One of the U.S. News & World Report’s “Best in the West” Universities

Welcome to
California State University, Chico

2013–2014 Admissions Information

www.csuchico.edu/international
Dear Students:

I am delighted to learn about your admission to California State University, Chico. I heartily encourage you now to choose Chico as your university. We will offer you a challenging learning experience within an educational community of faculty and staff who are totally committed to your success.

Our beautiful campus is located within the charming city of Chico; in fact, we are a two-minute walk from the heart of downtown, with its restaurants, hotels, and necessary services such as banks and stores. Walking and bicycle riding are the most common means of transportation for our students because Chico is friendly, safe, and easy to navigate.

U.S. News and World Report consistently ranks CSU, Chico among the top five public universities in the West that offer master’s degrees. We rank high in retention of our students, faculty resources, graduation rates, and other measurements of academic quality.

Chico students learn how to work together both inside and outside their classes, labs, and studios. Recently, our manufacturing and technology students won the Grand Prize in a prestigious manufacturing competition. Our marketing students won the Outstanding Chapter Award. Our math and statistics students finished in the top 10 percent of one of the premier math competitions in the world. Our mechanical engineering students won the Human Powered Vehicle West Coast Competition. Our Model United Nations team earns national honors year after year. And, for the 11th time in the past dozen years, The Orion student newspaper won the prestigious Pacemaker Award for excellence. These are just a very few of the awards and honors that our students win every year.

California State University, Chico maintains one of the strongest and most respected on-campus corporate recruiting programs on the West Coast. Prestigious corporations recruit our graduates, and excellent opportunities for internships abound in Northern California and the Silicon Valley.

At CSU, Chico, we understand that attending college requires significant commitment from you and your family. We also understand that commitment works both ways. As your partner in higher education, we are committed to providing you with one of the finest academic experiences in the United States.

I urge you to join the other international students from 45 countries who attend California State University, Chico, and I hope to see you on campus soon.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Zingg, President
APPLYING FOR A STUDENT VISA

Apply for F-1 Foreign Student or J-1 Exchange Student Visa

To receive a student visa, you must convince the U.S. government officials that you intend to return to your home country after completing your education. Be prepared with a short, clear answer that explains how getting an education in the United States will help you achieve your career goals when you return home. You may have only a minute or two to convince the immigration officer, be prepared!

Apply for a U.S. visa at your nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Each Embassy or Consulate has different procedures for applying for a student visa. Check their website for more information. Be sure to follow their instructions on how to apply for a student visa. You are advised to begin this process at the earliest date allowed. You can find a link to your Embassy or Consulate at www.usembassy.gov.

Your Embassy or Consulate will have instructions for what you need to bring to your visa interview. These are some of the documents they might ask for:

- Admission letter
- I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 exchange students)
- Valid passport (good for six months or longer)
- Proof of finances
- Transcripts from prior educational institutions
- Proof of English proficiency (not required if conditionally admitted)
- SEVIS application fee receipt (I-901)
- Embassy/Consulate visa processing fee
- Medical statement from your doctor
- J-1 students may need a list of approved Chico courses

Before your visa interview be sure to pay the SEVIS application fee. You must take your receipt to your appointment. More information is available at www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm.

HOW TO GET TO CHICOS

When purchasing your airline ticket, be sure you arrange to fly into Chico (Chico Municipal Airport).

We offer free airport pick-up (from Chico Municipal Airport only) the week prior to orientation. To take advantage of this service, complete and submit the Arrival Information Form by the deadline. If you aren’t able to use our airport pick-up service, here is a list of some of the taxi cab companies you may call:

Liberty Cab 530-898-1776
Chico Cab Company 530-894-6666
Checkers Taxi 530-899-9997
ORIENTATION

At California State University, Chico, you will find many people ready to assist you in making your experience enjoyable and successful. Your welcome begins at orientation where you will meet U.S. and international students and the many people on campus who will support you during your stay. Invest in your success by attending orientation.

