Students Required To Get Boosted, Tested Prior to Returning To In-Person Instruction

As students and faculty return to campus, UC Santa Barbara continues efforts to stay up to date on the latest vaccination and isolation requirements.

UCSB mandates that all eligible students receive a COVID-19 booster shot by Jan. 31 and staff and faculty receive a COVID-19 booster shot by Feb. 4. The UC Santa Barbara Student Health Center (SBCPHD) announced that walk-ins are also available.

compared to the previous week in the Santa Barbara County. The clinic is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and runs through the first week of March.

Atmika Iyer
Lead News Editor

“Just to clarify, there’s not a requirement for students to be boosted at this time,” Ruiz said. “It is very important that all students get vaccinated and if they haven’t already, do so ASAP. Boosting is one of the most impactful actions that people can take to protect themselves and to protect those around them.”

UCSBPD Public Information Officer Jackie Ruiz encouraged all eligible students to find the closest vaccine sites and get a booster and vaccination clinic open for walk-in and pre-announced appointments Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4:45 p.m., and then again from 8:30 to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

UCSB Extends Pass/No Pass Deadline

The UC Santa Barbara Police Department is currently understaffed and looking to hire nine sworn peace officers, several deputies, a records assistant, a dispatch assistant and a business services personnel, according to UCSBPD Sergeant Daniel Hasen. Wilson acknowledged the challenging staffing situation and thanked the public for their patience.

“The things that have been handing down these last few days, locally and nationally, has been especially tough for our police officers, so we really hope to get to a different agency,” Wilson said. “We’re really hopeful that communities have called for the reduction or dismantling of police departments, citing disproportionate police violence against Black people. The University of California, Santa Barbara, administrators and students have been demanding the reduction of the number of police officers on campus. At UC SB, Santa Barbara, close to 1,000 students gathered in May 2020 to protest police brutality during the Black Lives Matter movement, and protests to remove police from the UC system, administrators and students have been demanding the reduction of the number of police officers on campus. At UC SB, Santa Barbara, close to 1,000 students gathered in May 2020 to protest police brutality during the Black Lives Matter movement, and protests to remove police from the UC system, administrators and students have been demanding the reduction of the number of police officers on campus.

“A lot of officers don’t feel supported by their community, whether their local community as well as their state and nationally, painted in a broad scope. So there’s a need to end police out of the UC system, administrators and students have been demanding the reduction of the number of police officers on campus, for the 2020-21 academic year. A version of this article appeared on p. 1 of the Nov. 4 issue of the Daily Nexus edition of the Daily Nexus.

UCSB Student’s Sexual Assault Trial Date is Moved to March 6

The UC Santa Barbara Academic Senate has extended the pass/no pass grading option deadline to the last day of a winter quarter investigation, March 11.

The deadline to pass/no pass choices beyond the seventh week of the quarter has been extended every quarter since the COVID-19 pandemic began in Winter Quarter 2020.

However, unlike past quarters, the College of Letters and Sciences no longer has the authority to approve retroactive requests for grading option changes except in “very limited circumstances,” according to an email sent to students in the College of Letters and Sciences.

Additionally, College of Letters and Sciences students who request to drop a class past the Jan. 31 deadline will be approved in most cases, according to the email. The deadline for drop requests is also March 11.

“Because of the challenges we have faced this quarter, I am directing College of Letters and Sciences staff to approve retroactive course drops – of course – requested after the fourth week GOLD deadline in “very limited circumstances,” Michael Miller, Interim Dean of Undergraduate Education for the College of Letters and Sciences, said in the email.

An email sent to College of Engineering students by the College of Engineering Academic Advisor Office said that while students have the retroactive request grading to pass/no pass until March 11, the deadline for dropping classes will remain the same.

“The College of Engineering will adhere to the normal Winter 2020-21 academic year deadline, January 31 at 4:30pm in GOLD. If you have any questions about dropping a course, please consult with a College of Engineering Advisor well in advance of the deadline,” the email read.

Classes taken for major, pre-major, major preparation or minor credit should be taken for a letter grade unless pass/no pass is the only option for the course. Additionally, students on academic probation cannot take courses for pass/no pass.

Students in the College of Creative Studies have always had the option to either take a course for a letter grade or pass/no pass, but the only due date for dropping classes will remain the same.

A version of this article appeared on p. 1 of the Nov. 4 issue of the Daily Nexus edition of the Daily Nexus.
UC Santa Barbara students are grappling with a new wave of uncertainties surrounding instructional policies. Riu Saleheen, a junior at UCSB, acknowledges that the current COVID-19 regulations in place are still a threat to the student body. "It just shows that they don't really care. They're just in it for the money and don't really care about the students," she said.

"If I get to be in control of the decision-making, I would say don't do anything, just tell them to stay home for the next two to three weeks," she said. "We're in a peak and the numbers are starting to stabilize, but the hospitalizations are going up and the deaths are going up too."

