus. It will be helpful to talk with your student about what a reasonable frequency may be for them to visit back home.

When talking to your student, ask about their overall experiences in college and not just about their grades.

Roommates/Social Group partners: Students' social circles are good ways for them to develop study groups.



Meet Jose!

Jose is struggling academically. He feels like he doesn't have enough time during the week to study and is embarrassed to ask his professors for assistance. During the conversation we find out that Jose goes home to visit family and friends every weekend.



Resident Advisor Partner: RAs are a good resource when handling roommate conflicts. Students will learn how to live with new people and this will help their development.

Financial Aid Partners: The Financial Aid office is a good resource to discuss budget and financial planning.

Basic Needs Partners: The Basic Needs Office offers food and basic needs support to all students.

Parents/Family/Support system partners: Taylor spent her financial aid refund to buy a used car. Having a conversation now with your student about finances is key in supporting your student's success.



Meet Taylor!

A faculty member notices that Taylor has recently become distant and quiet in class. She talked with Taylor, who shared that she usually gets a pastry and coffee from the Lantern each morning before class but she ran out of Cat Dollars and has not been eating breakfast lately. On top of that, she recently got into an argument with her roommate and is feeling very stressed.

The faculty member encourages Taylor to meet with the Dean of Students.

Counseling Partners: Everyone benefits from therapy. Counseling Services has groups for students who need support in managing stress.



Student Involvement (OSI) Partner:

OSI has over 200 registered student clubs & organizations to join, and sponsor dozens of exciting large scale student events each year.

Career & Professional Development Partner:

Students can get help creating resumes to apply for on/off-campus jobs and internships that will allow them to earn money and gain valuable work experience.

Resource Centers:

Centers for Math, Chemistry, Writing, and STEM are great academic support resources to help students stay on track academically.



Meet Jess!

After a few weeks on campus, Jess tells her family that she wants to get more involved in campus activities, she still needs to find a part time job to help with expenses, and she may need a tutor for extra support in her Chemistry class.

Jess admits that she has no idea who to reach out to to get help with tutoring, campus jobs, or student clubs.

Parents and Family Support system partners: Encourage Jess to reach out to her RA or the Dean of Students Office for information about academic support services, student involvement opportunities and on-campus jobs.

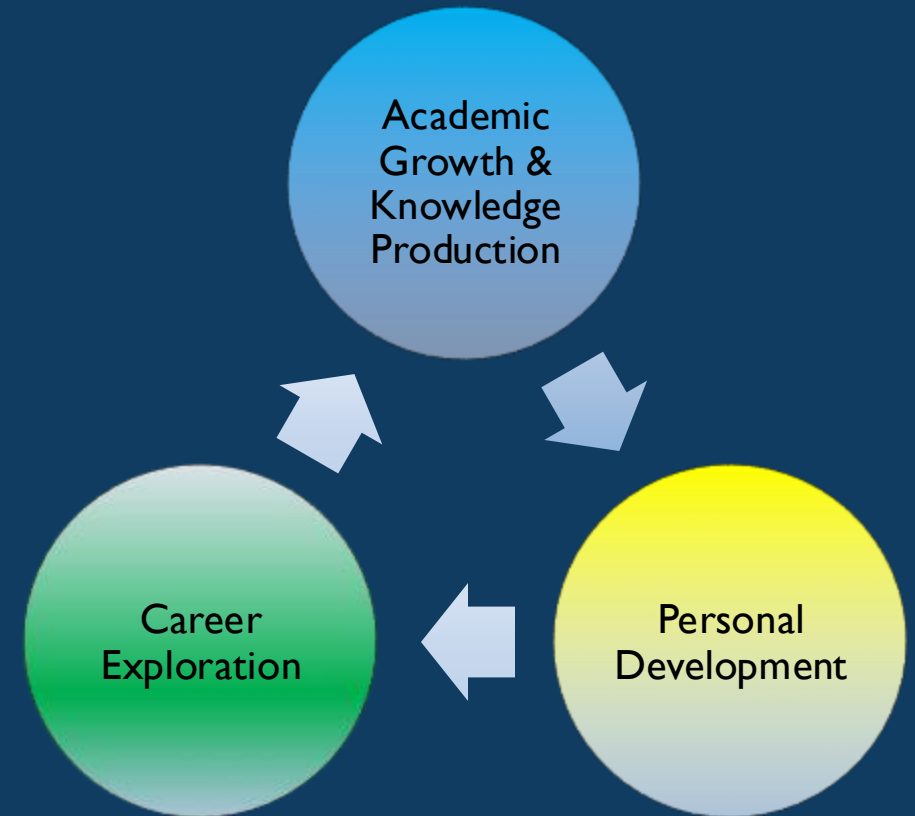


We are here to help your student succeed!

UC Merced provides a transformative education in an intimate academic setting with high quality research and a growing community.

Our alumni are lawyers, scientists, engineers, doctors, performers, policy makers, artists, educators, and work at a variety of organizations and corporations such as Twitter, BET Networks, Instagram, Google, etc.

Our alumni are global agents of change in their respective fields.



Student Success Defined



Partnering for Student Success

- Students make their decision to stay at a University in the first 6-10 weeks of school
- The more involved students get on campus, the more likely they will remain here and be successful
- The more peer to peer interaction they experience, the more satisfied they will be

**Your encouragement and support of your student will be key!
Knowing the resources helps you be a good referral for your student.**



University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**



(209) 228-4482



<https://studentaffairs.ucmerced.edu/dean-students>



ucm.dos

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

Spring 2025



University of California, Merced

New Student Orientation

Students First Center (SFC)

Admissions

Financial Aid

Registrar

Student Billing Services

Office of the Registrar

Registration

Enrollment Verifications

Statement of Legal Residence

Veteran Services

Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

View & Accept Awards

Work-Study

Student Loans

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Student Billing Services

Student Fees

Electronic Billing

Deferred Payment Plan

Student Refunds



University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**

REGISTRAR

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

•What Is FERPA?

•FERPA is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.

