



New Undergraduate Student Handbook

2026-2027



New Undergraduate Student Handbook

Welcome	1	Academic Support Resources and Services	34
Introduction to Handbook	1	Center for Teaching, Learning and Outreach	34
Welcome from Faculty Dean of Undergraduate Studies	2	Undergraduate Deans' Office	35
Welcome from Associate Vice President of Student Life	4	Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad	36
Welcome from ASCIT President	5	Hixon Writing Center	37
Mission of Caltech and Student Affairs, and Honor Code	6	Library	38
		Registrar's Office	39
		Student-Faculty Programs	40
First-Year Experience Overview	8	Campus Resources and Services	42
Move-In Day	8	Campus Security	42
Orientation Week	9	Emergency Preparedness	43
Rotation	10	Fire Safety	44
Introduction to the First-Year Dean and Director of New Student Transition Programs	12	Student Insurance Guide	45
Academic Support Resources	16	Information Management Systems & Services	46
Community Support Resources	18	Mail Services	47
Words of Wisdom from Caltech Students	20	Co-Curricular Activities	48
Living on Campus	22	Athletics, Recreation & Instruction	48
Dining Services	22	Caltech Y	49
Housing Office	23	Campus Activities and Engagement	50
Student and Family Engagement	24	Performing and Visual Arts	51
Student Support Services	26	Directory	52
Bursar's Office	26		
Center for Student Success	27		
Center for Inclusion and Diversity	28		
Career Achievement, Leadership and Exploration	29		
Equity and Title IX Office	30		
Financial Aid	31		
International Student Programs	32		
Student Wellness Services	33		



Introduction

Welcome to Caltech! The Undergraduate Student Handbook serves as the primary resource guide for incoming students and their families to navigate the Institute and maximize the Caltech experience.

Within these pages, readers will find a roadmap to the myriad opportunities, resources, and support systems available. Whether a student is beginning their undergraduate journey as a first-year or joining the community as a transfer student, this handbook is designed with their personal, social, and academic success in mind.

Inside, the handbook provides vital details regarding the first-year experience, campus policies, as well as key Student Affairs offices and support services dedicated to student well-being. Think of this as a go-to reference, complementing the insights shared during orientation week and the wealth of information available on Caltech's digital platforms. Since

campus life is always evolving, students and families are encouraged to check the official websites for additional resources and updates.

As this exciting new chapter begins, it is important to know that Caltech is a supportive, tight-knit community. Students do not have to navigate challenges alone; dedicated faculty, staff, and peers are here to provide guidance and encouragement at every step. Should questions, concerns, or a need for advice arise, don't hesitate to reach out to the resources listed here or connect with a friendly face on campus. We're here to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive!

Welcome

from Faculty Dean of Undergraduate Studies



It is my privilege and joy to welcome you to Caltech on behalf of the Undergraduate Deans' Office. We in the Deans' Office are excited to learn about your talents and hobbies, your hometowns and your dreams for the future. Those dreams help make Caltech the special place that is filled with ingenuity, creativity, and a sense of wonder. As you embark on your college path, the Deans' Office is here to support you, whether you're looking for course advice or summer opportunities.

I asked people across the Institute for the tips they would give to new Techers, and here is what they told me:

Don't try to do it alone. Caltech's Core Curriculum is designed with collaboration in mind. The Deans' Office can help you find study partners, academic coaches, and other support and resources you may need as you adjust to classes.

Reach out. One of the special aspects of our campus community is its closeness. Faculty want to hear from you, and your first-year faculty advisor is just an email away. If you have a question and you're not sure whom to ask, the Deans' Office is a great place to start.

Make time for the fundamentals (sleep, healthy food, relaxation). All of us do our best work when we're rested, nourished, and connected with friends and activities we enjoy. The first year at Caltech is a time not just to learn new material, but to learn how to learn in ways that are sustainable and lasting. The Deans' Office can help connect you with resources when you're feeling depleted, and we're always here to listen if you need to talk.

