College of Natural Sciences

Twenty Reasons

to Major in Math or Science at Chico State:

1. Our class sizes for math and science majors are some of the smallest out of the 23 campuses in the CSU system, with an average class size of 10 - 15 in upper-division courses.

2. The College of Natural Sciences has one of the largest scholarship programs at Chico State, the Floyd L. English Scholarship Program, awarding $50,000 to our students each year. The average scholarship amount is $3,900.

3. 40% of our majors are directly involved in faculty research and frequently present papers at professional society meetings, giving them an edge over other applicants when competing for job placements. Often, each department covers the cost of attending these meetings.

4. Our 4,000-acre Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve provides hands-on field research opportunities for over 500 biology, geology, geosciences and environmental sciences majors, many through our Center for Ecosystem Research.

5. You will find our graduates attending a number of the best medical schools in the country including Stanford, UC San Francisco, USC, UCLA, UC, Davis, Georgetown, Albert Einstein, and Wake Forest.

6. 50% of chemistry/biochemistry majors are admitted to grad school in chemistry or biochemistry and over 90% obtain their PhD degree, which is well above the rate at other CSU campuses.

7. Our geology and environmental sciences majors have a placement rate of 90% for grad school and jobs in top-growth industries, including petroleum, groundwater exploration and environmental consulting. We place many of our students in internships leading to these jobs.

8. Major in math or science and easily find a job teaching high school. Become a high school math or science teacher and have your student loans forgiven, up to $19,500 - your education is virtually free!

9. This year our Putnam Math Team placed in the top 10%, 30th out of 400, including Harvard, Duke and MIT - this is our best finish ever!

10. Graduates of our School of Nursing enjoy multiple offers for nursing positions. Our experienced, dedicated nursing faculty will get to know you on a first-name basis. Nursing is the top occupation in terms of job growth through the year 2012.

11. Last year, of nutrition grads who applied to post-baccalaureate Dietetic Internships (required for Registered Dietitians), 88% were accepted, 21% higher than the national average.

12. Over 90% of our physics grads are either accepted into advanced degree programs or find immediate employment in a technical field.
13. For future teachers, our Chemistry and Physics Departments have the only approved subject-matter competency programs in the entire state of California under the new standards for preparing science teachers to teach at the secondary level.

14. Annually, our Center for Math and Science Education gives 250 Chico State students a service learning opportunity at the Hands-On Science Lab, visited by over 3,000 school children each year.

15. Chico State students earned almost a quarter of a million dollars through internships at the Center for Nutrition and Activity Promotion, promoting healthy eating and physical activity to school-age children and families throughout the North State.

16. Our Northern California Natural History Museum, slated for construction next year, will provide Chico State students with unique opportunities to gain experience in science education, working with visiting teachers and students from our service region, equivalent to the state of Ohio.

17. Our themed housing in Konkow and Mechoopda residence halls for math and science majors provides an environment which supports academic success.

18. Each department has at least one student club providing tutoring and other types of academic support and important networking opportunities for our students, not to mention a lot of fun social events!

19. Our college is committed to a diverse student body. Last year, over half the growth of Chico State’s increased number of students of color was in the College of Natural Sciences.

20. If you live outside of California, don’t let the prospect of out-of-state tuition scare you away. Chico State’s participation in the new Western Undergraduate Exchange means you can come here for just 150% of regular resident tuition, saving you thousands of dollars! It may even cost you less than attending college or university in your home state.

Learn more information about the College of Natural Sciences.

Check out our College brochure.

Check out the Center for Math and Science Education.

Get wrapped up in Teaching Science.

For information about Chico State, go to CSUCHico.edu.

To apply to Chico State, go to admissions.

For information about the Western Undergraduate Exchange, go to: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and Western Undergraduate Exchange.

We hope to see you next fall!