•Privacy applies to all education records, including:

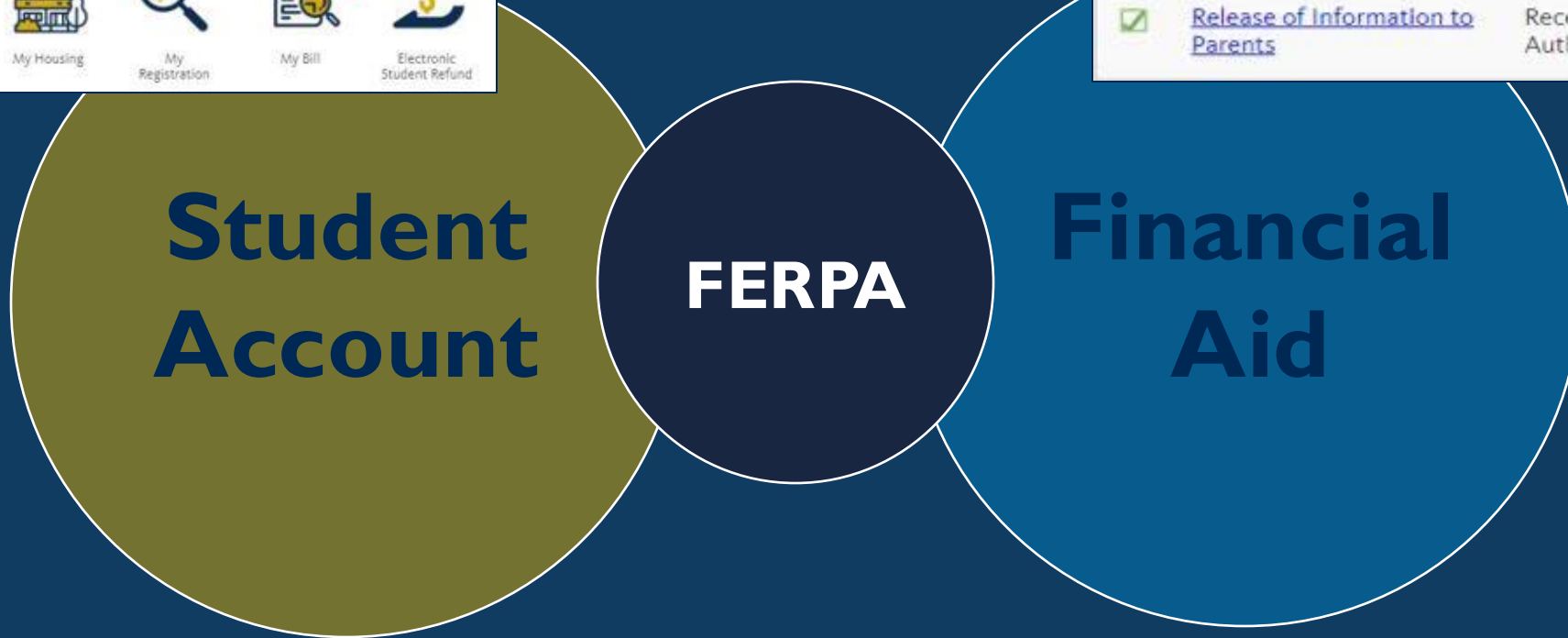
- Grades
- Class Schedule
- Billing Information
- Financial Aid status



PARENT AUTHORIZATION



REQUIREMENT	STATUS	OFFICE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Release of Information to Parents	Received and Authorized	Financial Aid





University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS



University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**



OFFICE OF
FINANCIAL AID
AND SCHOLARSHIPS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MERCED
5200 N LAKE ROAD | MERCED, CA 95343
UCMERCED.EDU
209.228.7178

March 21, 2023
STUDENT ID:000-00-0000
AID YEAR: 2023-2024

Rufus Bobcat
5200 North Lake Road
Merced, CA 95343

Dear Rufus,

Thank you for applying for financial aid at UC Merced! We are pleased to offer you the financial aid award(s) listed on the following page.

It is very important that you visit the My Financial Aid section of connect.ucmerced.edu/student. There you will be able to view detailed award information and messages, view and complete outstanding requirements and view and print a "Federal Shopping Sheet".

We have identified you as a student who may be eligible for UC's Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan. This plan ensures that your final award will include scholarship and grant support at least equal to your Tuition and Student Services Fee. Your total grant and scholarship aid may even be higher. Scholarship and grant support meeting this minimum commitment may come from a variety of sources, including federal, state and private outside grants and scholarships.

In the future, we will communicate with you via e-mail. We will use the e-mail address you submitted on the FAFSA until you register for courses and then we will use your UC Merced e-mail address.

If you need assistance or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (209) 228-7178.

We are here to help and look forward to working with you as you pursue your education here at UC Merced!

Sincerely,

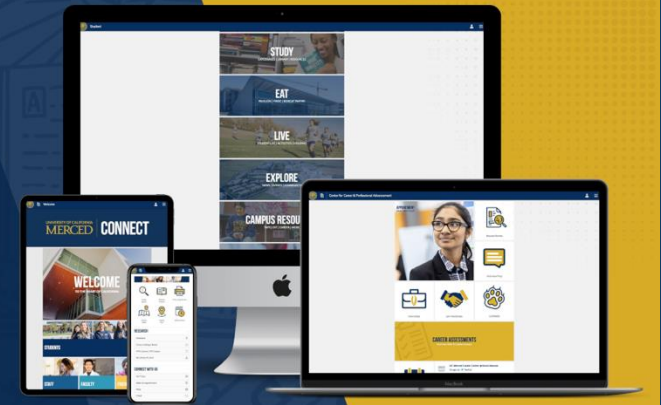
Ron Radney, Ed.D.
Director, Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER

CONNECT PORTAL

- UC Merced Connect is your digital gateway to UC Merced. The Connect platform offers simplified access to campus information and resources for students, faculty and staff, as well as prospective students, external partners and the general public.

**GET READY TO
GET CONNECTED.**



- When you log in for the first time,
 - click **Students** and then navigate to **UCM NET ID**,
 - click **Account Claim** and answer the questions to establish your system access.

CONNECT PORTAL

MyMerced

QUICK TOOLS

- Box
- CatCard
- Cat Courses
- Email
- VPN
- Zoom
- Campus Ready
- Calm

FOR CONTINUING STUDENTS

- My Checklist
- My Financial Aid
- My Housing
- My Registration
- Course Schedule
- My Bill
- Electronic Student Refund
- My Degree Path
- My Student Record
- My Personal Info
- My Bio Demographics
- My Graduate Admissions

- Click on the **My Financial Aid** icon to view your Award Offer
- Click on the **My Checklist** icon to view your checklist

CHECKLIST ITEMS

Financial Aid tasks needed to complete your file will be added to your My Checklist:

1. Create StudentForms Account




- Students will only need to create/register their account once

2. StudentForms Tasks

- if we need items such as Verification of Dependency, citizenship, etc.