Fall 2013
August 20–23, 2013
Orientation begins 9 a.m.
Tuesday, August 20, 2013
Colusa Hall

Spring 2014
January 14–17, 2014
Orientation begins 9 a.m.
Tuesday, January 14, 2014
Colusa Hall

During the required orientation sessions:
• Learn about the registration process and finalize your class schedule
• Meet the International Student Advisors
• Tour the Chico State campus
• Get a Chico State ID card
• Learn about employment opportunities
• Learn about Chico State rules and policies
• Learn about immigration procedures
• Learn about sports, activities, and clubs on campus
• HAVE FUN AND MAKE FRIENDS

Please arrive the day before orientation, at the latest. It is important that you have your housing arranged before orientation begins. Each day of orientation is busy and full of information that is necessary for your success.

On the first day of orientation, bring your passport and I-20 (or DS-2019 for J-1 visa holders). Also, bring your proof of health insurance or be ready to purchase a policy, available through the Student Health Center (see page 8).

During orientation, we will cover everything you need to know about getting settled in Chico. If you have any questions or problems before orientation begins, please visit the international student advisors in Student Services Center, room 440.

We are so pleased that you have chosen CSU, Chico and look forward to meeting you!

DEADLINES

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“Chico State has offered me more than just an education. By taking a variety of classes and getting involved in social activities, I discovered who I am and who I want to be. I started off with a Health Science Education major, but now I am pursuing a degree in Biochemistry. I enjoy what I am doing and I plan to move onto a graduate school.”

Jiayang Hong
Biochemistry major
from China
CSU, Chico is committed to helping you achieve success. A few of the many offices ready to help you are listed below. These services are all free to students.

**International Student Advising**
James Luyirika-Sewagudde, Jr. and Cindy Phelps welcome and provide support to all new and continuing international students. They can assist you with your:

- personal welfare
- adjustment to Chico
- language and cultural questions
- immigration regulations and procedures
- academic concerns, University rules and regulations
- employment on or off campus
- referrals to various offices, individuals, departments, and agencies

**English as a Second Language (ESL) Resource Center**
The ESL Resource Center provides tutoring for non-native English speakers in grammar, reading, pronunciation, TOEFL preparation, homework assistance, classroom presentations, writing research papers, and vocabulary development.

**Student Learning Center**
The Student Learning Center offers tutoring in many courses, including Accounting, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Economics, Foreign Languages, Math, Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, and more. Also, it conducts workshops on time management, study skills, and test taking. It provides assistance with the process of writing—getting ideas, starting to write, and revision.

**Counseling and Wellness Center**
The Counseling and Wellness Center provides individual and group counseling services for all students. Some of the many issues they help students explore are stress, loneliness, anger, sadness, relationships, and anxiety.

**Student Health Center**
The Student Health Center provides free non-emergency medical services to students, including treatment for cold, flu, or other illnesses. Vaccinations and health insurance are available. Medicine is also available for purchase.

**Academic Advising**
The Office of Academic Advising provides personalized advising for undergraduates on course selection, general education requirements, and progress towards degree completion. Each department offers advising in the student’s major.

**Career Center**
The Career Center assists students in finding an on-campus job, searching for internships, or interviewing for jobs. The Career Center can also help you create a résumé, practice interviewing, search job announcements, or meet with a counselor to find the right career for you.

**Office of Graduate Studies**
The Office of Graduate Studies provides support and guidance to graduate students throughout their program, including applying for graduation and thesis work.
ENROLLING AT CSU, CHICO

Step 1: Check Your Chico E-Mail Regularly

The primary way CSU, Chico will provide you with important admission and registration information is through your student Portal account. If you have not already done so, please ACTIVATE YOUR PORTAL ACCOUNT NOW! (The option to forward e-mail to your personal/preferred e-mail account is available.) Your Portal login information was previously provided by your Admission Evaluator.

Step 2: Confirm Your Intent to Enroll at CSU, Chico

• Log into your Portal account.
  (There is a link on the University homepage: www.csuchico.edu)
• Click on the Admissions & Orientation tab
• Click on the Accept/Decline Admissions link
• Click on the appropriate button to accept or decline

Step 3: Register for Classes During New Student Registration Period

(see page 2)

Undergraduate Students (Bachelor’s degree)