Get involved. There are as many ways to "do Caltech" as there are Techers. Maybe you've always wanted to try theatre or learn how to rock climb. This first year offers all kinds of ways to surprise yourself through clubs, electives, and residential life activities. And you never know. You may find an interest, hobby, or set of friendships that will shape the rest of your Caltech experience and beyond.

We can't wait to meet you! Each of you will enrich our campus through your unique blend of experiences and passion for STEM. We in the Deans' Office look forward to helping you thrive here.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Jahner
Faculty Dean of Undergraduate Studies





Welcome

from Associate
Vice President
of Student Life

Welcome to Caltech!

We are so excited you're here. I can't wait to meet you and learn more about your personal journey as you begin your Caltech experience. This is an incredible community of students, scholars, researchers, and staff, and you now play an important role in shaping its future.

Across the Institute, I – and so many dedicated colleagues – are here to support your success, both inside and outside the classroom. This handbook is a great starting point, filled with resources designed to help you make the most of your Caltech experience.

[I also invite you to watch my short welcome video where I share my excitement and some tips as you get started.](#)

Welcome again, we're so glad you're here.

Go Beavers!

Dr. Joseph D. Greenwell
Associate Vice President of Student Life and
Chief Student Affairs Officer

Welcome

from ASCIT President



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the vibrant community of scholars that is the California Institute of Technology. Our motto is “the truth shall make you free”, and nowhere else do I believe this statement to hold true than here at Caltech. Throughout your four years at the Institute you'll encounter many puzzles, challenges, and downright hair-splitting problem sets. Most of all though, you'll be taught to question. Question why this phenomenon occurs, question why jellyfish move the way they do, question what the chemical makeup of Ganymede is. In asking these questions, you'll inch ever closer to the truth, and maybe discover something new along the way.

I know moving to college can be a scary time. Living on your own, balancing a bunch of different commitments, and being a good steward of your own learning are just a few of the changes you'll have to get accustomed to here on campus. As you adapt though, never forget that you are not alone. Your peers sitting next to you in Ma1a lecture feel the same uneasiness you do about this transition, and the upperclassmen eating house dinner alongside you certainly went through the same period of adjustment just a few short years ago. Lean on them. Seek the help, the support, and advice you need to succeed here. Caltech isn't just a school; it's a shared experience, and one that's worth investing in.

I'm sure it's tempting to dive into research or specialize in a niche field as soon as you get on campus. But trust me, it will pay dividends to step off the beaten path and do some exploration first. Foster your love for the sciences (and humanities!) through Core, take that one interesting-sounding course, hang around after your pizza class to talk with the researcher a little while longer. Maybe you'll latch on to a concept, and an interest will be sparked in you. Don't be afraid to dip your toes in something new, as I think you'll find the water's not as hot as it seems.

Above all, don't lose sight of who you want to be. Caltech is the vessel that will shape you into that person, if you allow it to. When the work steadily increases or you encounter a dead end in your research, try not to throw in the towel yet. Take a deep breath, look to your left or right, and remember that you're in this with your friends together. You'll undergo changes throughout your four years at the Institute, and the peers surrounding you will be the ones shared in that camaraderie. The team at Admissions and the faculty have a knack for picking out diamonds in the rough, and I can't wait to see how brilliantly you'll shine in the sun.

Best Wishes,

Bisrat Kassahun
2026-2027 Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology (ASCIT) President



Caltech Mission

Caltech is a world-renowned science and engineering Institute that marshals some of the world's brightest minds and most innovative tools to address fundamental scientific questions and pressing societal challenges. Caltech's extraordinary faculty and students are expanding our understanding of the universe and inventing the technologies of the future, with research interests from quantum science and engineering to bioinformatics and the nature of life itself, from human behavior and economics to energy and sustainability.

The mission of the California Institute of Technology is to expand human knowledge and benefit society through research integrated with education. We investigate the most challenging, fundamental problems in science and technology in a singularly collegial, interdisciplinary atmosphere, while educating outstanding students to become creative members of society.

Student Affairs Mission

Student Affairs at Caltech supports the academic success of students and fosters their intellectual, personal, social, and professional development. Through a complement of programs, activities, and support services, we help students prepare for a lifetime of discovery, innovation, and leadership.

