

The Mission of Continuing Education

The Center for Regional and Continuing Education strengthens and expands the resources of the university to respond to lifelong learning needs.

Serving the campus

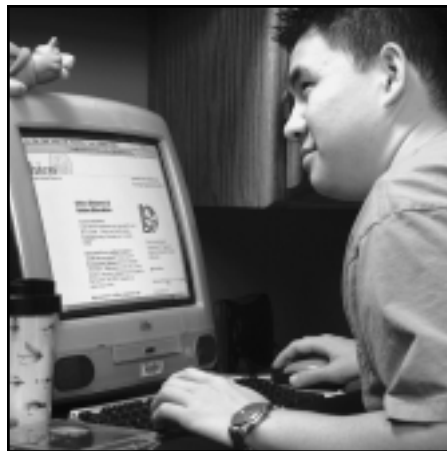
Recognizing the varied needs of the on-campus student, the center administers a schedule of credit and non-credit courses beyond the regular university class schedule. To increase access, the center administers accelerated academic sessions during the winter and summer.

Serving Northern California

As the anchor institution in Northern California, California State University, Chico serves a twelve-county service area, the largest in the CSU system. The center is dedicated to providing higher education access to this distributed population through regional programs, Open University, and the delivery of accredited degrees via distance education.

California and Beyond

California State University, Chico is internationally recognized for a wide variety of academic achievements and programs. Sharing and maintaining this public trust with the world is a primary mission of the center.



Center for Regional and Continuing Education

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Regional and Continuing Education

Programs and Services

The service area of CSU, Chico covers 32,200 square miles—approximately 21 percent of the state of California—with a resident population of about 740,000, which is approximately 2 percent of the state's total population. To accommodate the variety of demands and interests expressed by these people living in the rural areas of Northern California, the Center for Regional and Continuing Education has developed numerous programs and services.

Special Session

Special Session courses are approved course offerings available on a selected basis throughout the academic year. They carry residence credit with no limit on the number of units that can be applied to a degree program. Fees are charged on a per-unit basis and are separate from regular university semester fees.

Frequently, organizations and groups of individuals express a desire for special courses, seminars, workshops, or conferences to satisfy their own specific needs. Whether the need is for a course carrying credit or no credit, Continuing Education staff will meet with representatives of groups or agencies to plan the needed program.

Special Session courses are open to the general public and there is no formal admission requirement. Enrollment in Special Session or Extension does not constitute formal admission to the university.

Fees for courses providing university credit are listed in the Fees and Expenses section of *The University Catalog*, the Continuing Education Web site (rce.csuchico.edu), or the current printed schedule.

Open University

Open University provides an opportunity for residents of CSU, Chico's service area to have access to regularly-scheduled university classes on a limited basis, without formal admission to the university. Students select the classes they wish to attend through Open University from the current schedule of courses and attend the first meeting of the desired course to request permission of the instructor to enroll. Permission is contingent upon whether or not there is a vacancy, as well as other criteria established by the instructor, the department, or the college. Detailed instructions and Open University forms are available through Continuing Education.

Enrolling in courses offered by the College of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology requires the appropriate department chair's signature. Some colleges may require additional signatures.

Open University fees are \$130 per unit. Any debts to the university or registration holds must be resolved before registration can take place.

Students participating in classes as a regularly-enrolled student may not take classes as an Open University student. Open University students who decide to apply for admission to the university must meet all the regular admission requirements.

The maximum number of Open University units that may be applied toward an undergraduate (B.A. or B.S.) degree is 24 units. All undergraduates, as well as graduate students pursuing a master's degree, should refer to the department office of the appropriate major for the unit limit. Graduate students will also need to adjunct enroll to continue graduate status. Forms can be obtained from Continuing Education.

Open University for Disqualified Students and Students Who Have Been Denied Admission

Students disqualified and/or denied admission at CSU, Chico may be eligible to take regular university courses on a space-available basis through Open University (some restrictions apply). To participate in Open University, students will need to complete a petition form in addition to a change of program (COP) form. This form is available with the Open University registration forms and must be completed with proper signatures. Certain restrictions apply for students in the College of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology or the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and the College of Natural Sciences permit a maximum of 6 units per semester for disqualified students.

Complete Open University policies and procedures are available from Continuing Education or on the Web at rce.csuchico.edu.

Regional Programs

Regional programs support the university mission by extending educational programming and services throughout Northern California.

The Extension program offers a wide variety of non-credit courses encompassing professional development topics, classroom-based and on-line computer training, financial planning, project management, materials management, and test preparation.

In addition, Extension develops contract education and training solutions for small businesses, corporations, and government agencies.

Regional programming includes conferences designed specifically for professional development and relicensure for such professionals as registered nurses, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, social workers, counselors, and tax preparers.

Since 1975, CSU, Chico has served the region with distance learning opportunities that have made Chico a nationally recognized leader in distance education. Continuing Education delivers a variety of degree programs to individuals and corporations throughout the state.

Regional programs also serve the needs of federal, state, county, and non-profit community agencies. Initially established in the 1970's, CSU, Chico's Leadership Institute provides professional education to public service managers in areas such as leadership, strategic planning, and ethics. In 1999 CSU, Chico established programming to provide professional development opportunities for those who work with Family Court Services.

Chico Distance & Online Education

Chico Distance & Online Education offers a variety of courses and degree completion programs via the Internet using a variety of Web-based applications.

Programs available include liberal studies bachelor's degree, social science bachelor's degree, sociology bachelor's degree, bachelor's degree for registered nurses, teaching credential via FLEX, family relations minor, political science minor, psychology minor, sociology minor, concentration in career planning and development, alternative dispute resolution certificate, CLAD certificate, and paralegal certificate.

Special Session degree programs are also available through Chico Distance & Online Education including a M.S. and B.S. in Computer Science. For a comprehensive list of distance education and online courses and degree programs, visit the Chico Distance & Online Education Web site at www.csuchico.edu/online.

Students may combine Chico Distance & Online Education, Special Session, summer term, and on-campus attendance to meet the degree requirements of these programs. Advising is mandatory in all distance education degree programs.

Distance Education Technologies

In 1975 CSU, Chico transmitted its first computer science programming via a microwave link to UC Davis. From this initial project, Chico quickly expanded its video transmission capabilities to include a microwave transmission system that encompassed the community colleges and various sites throughout Northern California.

With new innovations in satellite technologies the university installed a ten-meter Scientific Atlanta "earth station" on the campus in 1983 and a Ku-band station in 1987. For more than 20 years, CSU, Chico has maintained this satellite technology for receiving and transmitting educational programs throughout the world.

In 1997, CSU, Chico demonstrated the use of videostreaming technology as a means of transmitting video images over the Internet. Today, CSU, Chico offers more than 100 online courses each year via Internet-based technologies.

In addition to educational programming, CSU, Chico maintains a state-of-the-art two-way video facility and can access meeting rooms around the globe.

ALCI

The American Language and Culture Institute (ALCI) provides intensive English language instruction and introduces the American culture and the system of higher education to international students. Many students who attend ALCI have applied for university admission and meet all other entrance requirements, with the exception of language proficiency. Non-university bound international students and adults seeking to improve their English language skills for personal and professional development also attend ALCI.

In addition to intensive English language coursework, students participate in various recreational and educational activities designed to facilitate a smooth transition to the university environment and enhance an understanding of American society. Instruction is offered year round: four seven-week sessions during the academic year and two six-week summer sessions.