• Freshmen and students new to studying in the U.S.:
  Your International Admissions Evaluator will register you for classes, after you complete step 2 above. You can make changes to your schedule at or after orientation. Reminder: Pay registration fees by the deadline or your classes will be dropped.
• Students transferring to CSU, Chico from within the U.S.:
  You are encouraged to register for classes using your Portal account after you have consulted with an advisor from your department. Then, follow these steps:
  1) Use the catalog and the class schedule to help you decide what classes you would like to take. Both are accessible at our homepage: www.csuchico.edu. Class numbers will be needed in order to register.
  2) Log into your Portal account and click the Records, Registration, & Finances tab, then click Enter the Student Center.
  3) Click the View Enrollment Appointment link on the right side of the page. You will only be able to enroll during these dates.
  4) Click Add a Class.
  5) Enter the class number and click the Next button. Repeat until all of the classes you want are listed in your Shopping Cart.
  6) Click on the Proceed to Step 2 of 3 button. Click on the Finish Enrolling button.
  7) Double check your registration! Go to the Student Center homepage and click My Class Schedule.
  8) If you need assistance selecting or adding classes, please contact your International Admissions Evaluator.

Graduate Students (Master’s degree)

Follow steps 1–7 above. For assistance, please contact your graduate coordinator.

Exchange Students (J-1 visas):

Directions for registration will be given to you with your acceptance packet. As an exchange student, you will have slightly different processes than other international students at the University. Therefore, it is very important that you carefully read all directions given to you by the Study Abroad Office.

Step 4: Pay Fees by Deadlines to Avoid Being Dropped From Classes (see page 5).
CSU, Chico is a public university, partially funded by the taxes paid by California citizens. Additionally, the campus is supported by fees paid by students and donations from alumni and supporters. All students pay registration fees each semester. Students from outside California, including all international students, must also pay non-resident tuition fees.

Fees and tuition amounts and acceptable methods of payment are subject to change. See www.csuchico.edu/sfin for the most current information. Students must log into their Portal accounts to see the exact amount of fees and tuition due. The following payment options are available:

**Pay by Mail:**
Make your check or money order payable to CSU, Chico. Include the following information on your check or money order. Do not mail cash.

- Print your full legal name
- Chico State student ID number
- Description of what you are paying

**Mail fee payment to:**
Student Financial Services (SFIN) – Cashiering
California State University, Chico
Chico, California, U.S.A. 95929-0999

**Pay in Person:**
You may also pay in person by check, cash, or Wildcat Card at Student Financial Services, Student Services Center, room 230.

**Pay Online:**
Once you have a schedule of classes for your first semester, you can make your payment online; go to www.csuchico.edu/sfin. You can select to pay by electronic check, from a checking account, or pay using a MasterCard, American Express, or Discover Card using CASHNet SMARTPAY. There is a 2.9 percent service fee for credit card payments. Visa cards are not accepted.

**Pay by Wire Transfer:**
We have partnered with peerTransfer to streamline the tuition payment process for our international students. With peerTransfer, you are offered excellent foreign exchange rates, allowing you to pay in your home currency (in most cases) and save a significant amount of money, as compared to traditional banks.

You will be notified via e-mail when your payment is received by our bank.

**Payments in amounts greater than actual or anticipated University charges for the semester cannot be processed and will be rejected and returned.**

### Fee Payment Deadlines

**Fall Semester**
- Registration Fees: July 31
- Non-Resident Tuition Payment: September 6

**Spring Semester**
- Registration Fees: December 12
- Non-Resident Tuition Payment: January 31
If you are transferring to CSU, Chico from a U.S. high school, college, university, or English language program, instead of an I-20, you received a Transfer Eligibility Form. We cannot issue you an I-20 until your current school transfers your SEVIS record to CSU, Chico. Remember, the school you are transferring from can only transfer your SEVIS record to one school.

After informing CSU, Chico of your intent to enroll, you can begin the transfer process. To do so, complete the top portion of the Transfer Eligibility Form. Take the form to the appropriate person at your school and request that he/she complete the lower portion. The Transfer Eligibility Form is proof of your admission to CSU, Chico, which many schools require in order to transfer your SEVIS record. Your school is asked to fax the completed form to CSU, Chico. The fax number is listed on the form.

Your new CSU, Chico I-20 will be issued after the date of release on the form. Generally, this is the last day of your final term of enrollment at your current school.