The Honor System

The Honor Code is the ethical foundation of Caltech, shaping the conduct of students, staff, and faculty alike. The Honor Code fosters a culture of trust at Caltech, while collaboration serves as another key pillar of the community. Reflecting the values of the broader scientific world, teamwork is an integral part of life at Caltech. Students can rely on the support of their peers and the guidance of exceptional faculty as they work through their assignments.

One of the most important roles served by the Deans' Office is that of helping students to observe and implement Caltech's community standards. For undergraduates the Honor System is enforced by two entities overseen by the Undergraduate Deans' Office: [The Board of Control \(BoC\)](#), which is composed solely of students, and the [Conduct Review Committee \(CRC\)](#), composed of students, faculty, and administrators. The BoC hears cases of academic dishonesty, whereas the CRC hears cases of non academic breaches of the Honor Code, as well as policy violations and house/club violations.

The Honor Code Handbook can be viewed [here](#).

“ No member of the Caltech community shall take unfair advantage of any other member of the Caltech community. ”

CALTECH HONOR CODE HANDBOOK

Academic Calendar

For the 2026-2027 academic calendar, [please visit this link](#).

If there are any questions, please contact the Office of the Registrar at regis@caltech.edu.





Move-In Day



Move-in Day is Saturday, September 19!

Moving onto campus is an exciting and transformative milestone, making the official beginning of a student's residential experience at Caltech.

The Move-In and Rotation Process

Upon arrival, incoming students receive a short-term housing assignment for the start of the academic year. Shortly after moving in, students have the option of participating in Rotation. Rotation is a signature, student-led process designed to introduce new arrivals to the distinct cultures and personalities of the various residential communities. This period allows students to explore different Houses and find the environment that best suits their personal and social preferences. Following the conclusion of Rotation, students then transition into their final housing assignments for the academic year.

The Rotation process is explained in more detail on the next page.

Pre-Arrival Programs and Early Move-In

Caltech hosts several programs that require students to arrive on campus prior to the general move-in date. These early-arrival cohorts include participants in the First-Year Success Research Institute (FSRI), NCAA Division III student-athletes, international students, and some other Institute-approved programs.

Because arrival timelines vary by program, students and families should refer to communications from the specific program staff overseeing these initiatives. Direct inquiries regarding early move-in dates, housing transitions, and pre-arrival requirements should be coordinated through those respective offices to ensure a smooth start to the academic year.



Orientation Week

The 2026 New Student Orientation is Saturday, September 19 to Friday, September 25.

Orientation week marks the beginning of an immersive journey into the vibrant Caltech community. This period is designed to help students foster new connections, build lasting friendships, and discover the diverse resources and support systems tailored to their academic and personal growth. The experience is centered on helping new arrivals feel at home while familiarizing both students and families with the services available to support them throughout their time at the Institute.

To ensure a seamless transition, students should regularly consult the [New Student To-Do List](#). This checklist includes critical deadlines and administrative steps essential for a successful start to the academic year. For the most current updates and detailed information, please visit the official orientation webpage.

The official **2026 Orientation Schedule** will be published [online](#) during the summer months. Students will receive a direct link via email once the details are finalized. In the interim, students and families are welcome to review highlights from previous orientation cycles on the Institute's website to gain a sense of the week's typical programming.

We look forward to hosting the incoming class and their families for an engaging and informative orientation week!



For all students moving into Caltech Housing, we've curated a list of items to bring to campus (many of these suggestions come from current students!):

WARDROBE/LINEN

- Bed sheets (twin extra-long)
- Blanket
- Pillow/pillowcase
- Comforter
- Mattress pad
- Towel set
- Pajamas
- Bathing suit
- Clothes for special occasions
- Clothes for inclement weather

HEALTH AND GROOMING SUPPLIES

- Blow-dryer
- Hair straightening curler
- Iron
- Personal-care items (soap, deodorant, etc.)
- Shower shoes

ACADEMIC SUPPLIES

- Calculator
- Pens/pencils
- Laptop
- Charging cables
- Surge protectors

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

- A few dishes (bowls, mugs, plates)
- A few pots and pans
- One or two sets of silverware

MISCELLANEOUS

- Flashlight
- Camera
- Storage containers
- Pictures of family and friends
- Small portable musical instrument
- Clothes hangers
- Laundry basket
- First-aid kit

KEEP THESE ITEMS AT HOME!