3. Verification Process

- if we need items such as parent and/or student W2s, Tax Returns, etc.

	Create StudentForms Account	Unsatisfied	Financial Aid
	StudentForms Tasks	Unsatisfied	Financial Aid
	Verification Process	Unsatisfied	Financial Aid

Register Account

This page will automatically close and log you out in 02:24 * Required

Confirm Student Information

Information provided in the fields below must match information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Please ensure all four pieces of information match to what you provide on the FAFSA. If you have not submitted a FAFSA to your school, please ensure that the information below matches the information your school has on file. ?

* First Name

* Last Name

* Date of Birth

* Social security number

* Preferred Email

* Confirm Email

Phone Number
 Provide a phone number to subscribe to mobile phone text messages for account updates.
 (Standard text message charges apply)

Register Account

By using the site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#).

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY (FWS)

- Work up to 18 hours per week while in school.
- You will receive a paycheck every two weeks
 - Note: funds are earned throughout the year and not applied to your university account like other aid
- You can earn up to the amount awarded
- It helps build your resume.
- Work-Student earnings do not affect future financial aid eligibility.
- Jobs postings: ucmerced.joinhandshake.com/login

Non-Work-Study *Student Assistant* jobs are also available and are posted in the jobs link above.

STUDENT LOANS

Loan Type	2023-24		Repayment Terms
	Loan Fees	Interest Rates	
CA Dream Loan	None	5.498% fixed	No interest or payments until 6 months after the student graduates or drops below half-time enrollment
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	1.057% until 10/1/23	5.498% fixed	No interest or payments until 6 months after the student graduates or drops below half-time enrollment
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	1.057% until 10/1/23	5.498% fixed	Interest begins when the loan is disbursed. Payments begin 6 months after the student graduates or drops below half-time enrollment
Federal Parent PLUS Loan	4.228% until 10/1/23	8.048% fixed	Credit approval required. Interest begins when the loan is disbursed. Payments can be deferred while the student is enrolled at least half-time.

- You may consolidate multiple loans into a weighted-average fixed interest loan with a longer repayment period to lower your payments.
- 2024-25 interest rates will be posted here: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates>



VERIFICATION PROCESS

- **The federal or state government may select the student for a process called *Verification* due to:**
 - Random selection; or
 - Obvious or possible errors on their application

- **Schools are then required to “verify” that the information reported on the Application is accurate by:**
 - Requesting supporting documentation (via email and/or on your school Portal Checklist)
 - If errors are discovered, the school will correct your application and recalculate your aid eligibility.

- **Tip: Submit verification documents quickly!**
 - Check your Connect Portal Checklist frequently.



Financial Wellness Center

Forge your own financial path

FINANCIAL COACHING

FIELD NOTES BLOG

Coaching Topics

- » Personal Budgeting
- » Bank Accounts
- » Moving Off-Campus
- » Paychecks
- » Insurance
- » Salary Negotiation
- » Credit Scores
- » Homebuying
- » Investing
- » Student Loan Repayment
- » Car Buying
- » Leases
- » ID Theft
- » Retirement
- » Emergency Savings
- » Financial Crisis

GET IN TOUCH

SCHEDULE A COACHING SESSION TODAY!

LIVESTREAM/WORKSHOP REQUEST

REQUEST A PEER/DEPT TRAINING

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

SAP STANDARDS: **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Cumulative GPA: 2.0

Cumulative PACE: 66.7%

UCM Completed Units + Accepted Transfer
Units

UCM Attempted Units + Accepted Transfer
Units

**MAXIMUM TIMEFRAME
180 UNITS**

UCM Attempted Units + Up to 70 Accepted Transfer
Units

SAP APPEAL:

Written Statement

- Explain the reason(s) for failing to meet SAP requirements.
 - Death/hospitalization of a relative or other significant person
 - Major medical issues
 - Personal tragedies that were beyond your control, etc.

Supporting Documentation

- The documentation should support your written statement.
- Students without supporting documentation may work with OFAS staff to find a solution.

Improvement Plan

- Explain the strategies you will use to meet the SAP requirements by the conclusion of the outlined timeframe.



University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**



STUDENT BILLING SERVICES



Overview

My Account

Overview

Activity Details

Payment Plans

Make a Payment

Transactions

Statements

Help

Sign Out



Joanne Basick
 UC Merced (Training)

Balance
\$24,183.68

Summary

[View statements](#)

202430 (Fall Semester 2024)	\$14,398.63
<i>Minimum due</i>	\$0.00
Balance	\$24,183.68
<i>Minimum due</i>	\$8,318.55

Previous Term Balance	\$30.00
Current Charges and Payments	\$23,167.58
Authorized Financial Aid	\$0.00
Total Amount Due	\$23,197.58

** Authorized Aid cannot be applied to previous term balance*

[View activity details](#)



Students must add the authorized payer to provide access to the bill and make payments online.

MyBill
UCMERCED

My Account

- Overview
- Activity Details
- Payment Plans
- Make a Payment
- Transactions
- Statements
- Help
- Sign Out

JB

Payers
Do you know someone that would like to help you pay? Invite them to have access to your account!

Test Test	
melissa tessier	
Elumen Natti	
John Test	
Mommy Test	
+ Send a payer invitation	

Profile
Payer Invitation

Payer information

* First name

* Last name

* Email address

* Confirm email address

Payer access

Allow access to statements


Message to payer


Maximum 250 characters


Cancel **Send Invitation**


Billing statements are generated monthly and published to the mybill website. Email notifications are sent when the bill is available online.





 My Account

 Overview


 Activity Details

 Payment Plans











 Make a Payment

 Transactions

 **Statements**

 Help

Statements

Date	Description	View	Save
6/3/24	eBill 03/01/2024		
11/1/23	eBill 11/01/2023		
9/1/23	eBill 09/01/2023 • NEW		
8/1/23	eBill 08/01/2023		
7/3/23	eBill 07/03/2023 • NEW		



My Bill - Example



MyBill

P.O. Box 2450
 Merced, CA 95344
 (209) 228-4114

Student Name
Address

STATEMENT SUMMARY	
Statement Date	11/01/2024
Due Date	11/20/2024
Student ID	
Previous Account Balance	\$2,408.87
Current Account Balance	\$340.43
Balance after Authorized Aid	\$340.43

If paying by check, please make check payable to UC Regents and note your student ID number on the check.

Balance after Authorized Aid reflects the net amount due as of the Statement Date. The amount currently due (including the current DPP installment) can be viewed when you select "Make a Payment" on the MyAccount page.