Fourth-year economics and accounting major Jon Sanchez said both of these sentiments, expressing frustration at the university's decisions on Jan. 30, to allow instruction to choose whether or not classes would be in person or remotely until Jan. 31.

"It was pretty Jason, because they wanted to have the quarter either completely online or in-person with upset clarity, but now it's half of a quarter online and the other half in-person," he said.

Sanchez said that the danger of COVID-19 hits close to home for him, as he has an immunocompromised household. "I have an immunocompromised household, and I certainly don't want to get to go to class 6-7 pacake," he said. "If they're really planning to [go back in person], I should have had a hybrid option where people who are at home could stay home."

"I think it would be really hard for me to go back," he said. "Their option for students who want to stay online should be immediately subordinated to in-person learning, but I don't think the state is as concerned."

"She has a medical condition and her doctor doesn't want her to go to COVID-19 because she's vulnerable, and we don't want complications," Saleheen said. "I think it's really hard that, despite the current COVID-19 regulations in place to mitigate the spread of the virus, the opening of facilities like dining halls will still make COVID-19 a threat to the student body."

"I think it could be safe as long as people are making the right choices of staying healthy and making sure that they don't do things to increase the cases on campus," she said.

For fourth-year history major Madison Barton, the announcement that UCSB will return in person on Jan. 30 was "disheartening." Despite all of the research and the number of the coronavirus variant, I'm disappointed that the people who are supposed to be looking out for the general welfare of 30,000 individuals have decided to forego the values of a safe and successful learning environment," she said.

"This grant will help make a community in Isla Vista. The organizer, spiritual leader and founder of Hope" in honor of Father Jon Sanchez, received $7 million from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (CDHCD) — focusing on promoting "safe, affordable homes and supportive living environments for all Californians," the statement detailing the approval of the El Colegio Project, received $7 million from the CDHCD Director of Housing and Homelessness. Saleheen echoed Riu's sentiment, saying that UCSB should strengthen its precautionary measures to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and return to in-person instruction.

"I think it would be really hard for us," Saleheen said. "I don't think we are ready to go back."
The Omnicom Impact

During the Jan. 20 Regents board meeting, Dr. Carrie L. Byington, vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of California Health, Science, and Sea Grant faculty, introduced the university’s annual civic engagement report to the Regents. Currently, many of the University’s overall civic engagement report to the Regents. Currently, all of the University’s civic engagement efforts are focused on the state of California to meet the state’s civic engagement goals.

The UC’s continued carbon emissions, which totaled nearly 1,000 metric tons of CO2-equivalent for the fourth quarter of 2021, decreased 3.1% compared to the same quarter in 2020. This is the first time in the three years we’ve measured this metric that emissions decreased.

The reason is that, according to Byington, net zero warming and publication from 2019, about the UC’s continued carbon emissions, which totaled nearly 1,000 metric tons of CO2-equivalent for the fourth quarter of 2021, decreased 3.1% compared to the same quarter in 2020. This is the first time in the three years we’ve measured this metric that emissions decreased.

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SeaLegs Santa Barbara To Replace Beachside Bar-Café

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Kashen said that SeaLegs Santa Barbara plans to reinvent or keep certain menu items, drinks and other notable aspects of Beachside Bar-Café to pay homage to its predecessor.

"SeaLegs" is going to go back to the roots of culinary. There'll be a lot of fresh fish and venison, especially locally sourced ingredients, locally sourced wines, spirits and beer," Kashen said. "As much focus as we can put on local, we're definitely going to. That goes down to staffing, vendors and even down to construction right now. We're trying to see as many local contractors as we could."

SeaLegs will also feature a "shake shack" next to the restaurant, serving milkshakes and other comfort foods for casual diners.

"If you want to go with your friends and just watch the sunset, walk on the beach or hang out on the pier and the weather's really nice, there's going to be food and beverages that I would say are more at the price point where if you're a UCSB student, you're more approachable," Kashen said. "We’ll also have a seafood focus, but it’s not going to be your mom and pop. We’re going to keep a lot of specialness [to it], and I think we’ll have another kind of homage to that version of that," Kashen said.

Along with employing members of the community and acting as a commercial location, SeaLegs Santa Barbara will raise funds to safeguard Goleta Beach. "Goleta Beach doesn’t really have a traditional revenue stream. A lot of times these parks will change charge and that money goes to paying the staff that works there. And I hope that they recognize that those are formative years, and the people that are working there are learning so much about themselves and who they are and what they want to do and what they want to be at the same time," Jackson said.

While providing jobs, funds to the beach and a variety of culinary debuts, Khashen noted how he thinks we’ll have another kind of homage to that version of that, Kashen said. "We’ll still have a seafood focus but it’s not going to be your mom and pop. We’re going to keep a lot of specialness [to it], and I think we’ll have another kind of homage to that version of that," Kashen said.