If you travel outside of the United States, you must use your new CSU, Chico I-20 to re-enter. The I-20 from your previous school will no longer be valid. Please bring your new I-20 to orientation, or to the Office of International Education to complete the SEVIS registration process and finalize your transfer to CSU, Chico.

Transfer processing must be completed prior to the end of the second week of classes.

Important Notice to Spring Transfer Students

If you plan to leave the United States during the semester break, please contact your International Admissions Evaluator to make arrangements for the mailing of your new I-20.

The Wildcat Recreation Center (WREC) is available to all students. Our students love the WREC for its state-of-the-art workout equipment and the opportunities it provides to meet and have fun with other students.

The Wildcat Recreation Center (WREC) received a Gold Rating for Green Building standards for the facility’s sustainable and environmentally conscious features. For more information please visit www.aschico.com/wrec.
**LIFE IN CHICO**

Chico is a friendly community where you can feel safe and at home. The campus is located downtown within a few minutes’ walk of restaurants, shops, and entertainment. Chico has a vibrant cultural life, with concerts, art exhibits, theatre and dance performances, and international-themed events both on and off campus.

Stores include major department stores and small specialty boutiques. In the downtown area and throughout Chico, there is an extensive selection of books, hardware, bicycles, electronics, household goods, gifts, and clothes. Among the many restaurants, you will find Italian, French, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Middle Eastern, and of course—American!

Running through the center of CSU, Chico’s campus is Big Chico Creek. Students enjoy eating and studying alongside the rushing water. A path runs alongside the creek, from the CSU, Chico campus more than 10 miles to the hills outside of town. Many students run, walk, and bike on the trail that runs along side it.

Chico’s Bidwell Park, one of the largest city-owned parks in the United States, offers picnic sites, swimming holes, sports grounds, and hiking trails. There are many places to enjoy the scenery, go for a quiet walk, or sit and read by the creek. You can also have a barbecue with friends, play a game of soccer, or go for a bike ride.

Getting around Chico is easy. Many students walk or bicycle through downtown and the surrounding areas. Students can also ride the city bus to locations outside the downtown area, like to Chico Mall, or other shopping and entertainment venues. The city bus is free for CSU, Chico students!

We strongly recommend that students open an account at a local bank. You can use both checks and ATM’s to access your money. Foreign checks and drafts take at least three weeks for bank clearance; wire transfers into your account are faster and more secure. It is advisable to bring travelers checks for your initial expenses. There are ATM machines on campus for Bank of America, Chase Bank, Golden 1 Credit Union, and Wells Fargo Bank. The ATM’s are located outside of the Associated Students Bookstore, in the Bell Memorial Union.

**CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**

Most CSU, Chico students live within 1.5 miles of campus. This creates a unique and dynamic atmosphere, with the campus being the center of social and cultural activity for students and community members alike.

Because Chico is a college-town, arts and entertainment are an important part of our city’s culture. The “Chico Performances” series brings world-class performers to CSU, Chico year-round. In addition to enjoying performing arts and entertainment, students also like to join campus clubs (we’ve got over 200!), volunteer for community service organizations, and participate in student-led recreational outings. At CSU, Chico, there are countless ways to get involved, make friends, and create lasting memories.

Chico Area Population: 105,000
Chico was Ranked #1 by Forbes Magazine’s “Best Places in America.”
Chico is home to a synagogue, an Islamic Center, a Hindu temple, and 33 denominations of Catholic and Protestant churches.
Chico experiences 4 distinct beautiful seasons. The temperature rarely falls below freezing in winter.
Official Campus Name: California State University, Chico
Students: 15,408
International Students from over 40 countries.
Student Organizations: 200+

“My best experience here was working as an intern in an art gallery downtown. Chico is a small college town, which helps with your studies. During holidays and weekends you can always drive to the big cities.”

Khulood Mulla
Management Information Systems major from Saudi Arabia
HEALTH & INSURANCE INFORMATION

Medical Concerns
The Student Health Center provides free medical services to students who are not feeling well. For the Student Health Center to be able to serve you best, please bring copies of your medical and immunization records with you so they will have a clear understanding of your medical history.