The amounts shown in this document represent fees that are currently approved. However, all University fees are subject to change and the fee amounts for this period may be adjusted at a future date. All charges are due by the due date shown above. Payments received after the due date are subject to a \$50 late fee. Additionally, a hold may be placed on your student account and you may be dropped from courses.

Statement Details				
Date Posted	Term	Description	Charges	Credits
Current Activity				
		* BALANCE FORWARD *	\$2,408.87	
		INVOICE NUMBER -		
10/11/2024	Fall 2024	California Middle Class Schlsp		(\$467.00)
10/11/2024	Fall 2024	Health Ins. Grant - Fall		\$1,331.00
10/22/2024	Fall 2024	Main Credit Card Payment		\$1,204.44
		* CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE *	\$340.43	
Balance after Authorized Financial Aid			\$340.43	

Activity Details

Detailed Account Activity

Student ID: 100079907

Previous Term Balance: \$30

Current Charges and Payments: \$23167.58

Authorized Financial Aid: \$0

Total Amount Due: \$23197.58

Authorized Financial Aid

Term Description	Fund Code Description	Pending Credit
------------------	-----------------------	----------------

Student Account Activity

Term	Transaction Date	Description	Charges	Credits
Fall Semester 2024	October 31, 2024	UCSA Fees - Opt Out		\$3.50
Fall Semester 2024	September 16, 2024	Course Withdrawal Fee	\$10.00	
Fall Semester 2024	September 16, 2024	Course Withdrawal Fee	\$10.00	
Fall Semester 2024	September 3, 2024	Course Withdrawal Fee	\$10.00	
Fall Semester 2024	September 3, 2024	Course Withdrawal Fee	\$10.00	
Fall Semester 2024	August 28, 2024	UG Non-Res Suppl Tuit (Fall)	\$14,877.00	
Fall Semester 2024	August 28, 2024	UG Fall Health Mandatory Ins	\$1,108.90	
Fall Semester 2024	August 28, 2024	UG Fall Tuition Fee	\$5,721.00	
Fall Semester 2024	August 28, 2024	UG Fall Student Services Fee	\$564.00	



PAYMENT OPTIONS

ONLINE: Payments can be made online at MyBill using electronic check, debit or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover). A convenience fee is charged on all payments made via debit and credit card.

IN-PERSON: Payments by cash, check, and cashier's check are accepted in person at Campus Cashiering Services, located in Room 140 of the Ruiz Administration Center next to the Students First Center. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday.

MAIL: Make your check payable to the UC Regents and note the student ID number in the memo field of the check. Mailing address:

University of California, Merced
Campus Cashiering Services
P.O. Box 2450
Merced, CA 95344



- Enrollment opens December 16, 2025
- \$40 Participation Fee per semester
- Students or parents must request DPP enrollment each semester they want to participate and have minimum balance of \$500
- 1st installment and DPP Participation fee to be paid at time of enrollment
- Installments are due:
 - ✓ 1st installment – January 15, 2025
 - ✓ 2nd installment – February 20, 2025
 - ✓ 3rd installment – March 20, 2025
 - ✓ 4th installment – April 21, 2025

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MERCED ⚙️ 👤 TestPreferred Student

Direct Deposit Allocation

Only one Accounts Payable Deposit can exist at a time. Edit the existing deposit, or select and delete it before adding a new deposit.

Accounts Payable Deposit

- Delete + Add New

Bank Name	Routing Number	Account Number	Account Type	Status
<input type="checkbox"/> MERCED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES FEDERAL CRE	xxxxx3373	xxxxx6789	Checking	Prenote

FOR CONTINUING STUDENTS

- My Checklist
- My Financial Aid
- My Housing
- My Registration
- Course Schedule
- My Bill
- Electronic Student Refund**
- My Degree Path
- My Student Record
- My Personal Info
- My Bio Demographics
- My Graduate Admissions
- Text-Opt-In
- My 1098t
- Health Services

Add Accounts Payable Deposit

Bank Routing Number Account Number

Bank Name Account Type

By checking this box, I authorize the institution to initiate direct credits or debits on my behalf

CANCEL | SAVE NEW DEPOSIT

Add Accounts Payable Deposit

Bank Routing Number Account Number

Bank Name Account Type

By checking this box, I authorize the institution to initiate direct credits or debits on my behalf

CANCEL | SAVE NEW DEPOSIT

Access to funds faster than receiving a paper check



- Students are automatically enrolled in the UC Student Health Insurance Plan (UC SHIP).

- UC SHIP Waiver
 - If you have comparable health insurance coverage, you may apply for UC SHIP waiver online with Student Health Center:
 - UC SHIP Plan information - health.ucmerced.edu/insurance
 - Waiver information - health.ucmerced.edu/insurance/how-waive
 - Waiver deadline: January 7th, 2025
 - Once your waiver has been approved, your financial aid may adjust accordingly.



If you have an outstanding balance, you will need to take one of the following actions prior to the fee payment deadline **January 15th** to avoid being dropped from your courses.

- Make a payment for the balance; or
- Enroll in the Deferred Payment Plan (DPP); or
- Borrow through student loans
 - Accept the loan(s), then:
 - Complete the Master Promissory Note requirement
 - Complete the Loan Entrance Counseling requirement



University of California, Merced
**New Student
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STUDENTS FIRST CENTER (SFC)

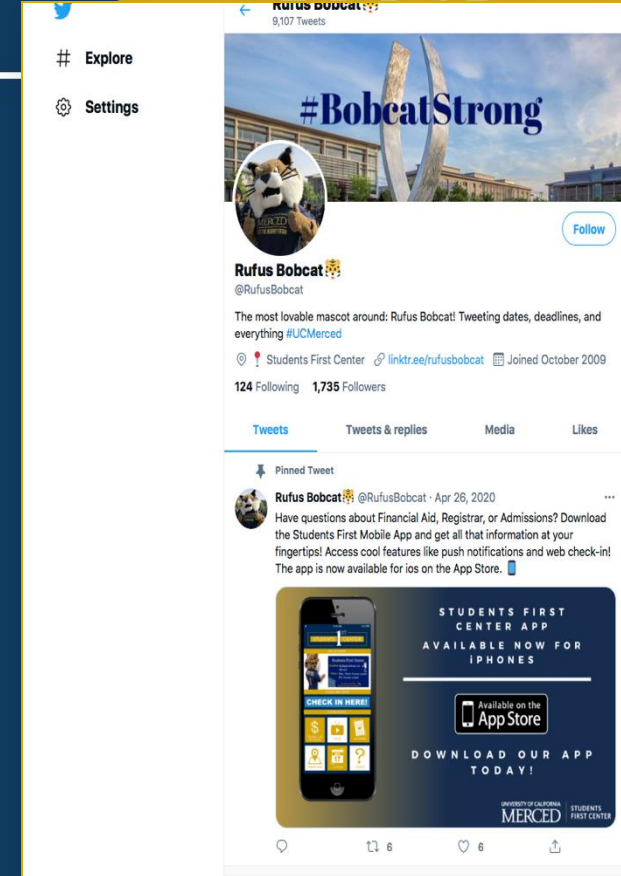
Don't know where to start

The SFC is a good place, if we can't answer your questions, we will help you find the appropriate resource.