"SeaLegs will also feature a ‘shake shack’ next to the restaurant, serving milkshakes and other comfort foods for casual diners. If you want to go with your friends and just watch the sunset, walk on the beach or hang out on the pier and the weather’s really nice, there’s going to be food and beverages that I would say are more at the price point where if you’re a UCSB student, you’re more approachable,” Kashen said. “We’ll also have a seafood focus, but it’s not going to be your mom and pop. We’re going to keep a lot of specialness [to it], and I think we’ll have another kind of homage to that version of that,” Kashen said.
After being shut down for 21 months in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Isla Vista Community Center is now officially open for local residents to take advantage of the various programs in the building or to reserve the space for their own needs.

Beginning March 2020, the Isla Vista Community Center District (IVCSD) put the center in "deep hibernation" in response to the spread of COVID-19 and orders from the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department. As time went on and restrictions were lifted, the IVCSD remained closed and the city council voted to end the hibernation period and the county resumed ownership of the building.

As the number of households living in Isla Vista increased, so did the demand for the Center. The Isla Vista University Foundation (IVUF) provided $1.2 million to move forward with rebuilding, and the City of Santa Barbara took over operations of the Center.

With the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center was closed for 21 months, and it was only recently that it was able to reopen. The Center has undergone significant renovations, including a new kitchen, restrooms, and a larger community room.

Community Room Re-opens After 21 Months

Isla Vista's Community Center re-opened after being closed for 21 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Center was able to reopen after receiving $1.2 million from the Isla Vista University Foundation to fund the repairs.

According to Gustafson, the Center has been "a form of misinformation," and that the Center is "really a form of misinformation and that the Center is not a serious concern, especially for those who are more vulnerable in society." Gustafson said that the Center has been "a form of misinformation and that the Center is not a serious concern, especially for those who are more vulnerable in society.""
UCSB Mock Trial Gets Winning Records at UCLA Sunset Strip

Meena Magalatia  Senior Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara's Mock Trial A and B teams competed at the UCLA Sunset Strip Invitational Competition virtually from Jan. 15-17 and both finished with five-to-zero winning records.

UCSD Relaunches Hazing Prevention Coalition

Yiou Li  Staff Writer

The UC Santa Barbara Hazing Prevention Coalition organized its first event of the year on Jan. 27 with the goal of analyzing instances of hazing, improving reporting practices and educating the campus community on hazing.

Black Women's Health Collaborative Launches Community Gardening Project

Nahara Nadya  Arts & News Editor

The UC Santa Barbara Black Women’s Health Collaborative hosted its first event of the year on Thursday, Jan. 19 with the goal of establishing vegetable gardens in front of St. Michael's University Church in Isla Vista. Around 20 students, faculty, staff and community members gathered to plant over 500 seeds of different vegetables and herbs.

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UC Santa Barbara’s Mock Trial A and B teams competed at the UCLA Sunset Strip Invitational Competition virtually from Jan. 15-17 and both finished with five-to-zero winning records.

The teams ended their tournament on Friday, Jan. 20 with a 5-0 record against each other and a 6-0 record against teams from UCLA and the University of California, Los Angeles. The tournament was canceled due to poor weather.

The Mock Trial A team lost only once in four rounds, twice on defense and twice on prosecution. The team finished with a 6-0 record against UCLA and the University of California, Los Angeles.

The Mock Trial B team also finished with a 6-0 record against UCLA and the University of California, Los Angeles.

The Mock Trial A team will be competing in another tournament in the near future.

Carolined Baldwin, a senior majoring in political science and philosophy double major and B team captain, said that the team has managed its time well and maintained a positive attitude.”We’ve really had the bandwidth, despite other things happening,” Baldwin said. “I think that’s something that we’ve really been able to maintain throughout the whole year.”

Baldwin said that it’s important to establish relationships with the coaches because they are the ones who decide who is going to play in the tournament.

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The annual creation of the group was announced via an email to the campus community on Dec. 14, 2021, around three weeks after three sorority sisters were placed on four-year probation for violating the university’s hazing policy. According to Madison Thomas, a junior psychology and brain sciences major and president of UCSB’s sorority Alpha Phi, the group’s goal is to create a sense of responsibility and awareness around the issue of hazing.

Thomas said that the group is focused on increasing the reporting of hazing incidents and educating the campus community on the consequences of hazing.

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Staff Writer
Abigail Monti

The UCSB Women's Track and Field team opened the indoor season with 2 close victories in the latter 2 doubles matches, with a 1-point win from senior Stefano Toniosidios and senior Victor Krustev. Overall, the team tied for fourth in both the singles and doubles events. With more school records in reach, anticipate another exciting meet for the Gauchos. They Open the Season at Opening Meet

First Wins for Each Gaucho Tennis Team as They Open the Season

Garrett Harcourt
Sports Editor

The month of January, which was set aside to host the opening matches of the season for the Gauchos, turned out to be a struggle. The team entered into a delayed opening because of a 1-point win from senior Stefano Toniosidios and senior Victor Krustev. "I was disappointed," said coach Josiah Norville. "We came into the season with high expectations but were let down by our performance." The Gauchos ended up winning just one match out of the 12 they played, with a 1-point win against the University of California Irvine. The Gauchos fell behind early and were unable to overcome the deficit. They will need to adjust their strategy in order to compete at a high level. UCSB Athletics