You are required to have proof of: 1) vaccination against mumps, measles, rubella (MMR) and 2) a Tuberculin blood test that shows that you are negative for Tuberculosis - within the last 30 days. If you do not have these records at orientation, you will need to visit the Student Health Center to receive the MMR vaccination and a Tuberculin blood test. For more information and immunization costs please visit www.csuchico.edu/shs and check the Frequently Asked Questions. If you are 18 years of age or younger on the first day of the semester, you must also present proof of immunization against Hepatitis B or complete the series of injections after your arrival. There is a fee for this injection series.

Health Insurance
International students are required to have a health insurance policy because health care in the United States is very expensive. A simple doctor’s visit can cost more than $100. Surgery and other major medical procedures usually cost thousands of dollars. Medications are also much more expensive in the United States than in other countries.

While the doctors and nurses at the Student Health Center can help with simple conditions, it is essential for students to have health insurance to cover the costs of medication and major illnesses. For this reason, health and accident insurance coverage is a state requirement for all students on F and J visas. Failure to comply will cause a registration and services hold to be placed on your permanent record. This will prevent you from enrolling in your second semester classes and from receiving other University services.

Your insurance policy must have these areas of minimum coverage:
- $50,000 accident or illness
- $10,000 medical evacuation
- $7,500 repatriation and return of mortal remains to home country

If you purchase a policy in your home country, be sure to bring proof of this coverage, in English, to submit to the International Student Advisors for review and approval. A health insurance policy is available for purchase through the Student Health Center. It can be purchased during orientation for approximately $1,200 for one year.

Bonnie Varghese
Computer Science major
from India

Don’t Forget!
Show proof of health insurance by the end of the first week of classes.

“Computer Science at Chico State has truly been a learning experience for me. The coursework at my department, has helped me grow in both aspects—academically and professionally. Professors here like to encourage students to grow professionally by keeping up with the current industry standards. Clubs like ACM, UPE (Honors society for computer science), Open Source Development, etc. play a significant role in the overall growth of an individual. If I had to do my Master’s all over again, it would definitely be CSU Chico.”

Bonnie Varghese
Computer Science major
from India

TODAY DECIDES TOMORROW
California State University, Chico
HOUSING—apply early!

University-Owned Housing
If you choose to live in University-owned housing, University Village is recommended for International Students. University Village offers a cluster of four bedrooms, sharing two bathrooms and one kitchen. Students who are admitted to the University can begin applying for University Housing on April 9 for the fall semester and November 5 for the spring semester. For more information, and for the online application, visit www.csuchico.edu/housing.
If you have housing questions after reviewing the website please contact:

University Housing Office
Phone: 530-898-6325, identify yourself as an international student.
E-mail: uhfsdesk@csuchico.edu

Be aware of the conditions of your housing contract! Before you sign, make sure you are willing to abide by its terms.

Non-University-Owned Housing
If you choose this option, you will want to arrive in Chico two to three weeks before classes begin to finalize your housing arrangements. There are many privately owned apartments, houses, and rooms for rent available within easy walking or biking distance of the campus. This list of websites may help you research your options before arriving in Chico:

www.rentals.chicoer.com
http://chico.newsreview.com/gyrobase/classifieds
http://chico.craigslist.org
www.csuchico.edu/housing/housing-options/off-campus-housing/index.shtml
www.craighall.com
www.hignell.com
www.reliableproperty.com
www.livinginchico.com

Temporary Housing—Available for Fall semester only
For a few days before the beginning of the fall semester, we are able to offer temporary, on-campus housing at a very reasonable price (see the Arrival Information Form in your packet for more information). Only students can stay in on-campus housing. If you will be accompanied by family members, you will need to make hotel reservations in advance of your arrival. Listed below are a few of Chico’s hotels:

Hotels close to campus
Heritage Inn Express, 725 Broadway, 530-343-4527, www.heritagehotelandgroup.com
Vagabond Inn, 630 Main Street, 530-895-1323, www.vagabondinn.com
Americas Best Value Inn, 740 Broadway, 530-343-3286, www.americasbestvalueinn.com

Hotels a few miles from campus
Best Western, 25 Heritage Lane, 530-894-8600, www.bestwestern.com
Oxford Suites, 2035 Business Lane, 530-899-9090, www.oxfordsuites.com
Courtyard Marriott, 2481 Carmichael Dr., 530-894-6699, www.marriott.com