- Admissions
- Financial Aid
- Registrar Services
- Billing

Rufus Bobcat Social Media

- studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu/socialmedia



Call us! 209-228-7178

- Mon - Th 8:30am to 4pm & Fri. 8:30am to 3pm

Schedule a virtual zoom appointment (15 min)

- Tue - Th 4pm-5pm.
- <https://studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu/contact-us-0>

Use our Virtual Drop-In Window

- Mon – Th open later in the evenings (check link for updates)
- <https://studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu/contact-us-0>

Email us

- studentsfirst@ucmerced.edu

Chat with us

- studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu
- Mon - Th 8:30am to 4:30pm & Fri. 8:30am to 3pm (Closed at noon)

In-Person Services

- Mon - Th 8:30am to 4:30pm & Fri. 8:30am to 3pm
 - Note we also have student staff 8-5 in our lobby for *limited* services.





University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**

Congratulations

and Welcome to the
Bobcat Family!



Partners in Academic Success

Calvin E. Bright Success Center

Division of Undergraduate Education



University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**



What it means to be a Bobcat

- Develop passion and capacity for lifelong learning
- Actively engage in and out of the classroom
- Create and share knowledge
- Enrich and transform our community



Academic Expectations at UC Merced

Overall Expectations

- Check and respond to UC Merced email
- Actively engage inside and outside of the classroom
- Ask!

Course Expectations

- Review and abide by course syllabus and CatCourses site
- Ask questions – in class, email, office hours
- Spend time preparing before and after class [individual study, office hours, use of tutoring/library services]

Independence * Responsibility * Effort * Time



Navigating the First Semester

Phases

- Starting Strong (Weeks 1-3)
 - Welcome Back Activities
 - Tutoring Centers Open
- Moving Forward (Weeks 4-8)
 - Mandatory Academic Advising
- Mid-Terms (Weeks 6-10)
 - Mid-Semester Grade Support
- Finishing Strong (Weeks 11-15)
- Finals (Week 16)

Important Dates

- Add/Drop Deadline – February 10
- Mid-Semester Grades – March 18
- Fall 2025 Course Registration – Begins April 7
- Finals Begin – May 10



Academic Experiences: Course Load

- Average student unit load: 14-16 units
- Course Types
 - Lecture
 - Lab
 - Discussion
- Academic Support
 - Office Hours
 - Tutoring
 - Library Services



Academic Experiences: Student Time & Effort

BIO 001 + BIO 001L: Contemporary Biology + Lab (5 units)

- Lecture: 3 hours
- Discussion: 2 hours
- Lab: 1 hour
- Homework, studying + reading: 6-9 hours
- Office hours, tutoring, library (varies by week and student)

ECON 105: Corporate Finance (4 units)

- Lecture: 3 hours
- Homework, studying + reading: 9-12 hours
- Office hours, tutoring, library (varies by week and student)



Realities of a Bobcats Week

- Being a full-time student is a full-time job
- Student structures their time
- Intentionality is important

A Bobcat's Week

3 hrs/ week per unit = 45 - 48 hrs of "homework" outside of class

TIME	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:30 AM			PSY 001 LECT 7:30 am - 9:30 am		PSY 001 LECT 7:30 am - 9:30 am		
8:00 AM						Work 8 am - 12 pm	
8:30 AM							
9:00 AM	Study 9 am - 12 pm						Study 9 am - 12 pm
9:30 AM		WRI 001 DISC 9:30 am - 11:30 am		WRI 001 DISC 9:30 am - 11:30 am			
10:00 AM			Study 10 am - 11 am				
10:30 AM							
11:00 AM							
11:30 AM							
12:00 PM				Study 12 pm - 2 pm			
12:30 PM			CHEM 001 LECT 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm		CHEM 001 LECT 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm		
1:00 PM	Study 1 pm - 5 pm	Work 1 pm - 5 pm					Study 1 pm - 7 pm
1:30 PM							
2:00 PM			Study 2 pm - 4 pm		Study 2 pm - 5 pm	Study 2 pm - 5 pm	
2:30 PM							
3:00 PM							
3:30 PM							
4:00 PM				CHEM 001 DISC 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm			
4:30 PM							
5:00 PM							
5:30 PM			MATH 005 DISC 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm				
6:00 PM							
6:30 PM							
7:00 PM	Study 7 pm - 10 pm	Study 7 pm - 10 pm		Chapter Meeting 7 pm - 8 pm	Study 7 pm - 10 pm	Study 7 pm - 10 pm	
7:30 PM							
8:00 PM							
8:30 PM							
9:00 PM							
9:30 PM							

1

Even Olympic Swimmers
Need Coaches

Our Goal: To support the transition of all students to and through UC Merced successfully



What Families, Friends, and Partners Can Do: Challenge and Support

- Check-in
 - Set shared expectations – how and how often
- Encourage
 - Use of campus resources
 - Good study habits
 - Good time management
 - Including not expecting too much time at home/outside of school
- Promote some independence
 - Problem solving
 - Information seeking & decision making

Questions?



Contact Us

Calvin E. Bright Success Center

learning.ucmerced.edu

learning@ucmerced.edu

Hala Alnagar

halnagar@ucmerced.edu

Undergraduate Education

ue.ucmerced.edu

Alisha Kimble

akimble@ucmerced.edu

Thank you for supporting
your Bobcats!



University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**



University of California, Merced

New Student Orientation



UC Merced Police Department 2025 Orientation



UC Merced Community Expectations

Respect for Self

The University encourages students to appreciate their own talents, take themselves and their academic pursuits seriously, and enhance the quality of their lives.