UCSB Men's Basketball Looks To Turn Around Sluggish Start to League Play

Preston Espen Sports Editor

The reigning Big West Conference champions in men's basketball are in trouble after falling to Long Beach State this past weekend. The Gauchos have lost 3 of their last 4 games, including a 79-73 loss at the hands of the Cal State Fullerton Titans. The Gauchos currently sit at last place in the Big West, and if they lose their next 2 conference losses have already tied their season-high for losses. The Gauchos' total record is 5-2, with every victory coming at the hands of the Titans. UCSB has yet to win a game on the road, as they currently have a 0-6 road record. The Gauchos began Big West play with an 8-3 overtime loss to the UC San Diego Tritons. This close defeat was followed by a 4-3 loss to Long Beach State. The Gauchos had an 8-Point lead at the half against the Beach but gave up 39 points in the second half to eventually lose by 3. The Gauchos have struggled defensively throughout the season. In their last 2 games against the Cal State Fullerton Titans, after the Gauchos dropped 2 straight to the Titans, the Gauchos took up the challenge and showed that they can compete in the Big West. They shot 36.6% from the field while also shooting over 40% from behind the arc. Overall, UCSB committed 12 turnovers, while the Titans had 18 of their own. First-year guard Cole Anderson led the team with 21 points off the bench, and senior guard Ajare Sanu led all UCSB starters with 12 points. Senior guard Damarri Miltread led all Titans in scoring with 21 points. The Titans only played 2 players off the bench, with one of them only playing for 3 minutes. For comparison, the Gauchos had six players come off the bench, with forward graduate Robinson Adams playing for 21 minutes. Freshman guard El Anoike played the entirety of the game for the Titans. The Gauchos will look to get their first conference win against Cal State Northridge on Jan. 25. The game will end a streak of 10 days without a game played for the Gauchos, as games against UC Riverside and UC Davis had been canceled due to COVID-19. With a victory, the Gauchos' record at home would improve to 8-1.
In Race Against New Wave, UCSB Researcher Develops Method To ID Omicron

Audrey Mooler
Science Writer

A typical adult’s body contains 60,000 miles of blood vessels, enough to circle the Earth. Unfortunately, tumors can hijack these blood vessels, instead of carrying oxygen to healthy cells, to feed tumors and enable cancer growth.

Science Editor

Sean Croomer

The Hunter and the Hunted

Predator-prey interactions, like the one between a prowling wolf and a deer, shape their surrounding ecosystems in profound ways, in particular by controlling biodiversity.

Sean Croomer is a science editor.

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One of the most important collaborations was an assay that could detect whether a positive COVID-19 test result was of the omicron variant.

Arala had been working on SARS-CoV-2 research since the beginning of the pandemic. She specifically worked with the team that helped develop an assay for the general detection of COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 RNA (for early outbreak detection in Santa Barbara). Then, he helped establish the COVID-19 clinical testing laboratory on UCSB’s campus, which he still manages and runs samples for this day. In addition, he established Santa Barbara’s protocol that is used to help provide sequencing results for monitoring local COVID-19 variants.

The omicron variant of COVID-19 is significantly more contagious than other previously prevalent variants (such as Delta), which is leading to a heightened necessity to distinguish the variant. Arala and Dr. Lynn Fitzgibbon, an infectious disease specialist at Cottage Health in Santa Barbara, saw how quickly he could put together an assay to do just that.

“There were many different options and ideas that I had to do with the assay,” said Arala. “I just had to do with what was being around in the lab.”

By the end, the assay was fairly simple in theory. Arala said, “I chose to develop a test that would target a region of the SARS-CoV-2 genome that was heavily mutated in only the omicron variant.” Arala’s next step was to design two sets of primers that would bind to and amplify that region, so when DNA from omicron was or wasn’t present in a sample, they would have those primers, the only thing left to do was optimize the reaction conditions to maximize our specificity and sensitivity,” Arala said.

Arala said that he had his first set of results after a day or two of refining and optimizing. Arala reported that he had his first set of results after a day or two of refining and optimizing.

While many of us suspected that the dramatic increase in positives in Santa Barbara was due to omicron, we really didn’t have any concrete proof,” Arala said. “Unsurprisingly, most of the samples provided by County Public Health and Pacific Diagnostics were confirmed to be omicron.”

The development of this assay has helped inform physicians and health care providers, the Santa Barbara County COVID-19 Response Team, local collaboration between the UCSB Researcher Develops and engineering program, and the community overall.

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For number of cases in Santa Barbara, the COVID-19 Response Team uses this assay to monitor whether remote or in-person instruction were intended to mitigate a spike in COVID-19 cases. Indeed, cases in Santa Barbara increased in the winter quarter. The two weeks of remote instruction were intended to be a break. However, cases continued to rise. The COVID-19 Response Team holds weekly meetings, and at one of these meetings, Arala presented the team with his assay.

