



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Find out more about what SDSU has to offer freshmen who commute to campus!

# COMMUTER SUCCESS Pathways



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

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For more information about Commuter Success Pathways call (619) 594-5221 or visit [www.studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/learningcommunities](http://www.studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/learningcommunities)

The Commuter Resource Center is a home base for students who commute to campus. Located in the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union, this space is perfect for studying, socializing and relaxing between classes. Get together with friends or make some new ones! Attend workshops to get tips for your next test or job interview. Whether you drop by for a minute, or hang out for hours, the Commuter Resource Center is here to help you connect and thrive at San Diego State University.

## COMMUTER RESOURCE CENTER



04/18 (151)



## Commuter Success Pathways



San Diego State University offers a variety of Commuter Success Pathways for incoming freshmen. The goals of the various pathways are that incoming students will:

- » Build relationships with peers, faculty, and staff.
- » Feel a sense of belonging on campus.
- » Become part of a small community of students with common academic or social interests.
- » Receive academic support for challenging courses.
- » Take knowledge from one course and apply it more deeply in another.

Students who enroll in a Commuter Success Pathway in their first semester tend to:

- » Achieve a deeper understanding of course material.
- » Have confidence in their academic work.
- » Have higher GPAs and lower instances of academic probation.
- » Have higher satisfaction with campus life.

Incoming commuter students are placed into one of the Commuter Success Pathways, and in most cases, they have the ability to choose the pathway that fits their needs or interests. Placement will be determined during a Freshman Commuter Success Reception. **There are four main types of Commuter Success Pathways:**

PATHWAY	Small Group Cohort (15-20 students)	General Education course (GE)	University Seminar: Freshman Transition Course	Academic Mentoring	Scholar Seminar course (Discussion + Analysis)
Commuter Learning Community	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Freshman Interest Group (FIG)	✓	—	✓	—	—
Scholar Seminar (GE + Discussion)	✓	✓	—	—	—
Integrated Curriculum	✓	2 GE courses	—	—	—

# COMMUTER SUCCESS PATHWAYS



COMMUTE to SUCCESS

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## COMMUTER SUCCESS PATHWAY TYPES

### FRESHMAN INTEREST GROUP (1 UNIT)

A Freshman Interest Group, also called a FIG, is a university seminar course (GENS 100) taken by small cohort of incoming first-time freshmen. In many cases, the seminar is focused on a specific topic or theme like Leadership, Women's & Gender Equity, LGBTQ+ Pride or Community Service. For example:

- » General Studies 100A (1 unit)

### COMMUTER SCHOLAR SEMINARS (4 - 5 UNITS)

A Scholar Seminar includes a General Education (GE) course (3-4 units) that usually relates to the student's major. A discussion/analysis 1-unit course is connected to that GE course and is intended to empower the student to excel in the course. The discussion course is led by a Graduate Teaching Associate (GTA) who specializes in the subject matter, or an undergraduate Instructional Student Assistant (ISA) who has successfully completed the course. Students in this pathway take both courses. For example:

- » Sociology 101 (3 units) + Sociology 296 Discussion/Analysis (1 unit)
- » Math 141 (3 units) + Sciences 296 Discussion/Analysis (1 unit)

### COMMUTER LEARNING COMMUNITIES (5 - 6 UNITS)

A Learning Community is a group of students who attend a set of courses and/or experiences together. Benefits include: establishing a supportive peer group; course content that helps students' transition to college life by accessing peer and campus resources; an enhanced sense of connection to the campus community; and provides access to high impact educational practices. Students enrolling in General Education (GE) courses as part of a Learning Community improve their chances of excelling not only in the GE and other connected courses, but throughout their academic career at SDSU. Some communities include mentoring. For example:

- » Commuter Scholar Seminar (4-5 units) + GENS 100B (1 unit)
- » GE Course (3-4 units) + GENS 100B (1 unit)



### INTEGRATED CURRICULUM (6 UNITS)

An Integrated Curriculum pathway involves a small cohort of students who enroll in two required General Education (GE) courses together as a linked community. The instructors for the two courses work together to integrate the content between the two distinct courses. This means that the texts/concepts from course A are also included in course B, and often, vice versa. The Integrated Curriculum pathway offers a supportive community in order to maximize success, and data shows that students often do better in both courses.

- » Rhetoric & Writing Studies 100 + Political Science 101 (6 units)
- » Rhetoric & Writing Studies 100 + ARP 205 Exploring Leadership (6 units)

## COMMUTER TRANSITION TO COLLEGE TIMELINE

### FRESHMAN COMMUTER SUCCESS RECEPTION

It is crucial to attend the Freshman Commuter Success Reception in June (as listed in the timeline below) to learn and select a Commuter Success Pathway. There are unit-bearing courses that are tied with each pathway. In most cases, they satisfy graduation requirements such as American Institutions, Humanities, Communication & Critical Thinking, and Social & Behavioral Sciences. Follow the timeline below and reference <http://testing.sdsu.edu> for any placements exams that you may need to complete.

May	May 10 Registration for New Student Orientation opens. <a href="http://www.sdsu.edu/orientation">www.sdsu.edu/orientation</a>	May 19 Register for the Math Placement Assessment by May 19. See testing information attached.	MAY THROUGH JUNE  Register for exams and complete placement exams.  To register or for more information go to <a href="http://testing.sdsu.edu">http://testing.sdsu.edu</a> .
	June	June 4, 6, 9, 12, 14 Freshman Commuter Success Receptions.	
July		July 15 Deadline for final transcripts to be received by Office of Admissions.	
	August	August 22 In College Shape (only for select Pathways. Information will be sent via email for those required to attend).	
August 27 First Day of Classes			