Respect for Others

University expects its members to behave toward one another with sensitivity, consideration, understanding, tolerance and an active concern for the welfare of others.

Respect for Property

This principle requires students to respect personal and institutional property, inside and outside the university community.



Ways to Stay Safe on Your College Campus

1. Familiarize yourself with the Campus and UC Merced Police Department.
2. Take extra precaution at night be vigilant.
3. Lock your doors such as your dorm and or your car door to prevent crimes of opportunity.
4. Maintain privacy on social media. Be smart about your social media presence.
5. Beware of scams targeting students such as email, social media, and phone scams.
6. Understand your **campus** and Merced city crime maps.
7. Keep your phone charged and with you at all times.

Police Operations

UCMPD is a full-service police department.

Officers and staff are well-trained.

UCMPD is focused on its relationship with the community.



Dispatch/Emergency Management



- Dispatch staffed 24/7
 - General Service Calls
 - 911 Calls
 - Monitor Blue Light Phone System
 - Text-a-Tip Anonymous Reporting
 - E-mail Reporting
- Mass Notification System
 - Text Messaging
 - E-mail Messages
 - Cell/Desk Messaging
 - Internal/External PA
 - Digital Display Signs



For Students, Faculty and Staff

By default, UCM Alert will send a message to your UC Merced email address. To receive UCM Alert emergency notifications via any other method, such as by text or phone message, you must tell us how to contact you by updating your information in the MyUCMerced portal under Change UC Merced Alert Notification Information. The campus will only use this system for emergencies.





UCM Alerts For Parents



As many as two parents or family members can opt in to receive UCM Alert emergency notifications. Visit <http://idm.ucmerced.edu> and select UCM Alert Notification for Parents, enter your student's first/last name, date of birth and student ID number, and then enter the methods that you would like to receive notifications.

Student Service Ambassadors

Student Employees of UCMPD

Office Duties (Livescan, Lost and Found,
Property Registration)

Safety Programs, Campus Patrol, Safety
Escorts

Support for Special Events





Public Service Ambassadors

Public Service Ambassadors (PSAs) are non-sworn members of UCMPD who patrol UC Merced properties on and off campus.

PSOs are dispatched directly through UCMPD and can call dispatch by radio.

PSOs can provide safety escorts.



Additional Services

Lost and Found

Property Registration

Livescan





When should my student contact UCMPD?

- To report a crime or suspicious activity
- To ask about how to participate in a department program
- To request an escort from a Community Service Officer or Public Service Officer
- To ask questions about services offered by the department
- To express comments/concerns
- To ask about crime statistics



How can my student contact UCMPD?

Emergencies:

911 (9-911 from Land-Line Phones)

Non-Emergency Dispatch:

(209) 228-2677

Business Office (M-F 8am-5pm):

(209) 228-8273

Text-A-Tip Anonymous Reporting

(209) 626-8826 or ucmerced@tipnow.com

- Activate any Blue Light Phone in an emergency or to request a safety escort.
- Make a report or ask officers questions in person
- For more information, including the Police Department's Campus Annual Security Report, visit police.ucmerced.edu
- For emergency updates, visit emergency.ucmerced.edu



University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**



Thank You!





University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**



CARE

**Campus
Advocacy
Resources &
Education**

Presented By: Valara Villanueva, Director & Guadalupe Naranjo, Campus Advocate



Sensitive Content Warning

This presentation makes mention of abuse and various forms of interpersonal violence

**Confidential Advocate
Guadalupe Naranjo
(209) 386-2051 call or text**

**Valley Crisis Center
24 Hour Hotline
(209) 722-4357**



University of California, Merced

New Student Orientation

CAREs Mission and Vision

Our Vision:

We envision a UC Merced community empowered to eliminate all forms of oppression and power-based violence – sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation— fostering a campus where **all members are respected, valued, and safe.**

Our Mission:

We work with campus partners to develop a community wide understanding of power-based violence through **prevention education and trauma-informed care advocacy** using an intersectional framework.

CARE promotes empathy, diversity, equity, and inclusion through its programs to staff, faculty and students.



Office Overview

Hours: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

- Monday - Friday

Location: Kolligian Library 107

- Faces outside towards COB2 & Social Justice Plaza
- Look for the lotus!

Website: care.ucmerced.edu

Email for general inquiries:
ucmcare@ucmerced.edu





University of California, Merced

New Student Orientation

Free Confidential Help

Confidential Campus Advocate

- Guadalupe Naranjo
- Available Monday- Friday
- 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
- Call or text 209-355-2051

After hours & weekends

- Valley Crisis Center
- 24 Hour Hotline 209-722-4357

Support Services

- Crisis intervention & safety planning
- Assistance with Restraining Orders
- Accompaniment to medical exams, law enforcement interviews, Title IX or Student Conduct meetings.
- Court accompaniments
- Advocacy to campus departments for academic, employment & housing accommodations
- Referrals to mental health services
- Emergency transportation
- And more, dependent on the needs of the survivor

Prevention Education

We believe that every person can play a role in preventing these forms of violence from occurring in our community! Our goal is to reduce the number of people who experience violence in the first place.

We do this through outreach programs:

- Peer Educator Trainings
- Workshops
- Interactive tabling games
- Awareness Campaigns and Events
- Social Media Content
- Collaboration with campus partners





University of California, Merced

New Student Orientation

Thank you!



CARE

Campus
Advocacy
Resources &
Education

Valara Villanueva, Director
vvillanueva2@ucmerced.edu

Guadalupe Naranjo, Advocate
care.advocate@ucmerced.edu

LIVING IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS



Residence Education

- On Campus Support
- Programs & Events
- Campus resources
- Supporting your student living on campus

ON CAMPUS SUPPORT

RESIDENCE EDUCATION COORDINATORS (RECs)

RECs are full time staff members and live on campus

Some of the key parts of their role:

- Serve on an after-hours emergency response team
- Supervise the RAs and facilitate Community Development

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS (RAs)

RAs are student leaders that live in the residence halls & serve as a resource for their peers.

Some of the key parts of their role:

- Connect students to academic and support resources on campus
- Communicate university policies and procedures to students
- Provide after-hours support to students and help with emergencies

RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION (RHA)

The RHA is elected from the resident-student population & charged with serving as the voice for the residents of UC Merced.