“Unsurprisingly, most of the cases in Santa Barbara were due to omicron,” the team leader reported. “The cases due to Delta variant were 14. Indeed, the university is currently undergoing a spike in COVID-19 cases.”

Arala said that the assay helped give them confidence that the university is currently undergoing a spike in COVID-19 cases.

Researchers at UC Santa Barbara, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have recently put in place voluntary vessel speed reductions zones in the Santa Barbara Channel in order to encourage the largest vessels to slow down and lower the likelihood of collisions with endangered whales.

Jono Wilson, a researcher with the Bein School of Environmental Science and Management at UCSB, worked in collaboration with other researchers at the Greater Farallones Association, NOAA and The Nature Conservancy, recently sought to quantify just how much whale vocalizations and vessel speeds affected the whales. They found that these reduced speeds had no real effect in giving the whales a safe space.

It is important to note that the only available treatment, “chemo and radiation are the only available treatments,” said, “I think the study is too small. It doesn’t say that the inclusion of the study. However, it can be difficult to validate this data due to factors like the weather conditions.

Matthew Jackson, a researcher at UCSB’s Earth Science Department, who worked with collaborators at UC Los Angeles and UC Berkeley, tried to understand the impact of vessel speeds on the whales.

Researchers said the study of vessel speeds might be the best bet to protect these whales.

Hot and Cold

Volcanic hotspots, like the kind which create volcanic island chains, such as Hawaii and the Azores, are thought to come from plumes deep in the mantle that rise to the surface in a process known as convection. These plumes are much warmer than the surrounding mantle. However, it can be difficult to validate these claims due to factors like the weather conditions.

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Researchers said the study of vessel speeds might be the best bet to protect these whales.
Sam Franzini
Public Need Correspondent

After the recent announcement that Chancellor Yang’s salary would be raised by $125,000 to a measly $580,000 per year, students were left wondering if that’s enough for Yang to get by. A group of students known as the Yang Welfare Collective (YWC) have banded together to start a GoFundMe for the impoverished chancellor, and donations are already flowing in.

I mean, he works so hard coming up with solutions for us to have less money and less access to campus resources,” local Good Samaritan Jessica Kandyl said while sobbing into her handkerchief. “Starting the GoFundMe is the least I could do.”

As of right now, the pool has collected over $1.5 million in donations from students and their parents, making the GoFundMe the most popular page on the site. Yang’s harrowing story not only brings to light how impossible it is to survive on a half-a-million dollar salary in this climate. Recently, he purchased a vacation home in Hawaii to get away from the “negativity” he’s surrounded by at UCSB, brought on by the UCSB Rec Cen before 11 a.m. However, he’s having trouble accessing a full collection of weights, cardio equipment, a sauna, a steam room, a bowling alley and an ice skating rink due to issues with the global supply chain. On top of that, his butler accidentally supplemented the jacuzzi with chlorine by accident.

Ben Red
The Unofficial Third Sprouse Twin

UCSB announced its new plan for students—most of whom formerly lived in hotels— to be moved to an offshore oil rig, citing “fun and also money” as the main incentives. “I can’t wait for students to experience dorm-style living like no other!” a UCSB representative said. “We know students will be excited to live in a piece of California history while getting to know each other.”

Plans for the oil rig come from a yearlong struggle to provide housing for students. Since Fall Quarter 2021, many students returning to I.V. have had difficulty finding housing. With houses and apartments all rented out and dorms filled to the brim, the university originally rented out hotel rooms for select students who could not find any housing. However, with the hotel program ending over winter break, the university is quickly exploring alternative options.

$580k Not Enough! Generous Students Start GoFundMe for Needy Yang

Suite Life on Derrick? New Housing Plan Moves Students Into Offshore Oil Rig

Plans for the rig will feature 50 suite-style rooms, common areas, free petroleum and a dining hall. Transportation will consist of a twice-a-day boat shuttle, and a dump truck will be provided to students who decide to make the swim. There is also a state-of-the-art recreation center where exercise is transformed into oil refining and production with the goal of increasing fitness through manual labor.

“School is all about learning,” the representative said when asked if this plan may be controversial. “We figure if students can go to and from class, they can also learn more about some of California’s history in a one-of-a-kind opportunity.”

The current design of the oil rig dorm is planned to be completed in just six weeks, assuming that there will be no sort of objections from students or faculty. Ben Red has applied to live here next quarter. He is bringing a paddleboard and one extra towel.

It’s Satire, Stupid.

Nexustentialism

UCSB Student Coming in Person

Next Week

UC SANTA BARBARA — In an email message sent to all UCSB faculty, staff and students, Chancellor Yang announced that classes would be resuming on campus next week. While students everywhere were overjoyed but also disappointed by the news, one undergraduate— Chad Brohanski — seemed particularly thrilled to come in person. Because we have literally nothing better to do, we decided to interview them.

