

Dear Student,

August 20, 2018

We are so pleased you will be attending Cal Poly and look forward to welcoming you this fall. You can be proud of yourself. You are entering one of the nation's most selective public universities, recognized by U.S. News and World Report as the best, largely undergraduate, public institution in the West for 25 consecutive years.

We care deeply about your personal and intellectual growth and success and want you to be a Cal Poly graduate. When you arrive at Cal Poly, you will be welcomed into a college community that values and is deeply committed to building an inclusive and equitable learning environment. One of the most exciting aspects of attending college is getting to know and learn from people who have grown up under different circumstances than you have. You will meet faculty, staff and fellow students who are from different parts of the state, the country and the world. You will meet people who have different religious backgrounds, socioeconomic characteristics, gender identities, sexual orientations and racial/ethnic identities. These differences are the basis by which we learn and grow as individuals and develop a better understanding of ourselves and the world around us. The College of Science and Mathematics celebrates our diversity as a true human strength, and we seek to foster a supportive and respectful community where people have an equal opportunity to grow and learn. We know that you will add to the richness of our diversity and cannot wait for you to contribute your uniqueness to our community.

Attending college is a distinct privilege that you should pursue responsibly and thoughtfully. You can help yourself succeed by establishing healthy eating, sleeping and exercise habits; attending classes regularly; and spending adequate time studying. Study 25-35 hours per week. College students spend the majority of their time learning outside of class. You will be in class 15-20 hours a week, and we recommend that you study 25-35 hours a week, for a total of 40-50 hours per week, the equivalent of a full-time job. If you manage your time well, there is plenty of time for other activities. Your success depends on your academic adjustment to college. There is nothing more important that we can tell you than to study 25-35 hours per week and to study to truly learn and understand.

Challenge yourself to obtain your Cal Poly degree in four years. To meet this goal, most students need to take an average of 15 degree-applicable units per quarter. This is a reasonable expectation. However, if you work 15 to 20 hours a week to pay for school expenses—or have time-consuming co-curricular or extra-curricular activities that are important to you—it is reasonable to take more than four years so that you can be successful and truly achieve your potential.

Don't be distracted by those who are not committed to their education. Every year, many students engage in destructive or reckless behavior that leads to academic probation or disqualification. They are not a large group, though sometimes, because of the visibility of their lifestyles and risky behaviors, they may seem to be. Make studying and learning your number one priority. This will ensure your graduation and provide unexpected and exciting opportunities in the future.

Enclosed you will find a brief guide to help you plan for academic success. Read it now because it is important to arrive on campus focused and ready to go on the first day of classes. You may also want to bring this guide with you to campus as a resource during your first year at Cal Poly.

Cal Poly is a special university with an excellent reputation, a tradition of academic excellence, and an impressive record of student success. You are now a part of the Cal Poly community and have a responsibility to yourself and the university to contribute to and enhance this tradition. We will support you in any way we can. We want you to be a proud graduate of Cal Poly!

Sincerely yours,



Dean E. Wendt, Dean | Camille O'Bryant, Associate Dean | Kellie Hall, Associate Dean | Derek Gragson, Associate Dean