RESIDENCE EDUCATION

A COMMUNITY BUILT TO EDUCATE, EQUIP, AND EMPOWER



RESIDENCE EDUCATION OFFICE INFORMATION

- ResidenceEducation@ucmerced.edu
- 209-228-4663

SERVICES:

- Mail & Packages
- Issue temporary keys for lockouts
- General questions in navigating campus

OFFICE ASSISTANTS (OAs)

Student Employees for Residence Education



RESIDENTIAL CURRICULUM

A COMMUNITY BUILT TO EDUCATE, EQUIP, AND EMPOWER

CONNECTION :

Students will be able to form and maintain connections for their own personal growth and for integrating into future communities. Students will participate in the development of the community which involves respecting others, understanding the goals of the community and taking ownership for the place in which they live.

AWARENESS :

Students will develop an understanding that their own cultural context while developing competence and confidence when engaging with diverse communities. Students will have the opportunity to gain more knowledge on one or more of the social identifiers of diversity.

TRANSFORMATIVE :

Students will develop an understanding that learning is an ongoing process toward educated decision-making. Students will explore facets of their identity that impact who they are and how they define and express themselves. Students will also learn how to identify solutions to resolve these challenges.

SERVICE:

Students will have the opportunity to make the world a better place by Creating a positive identity for our campus and community through our willingness, ability, and responsibility to reciprocate good works to our campus and community.



THE C.A.T.S PILLARS

CONNECTION. AWARENESS. TRANSFORMATIVE. SERVICE



University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**



**JOINING THE BOBCAT COMMUNITY
FLOOR MEETINGS. EVENTS. PROGRAMS.
WELCOME WEEK. STUDENT LEADERS.**



University of California, Merced New Student Orientation



Free Laundry – Washing & Drying
through WASH Laundry



Outdoor Courts and Game rooms/lounges



Supporting Your Student Living on Campus

Encourage Independence



- **Promote Responsibility:** Remind your student to follow campus policies and guidelines.
 - Ensure your student reads and understands their housing contract.
- **Advocacy:** Encourage resident to speak with their Resident Assistant or Residence Education Coordinator for help navigating issues or concerns

Respect Privacy and FERPA Regulations



- **FERPA Overview:** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects your student's educational records which includes their housing assignment and conduct record.
- **Limited Information:** Due to FERPA, we cannot disclose your student's whereabouts or specific details about their activities without their consent.

Stay Connected

- **Open Communication:** Maintain regular, open lines of communication with your student.
- **Support Networks:** Encourage your student to use campus resources for support and assistance.



UC MERCED'S DINING SERVICES





Meal Plans

All residential meal plans provide unlimited access to the all-you-care-to-eat Pavilion and Yablokoff-Wallace dining centers.

Residential Meal Plans

- Only available to on-campus residents. Residents are required to have a meal plan
- All plans have unlimited access seven days per week
- Guest passes included
- CatDollars included depending on selected meal plan

Non-Residential Meal Plans

- Only available to students living off campus
- Plans include blocks of meal swipes
- CatDollars are not included with non-residential plans but can be purchased.



2024-2025 Academic Year Residential Meal Plans

Unlimited Meal Plan Name	Total Price per Semester	Included Cat Dollars per Semester	Guest Passes per Semester	Total Price per Academic Year	Included Cat Dollars per Academic Year	Guest Passes per Academic Year
Unlimited 85*	\$2,710	\$85	3	\$5,420	\$170	6
Unlimited 250*	\$2,875	\$250	3	\$5,750	\$500	6
Unlimited 400*	\$3,025	\$400	3	\$6,050	\$800	6
Unlimited 500*	\$3,125	\$500	3	\$6,250	\$1,000	6
Unlimited 600*	\$3,225	\$600	3	\$6,450	\$1,200	6

- All meal plans are unlimited, all-you-care-to-eat for dining inside the two dining centers
- All meal plans come with three (3) guest passes per semester
- The base cost of all meal plans is \$2,625.00 per semester PLUS CatDollars
- The difference between meal plans is in how many CatDollars a student chooses to purchase (minimum is \$85.00)



2024-2025 Academic Year Non-Residential Meal Plans

Meal Plan Name	Price	Meals
Bobcat 25	\$250	25
Bobcat 100	\$900	100

- All meal plans are all-you-care-to-eat for dining inside the two dining centers
- Meals can be purchased in blocks of 25 or 100 at-a-time
- Cost for 25 meals is discounted to \$10.00 per meal
- Cost for 100 meals is discounted to \$9.00 per meal

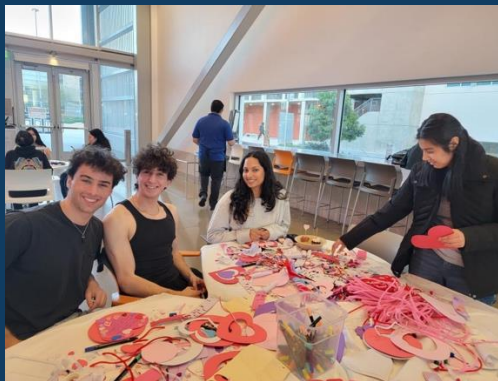


Dining Centers

- Unlimited residential meal plans provide all-you-care-to-eat meals at dining centers.
- A meal plan is loaded onto a CatCard. Meal plan holders swipe their CatCard to enter a dining center.
- Dine-in only at the dining centers. To-go containers can be used to pack a meal to-go by request if the student is in a rush and cannot eat in the dining center.
- Those without meal plans may pay with CatDollars or a credit/debit card. Costs at-the-door range from \$11.95 for breakfast, \$12.88 for lunch, and \$13.95 for dinner.

The Pavilion Dining Center

- Open 7 days a week
- Offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- Menu site that allows people to view selections that meet their dietary needs
- Serves special meals for everything from St. Patrick's Day to Holi to National Garlic Day and more
- Variety of meal options offered through multiple platforms, salad/deli bars and breakfast/dessert bar, and our bakery



The Yablokoff-Wallace Dining Center

- Currently open 5 days per week
- Offers lunch, dinner, and late night
- Menu site that allows people to view selections that meet their dietary needs
- Themed meals to celebrate holidays, special occasions, and festivals
- Fun activities and student-focused special events
- Variety of meal options offered through multiple platforms



Retail Locations (All three stores accept CatDollars, credit/debit cards, and EBT)

- Our **Lantern Café** offers a variety of handcrafted beverages and light meal options. Located on the 1st floor of the Kolligian Library.
- The **Bobcat Snack Stop** is a convenience store with some school supplies also located on the 1st floor of the Kolligian Library.
- The **Summits Marketplace** is a small grocery store with some dorm and residential supplies, and the Marketplace Express is a 24/7 vending machine location. Both are in the Half Dome Housing Plaza.
- Food Trucks from around the valley come to campus on weekdays and offer a variety of options on Scholar's Lane at the Yablokoff-Wallace Dining Center. They accept CatDollars, credit/debit, and cash.