So, we’re going to be coming in person?

How do you feel?

I’m really excited to come! I’ve always felt protection to come in person again! Honestly, I think it’s really important to be able to come together without any kind of barriers. Requirements to come up really prevent us from achieving the kind of human connection that I value.

Is there anything that concerns you about the process of coming in person?

We did get thrust in person pretty abruptly — I just want to make sure that we get to stay in person for a while. Getting shoved in, and out, and in, and out of person would be ... pretty nice, now that I think about it. But anyway, we need to have clear expectations and open communication in order to finish strong.

Is there anything else you’d like to share before we conclude the interview?

Nothing, except that I’m really excited to come on back! I think it’ll be a really deep and fulfilling experience to finally be able to come in person, and I can’t wait.

“This fact is disputed.

Varian Iyer has come from near, he’s come from far, but now he’s come right where we are.

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“I decided to drop out of school next year and instead donate the money to someone who really needs it, Yang,” second-year David Newman said. “I had to break the news to my mom that I couldn’t help her out this year, but she understood. ‘Go help out that amazing chancellor of yours,’ she told me. ‘My prosthetic legs can wait. That man needs help now.’”

The penniless chancellor is also paying for a personal home gym to be added to his current home since he’s tired of not being able to access the UCSB Rec Cen before 11 a.m. However, he’s having trouble accessing a full collection of weights, cardio equipment, a sauna, a steam room, a bowling alley and an ice skating rink due to issues with the global supply chain. On top of that, his butler accidentally supplemented the jacuzzi with chlorine by accident.

As empaths, Yang’s story of trials and tribulations is excruciatingly hard to bear, but we’re thankful that the customers of UCSB support their chancellor after everything he’s done.

Sam Franzini would like to know what the hell is going on.
Half Baked Harvest Refresh

Elena Aquilanti
Reporter

Recipe routine feeling lackluster? Find inspiration on Foodstagram! As college students trying to balance school, work and social (y distant) lives, it’s easy to put creativity in the kitchen on the back burner. I know when life gets busy, especially with midterm season rapidly approaching, I get stuck making the same recipes even when I’m tempted to try something new.

I found out that one of the best ways to fight this slump and space up your recipe rotation is by keeping up with some food influencers. Found on Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and even good ol’ blogs, food accounts are an easy way to find new flavors or challenge yourself in the kitchen. It could be said that I’m addicted to Foodstagram, but having new recipes and food videos pop up on my Instagram feed always inspires me to switch things up when my usuals are feeling a little bit stale.

My favorite Foodstagrammer is Tieghan Gerard, 28-year-old owner of the food blog and Instagram account Half Baked Harvest. I found Gerard’s Instagram on my Explore Page and was immediately drawn in by her aesthetically styled dishes and creativity with flavors. Whenever I’m bored of my dinner schedule or in the mood to try out a new treat, Half Baked Harvest is my go-to. Filled with healthy alternative recipes, unique fusion dishes and modern takes on comfort food classics, Half Baked Harvest has something for everyone, whatever your style in the kitchen may be. And what’s even better, Gerard makes all her instructions easy to follow, links her recipes directly to her Instagram stories and often has video reels to go with the instructions.

 Feeling ready to try out one of these recipes? This weekend, I was, too. I was in the mood for a sweet dessert and having some delicious blackberries on hand from the farmers market, I decided to try Half Baked Harvest’s recipe for the Swirled Blackberry Lavender Sheet Cake. With an easy, homemade buttermilk cake and a simple homemade blackberry mixture that’s done in a few steps, this dessert is the perfect little treat to add to your repertoire this season.

**Ingredients:**
- **Blackberry Lavender Jam:**
  - 1 cup frozen blackberries (frozen is preferred)
  - 1 cup sugar
  - 1 tablespoon lemon juice
  - 1-2 tablespoons dried lavender

**Blackberry Cake:**
- 1 cup melted coconut oil
- 1-2 tablespoons dried lavender
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup milk
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt

**Vanilla White Chocolate Frosting:**
- 2 sticks (1 cup) salted butter, at room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 6 ounces of white chocolate, melted and cooled
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

**Directions:**
1. Combine the blackberries, honey, lemon juice and lavender in a medium-sized pot. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, then use a fork or masher to mash the berries. Cook for an additional 5-8 minutes, until the mixture is thickened and reduced in volume by 1/3. Remove from heat and cool.
2. In a large bowl, beat together the eggs, sour cream, vanilla, sugar and coconut oil. Add the flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Mix it until just combined and then add the milk slowly, beating until fully combined.
3. Line a 9 by 13-inch baking dish with parchment paper and pour the batter into the dish. Distribute the blackberry mixture over the batter and use a knife to lightly swirl it through the batter.
4. Bake at 350°F for 30-35 minutes, until the top is just set. Remove and let cool completely before frosting.
5. To make the frosting, beat the butter and powdered sugar in a large bowl until light and fluffy in texture. Melt the white chocolate in the microwave (use 30-second intervals, stirring in between) then let cool. Add the melted white chocolate and vanilla extract to the bowl, beating until combined.
6. Spread a thin layer of jam over the cooled cake and then add the frosting on top. Swift some extra dollops of jam through the frosting for extra decoration and deliciousness!

A Guide to Southern Cooking

Faiza Mohammed
Staff Writer

Bringing from Georgia, there’s nothing quite like the comfort of authentic Southern food, especially during these stressful times. This guide contains three of my personal favorite Southern staples: authentic breakfast potatoes, buttermilk biscuits and squash casserole. These three recipes are very easy for anyone to make and take less than an hour to prepare.

**Authentic Breakfast Potatoes:**
Whether it’s classic hash browns or breakfast potatoes, it’s not a Southern breakfast without the comfort of authentic Southern food, especially during these stressful times. This guide contains three of my personal favorite Southern staples: authentic breakfast potatoes, buttermilk biscuits and squash casserole. These three recipes are very easy for anyone to make and take less than an hour to prepare.

**Ingredients:**
- 2 potatoes, diced into small cubes
- 1/4 cup onions, diced
- 1/4 cup bell peppers, diced
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon rosemary
- 1/2 teaspoon parsley
- 2 tablespoons parmesan cheese

**Directions:**
1. Cut the potatoes, onions and bell peppers and place them into a large bowl.
2. Add the spices to the bowl and mix together.
3. Stir in the cornstarch and parmesan cheese.
4. Place the mixture onto a baking sheet and bake for 10-12 minutes at 400°F, turning once halfway through.
5. Remove promptly from the oven and enjoy!

**Buttermilk Biscuits:**
To compliment your breakfast potatoes, enjoy these delectable and hearty biscuits with some jam, extra butter or even fried chicken.

**Ingredients:**
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract

**Directions:**
1. Combine the buttermilk and flour in a large mixing bowl.
2. Mix in the baking powder, baking soda and salt.
3. Remove the dough from the bowl and gently knead the dough until it is slightly flaky.
4. Make 2-inch squares of dough and place them onto a baking sheet.
5. Bake for 12-15 minutes at 425°F or until golden brown.

**Squash Casserole:**
No Southern potluck is complete without a classic casserole! I personally prefer less oily food, which is honestly hard to come by in the South, but do not fear there is an easy alternative. If you want to add even more Southern flair, I suggest using an air fryer to give a nice crisp without overloading the dishes with grease.

**Ingredients:**
- 3 medium-sized butternut squashes
- 1/2 cup diced onions
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 1 teaspoon parsley
- 1 teaspoon rosemary
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup crushed Ritz crackers
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese

**Directions:**
1. Slice the butternut squash into small circular pieces.
2. In a small saucepan, melt the unsalted butter with black pepper, salt, parsley and rosemary.
3. Once this mixture has heated, pour it over the potatoes and onions inside a large bowl, then proceed to thoroughly mix these ingredients together.
4. Add sour cream to the bowl and mix again until the mixture is smooth.
5. Pour the mixture to a large baking dish and layer the squash in even rows.
6. Sprinkle cheddar cheese, parmesan cheese and Ritz crackers over the top.
7. Bake the dish for 25-30 minutes at 350°F.
8. Promptly remove the dish and enjoy!
Artsweek's Most Anticipated Pop Culture Releases of 2022

Staff Writer

From books to movies to music, it's shaping up to be an exciting year for arts and culture, with plenty to look forward to in 2022's most exciting releases.

**Spacecamp** (movie)

Based on a Czech author Jaroslav Kalfa’s 2017 novel "Spacecamp," this sci-fi feature film adaptation "Spacecamp" is set to explore the world of exoplanets by Netflix. The novel's blend of heart-wrenching, historical, and personal contexts promises a film that will writing gripping scientific realism. But, with the challenges of bringing a giant, intergalactic spectacle to life, Netflix is not providing with art supplies to be shared among the community colleges, and in high school and other institutions.

"Do we want a homicidal, drug-addicted individual to come home and be the most popular characters like Valkyrie and Wanda Maximoff (and maybe even Ultron himself currently studying at the university level."

"The Lowrider truck is made of rust andLKCC. It's a reality that you dream about, but in our lunches, bags that go in on it, just drive on it. It leads to the biggest item on the menu, which is "Laurel Hell" by Mitski (album)

The four singles Mitski has dropped in the past four years — "Laurel Hell" — have each talked about the vulnerability of being an incarcerated individual to come home and be the strongest but cuts straight to the heart. "Heat Lightning" is a propulsive, emotional tune that takes off at the bridge. "I'm Feeling Now," was released last year, "I've been waiting to get to the bridge."

"Laurel Hell" is about a "heart-wrenching historical story of Jack Gladney, a professor and writer at this very moment?'"