Lakeside Catering

- Lakeside Catering proudly provides catering options to our campus community. Staffed by both full-time Staff and student workers, our Catering team provided services to 2000 events.
- Employment opportunity for students are available!





Employment Opportunities

Dining & Retail Services is often looking for eager students who are willing to work hard and are interested in building skills in customer service, time management, communication, teamwork, culinary applications and much more!

Please contact dininghiring@ucmerced.edu if you interested in working with us.

Student positions with Dining & Retail Services are posted on Handshake. More information is available at: <https://studentjobs.ucmerced.edu/handshake>.



University of California, Merced

New Student Orientation

Questions or Suggestions?

Visit our website:

dining.ucmerced.edu

Email the Chef Team:

diningchef@ucmerced.edu

- Suggest new menu offerings
- Connect on Student Accessibility Services-approved dietary needs and restrictions
- Request non-accessibility menu additions (faith-based restrictions, dietary preferences, etc.)
- Give feedback on what you love, what could be better, and how to make your experience great!





University of California, Merced

New Student Orientation

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING SERVICES (TAPS)

Parking Services – Spring 2025

Resident Students – On Campus Overnight Parking



- Semester rate: \$200
- Apply NOW! Visit the TAPS website:
<https://taps.ucmerced.edu>



All on campus resident students eligible to apply!



Parking Services – Spring 2025

Commuter Students: Continuing & New Transfers

- Semester rate - \$160
- Permits applications: <https://ucmerced.nupark.com>

Commuter Carpool:

- Semester rate - \$160
- Available for purchase at TAPS office – All carpoolers must be present

Daily/Hourly Parking: “Pay by Text”

Freshman Commuter:

- Apply NOW! : <https://taps.ucmerced.edu>



CatTracks Campus Shuttles

- Monday to Friday
6:29AM - 11:06PM
- Weekend Service
8:30AM - 11:06PM

Route UC

- Monday to Friday
6:10AM to 8:02PM



Connections to:

Medical, Rx, grocery, retail, dining, banks, Amtrak and downtown Merced

Transportation Partners

Merced “The Bus”



Amtrak



(student discounts available)



Merced Regional Airport

- Hawthorne – Los Angeles (HHR)
- Harry Reid Las Vegas International Airports (LAS)



Other Transit Options

Zipcar

- Self-service, on demand car sharing
- Online or mobile phone reservations
- Zipcard access for car entry
- Membership: 18yrs+
- Daily or Hourly rates available or FLAT RATE depending on vehicle type (incl. gas, maintenance, insurance)





Contact Us!

Transportation and Parking Services

Website: <https://taps.ucmerced.edu>

Email: taps@ucmerced.edu

Call: (209) 228-8277

A day in the Life

Office of Student Involvement and Office of
Leadership, Service & Career



University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**

Preparing students for life during and after UC Merced through high impact, relationship building, “out of classroom” experiences.

Meet Juana

Let’s walk through the journey of Juana, who fully engaged with all four departments to thrive at UC Merced



Starting the Journey

Juana arrives on campus and is looking to meet new people and get involved

Office of Student Involvement

Get Involved & Connected!

studentinvolvement@ucmerced.edu
studentinvolvement.ucmerced.edu

Granite Pass (GRAN) 163



@ucmercedosi





STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

It ALL Starts with CATLIFE!

- **Clubs & Organizations**
Fraternities & Sororities
- **Student Government**
- **Campus Events**
 - **Concerts**
 - **Cultural Events**
 - **Shows**





Office of Student Involvement

Juana became very involved on campus joining 3 organizations, attended Cowtopia, Bobcat Hangouts, joined a Sorority and attended the club fair, where she found clubs related to her major and signed up for events.

Through student involvement, Juana not only joined clubs but found a sense of belonging and participated in multiple events, enriching her college experience.



Developing Leadership

As Juana becomes more involved, she hears about leadership training and workshops offered by the Student Leadership Center.

Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center

lead@ucmerced.edu
Studentleadership.ucmerced.edu

Kolligian Library (KL) 172



@ucmleadership



Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center

Juana participated in the Bobcat Leadership Seminar, a 6-week program which is an introduction to leadership theory & identity. She also attended the Yosemite Leadership Program (pictured on the right), a 2-year program focusing on environmental stewardship & refining leadership skills).

Juana's leadership journey helped her become a more confident leader, paving the way for her to lead her club and create new campus initiatives.



Making a Difference

Juana becomes passionate about community service and signs up for a service-learning project at the Community Engagement Center

Community Engagement Center

communityservice@ucmerced.edu
cec.ucmerced.edu

Kolligian Library (KL) 190



@ucmercedcec





Community Engagement Center

Juana attended multiple one time service events like park clean ups, and the food distributions. She also participated in long-term service such as Lift While You Lead, a semester-long mentorship of high school students in Women's Studies classes.

Through the Community Engagement Center, Juana connected with local initiatives, developing her public speaking, program planning and execution, mentorship & collaboration skills.



Preparing for the Future

As graduation approaches, Juana feels ready to find a career that aligns with her values

Student Career Center

careercenter@ucmerced.edu
hire.ucmerced.edu/

Kolligian Library (KL) 184



@hireucmerced





Student Career Center

As graduation approaches, Juana feels ready to find a career that aligns with her values

Juana did the following

- Made an appointment with her career specialist through Handshake.
- Attended professional development workshops and created a strong resume.
- Attended a Job Fair where she connected with an employer for an internship.

With support from the Student Career Center, Juana landed an internship, giving her real-world experience and setting her up for post-graduation success.





University of California, Merced

New Student Orientation

Juana's journey is a perfect example of how our four departments – Office of Student Involvement and Office of Leadership, Service & Career - work together to support students and help them achieve success in college and beyond.





University of California, Merced
**New Student
Orientation**

Questions?



University of California, Merced

New Student Orientation

CONTACT US:

Office of Student Involvement:

studentinvolvement@ucmerced.edu

Studentinvolvement.ucmerced.edu

Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center

lead@ucmerced.edu

studentleadership.ucmerced.edu

Community Engagement Center

communityservice@ucmerced.edu

cec.ucmerced.edu

Student Career Center

careercenter@ucmerced.edu

hire.ucmerced.edu