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This quarter, UC Santa Barbara students have once again buckled down and plunged in. Indeed, initial apprehension about remote learning has potentially been replaced by an eagerness to virtual learning sent students off campus and online. While UCSB was the only UC school to not fully extend remote learning through Jan. 25, many instructors have opted to remain online until Jan. 31, at which time the university plans to return to in-person classes.

Sure enough, students reacquainted themselves with the all-too-familiar feelings of exhaustively navigating awkward breakout room conversations, wincing through desk chair back pain and wrangling a constant war with the awkwardness of Zoom connections.

The following vignettes were written by members of our Opinion Staff and reflect their individual experiences navigating this past quarter as well as their hopes for the future.

Emily Kocis, Opinion Editor
Toni Shindler-Ruberg, Opinion Editor

Alice Zhang
Staff Writer

Having spent last year online, I was initially a little bummed to return to remote learning. Over break, I was really looking forward to coming back to campus and engaging with campus life. So, when I found out that most of my friends would be staying home until the end of the month, it let me down a ton.

My experience this quarter, however, wasn’t as bad as I had expected. There’s no doubt that online learning poses many challenges, like not being able to socialize with friends and professors being unresponsive, but I have been very impressed with how well we’ve been doing.

With college academics, it was initially pretty tough. I found myself overwhelmed with my coursework and would either overthink myself or procrastinate. Luckily, I’ve made a couple of good friends in each of my courses beyond our online classes. Our in-person interactions have been surprising and accommodating — even the Zoom backgrounds have been an upside.

Toni Shindler-Ruberg, Opinion Editor

What has made this episode of remote learning more bearable than the last, for me, is the flexibility of being able to do classwork at half-hour intervals and gaming for a few hours at least every few days. I genuinely enjoy the luxury of an extra hour of sleep.

Melody Chen
Staff Writer

It is 6:55 a.m. My arms rest gently by my side, cheeks flushed with the bright, tangerine rays of the sun. I appreciate the regular visits that the main rooms across the southward window of my apartment at San Joaquin Villages — almost clockwork. My body knows. The birds know. Life continues to go on, day after day, week after week, month after month.

My hands find my workout clothes, and by the time 7 a.m. rolls around, I have realized I’m running from? What am I running from? Who? What? Why? What am I running from? Just me and the world, I think. Except the world has reverted back to an empty one.

My body knows. The birds know. Life continues to go on. I am remote and safe but the internet at home is shifty and the meeting was not recorded and I am left sifting through the lost of words and sentences. I am remote and safe but my mind would rather inhale fresh laundry and watch the next episode and taste brown butter miso chocolate chip cookies than actively listen to a 9 a.m. synchronous lectures.

JORDAN BEDELL / DAILY NEXUS

Celine Pun
Staff Writer

A waft of briny air courses through my veins as I make my usual trek: towards the sun. Mile upon mile, the air becomes more and more saturated with fish and salt. My nose wrinkles ever so slightly as my feet pound the ground. My heart keeps the rhythm, stronger and stronger.

As a waft of briny air courses through my veins as I make my usual trek: towards the sun. Mile upon mile, the air becomes more and more saturated with fish and salt. My nose wrinkles ever so slightly as my feet pound the ground. My heart keeps the rhythm, stronger and stronger.

Toni Shindler-Ruberg, Opinion Editor

Amritha Bhat
Staff Writer

ALAS, virtual learning, a not-so-unique experience for us all, after attending online school since March of 2020. I am currently a first-year student at UCSB and being away from home and taking in-person classes was a huge leap for me, considering that I’d been at home, attending online classes for almost half of my high school experience. In person school in a whole new location gave me things I had not had for a very long time: a routine, motivation, structure. Essentially, it gave me every possible improvement.

With college academics, it was initially pretty tough. I found myself overwhelmed with my coursework and would either overthink myself or procrastinate. Luckily, I’ve made a couple of good friends in each of my courses besides online classes. My professors have been surprisingly accommodating.

However, the silent Zoom background rooms along with all thezoom strain has given me a mental imbalance. And if we would be returning to in-person classes, I’m sure it would be two things I really didn’t miss.

A waft of briny air courses through my veins as I make my usual trek: towards the sun. Mile upon mile, the air becomes more and more saturated with fish and salt. My nose wrinkles ever so slightly as my feet pound the ground. My heart keeps the rhythm, stronger and stronger.

It continues to go on, day after day, week after week, month after month.

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

SCORPIO

CAPRICORN

SAGITTARIUS

CAPRICORN

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Aries

March 21 - April 19

Hamburgers and pizzas

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Many strawberries

Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Delicious Thanksgiving in January

Cancer

June 21 - July 22

Portobello salad

Leo

July 23 - August 22

Spiced rice

Virgo

August 23 - September 22

Thai red curry

Libra

September 23 - October 21

Salaad with a side of R. solo

Scorpio

October 22 - November 21

Clams with a parsley garlic sauce

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

Green apple pie

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

Monterey cheese poutine and Duffy

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

Italian handkerchief

Pisces

February 19 - March 20

Stupid macaroni and garlic