PETS

If you have an Emotional Support Animal (ESA), please find the guidelines and application materials [here](#).

APPLIANCES WITH HEATING COILS

(toasters, popcorn poppers, hot plates, etc.)

HEATING AND OPEN-FLAME DEVICES

(candles, incense, torches, fireworks, etc.)

WEAPONS/EXPLOSIVES

(firearms, chemicals, and other dangerous items)

For a comprehensive list of prohibited items in Caltech Housing, please review the [Resident Guide](#).



Rotation

Understanding the Rotation Process

Rotation is the signature process through which new undergraduate students explore Caltech's residential communities, engage with their peers, and identify their future campus home. While participation is optional, the vast majority of students choose to take part, as these events offer an unparalleled opportunity to experience the distinct personalities of the Houses and build early social connections.

The primary objective of Rotation is to ensure that students find a campus community where they feel welcomed, supported, and at home.

How Rotation Functions

Throughout the Rotation period (Wednesday, September 23 through Wednesday, September 30), students participate in a series of meals, social activities, and themed events. These gatherings are designed to introduce new arrivals to Caltech's eight undergraduate Houses and the Bechtel residential community.

By interacting with current residents and attending House-specific functions, students gain a firsthand understanding of the various residential cultures. At the conclusion of the Rotation period, participants are asked to submit their housing preferences. These rankings are then used to determine final housing assignments, aligning student interests with the diverse residential options available at the Institute.

Housing

First-year students live either in one of the houses or in the Bechtel Residence. Below are some highlights for both:

Eight Undergraduate Houses

- Separate, co-ed residential communities
- Equipped with double-occupancy bedrooms, bathrooms/showers, kitchenettes, laundry facilities, and common spaces
- Some Houses offer single-occupancy rooms (not guaranteed)
- Some Houses have triple-occupancy rooms

Bechtel Residence

- Not considered a House but available as a living option
- Offers "suite-living" with single bedrooms
- Students share a bathroom, living room, dining area, and kitchenette with others in the suite

House Membership

The Houses provide much more than a place to live. The Houses are communities that cultivate social connections and a family-like environment. Each House has unique traditions and activities, and over time each House has developed its own personality. The eight Houses include: Avery, Blacker, Dabney, Fleming, Lloyd, Page, Ricketts, and Venerable.

- Students automatically receive membership to the House they rotate into
- Students in Bechtel can also obtain a full membership to a House
- Students may apply for membership to a second House after Rotation
- House membership is not required; students can choose to be "unaffiliated" and later join a House if they change their mind

Preparing for Rotation

To ensure students and families feel fully prepared for the Rotation process, Caltech provides multiple informational touchpoints throughout the summer and orientation period. A detailed Rotation FAQ is [available here](#). In addition to the online FAQ, students may participate in a Zoom discussion in the summer hosted by Student Affairs to provide a foundational overview, periodic email updates, and an information session during orientation week that offer an opportunity for students to ask questions before the process officially begins.

These resources are designed to help students navigate the transition with confidence, ensuring they are well-informed as they begin this unique residential experience.



First-Year Experience Overview

There are two primary staff contacts, **Kristin Weyman** in the Deans' Office and **Isabel Peng** in Student and Family Engagement, to help students navigate their first year.

Kristin Weyman, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students, serves as the first-year dean. Dean Weyman provides students with academic and personal support, and helps students navigate circumstances such as illness, financial difficulty, or family concerns.



Kristin

When should students reach out to the First-Year Dean?

In short: any time students encounter academic or personal challenges that impact their performance or well-being. But there are many reasons students will come speak with a dean. Students are also welcome to stop by the deans' office for snacks, a chance to put together some Legos, or to pick up some new stickers (we're always well stocked!). Here are some common reasons students will come see a dean:

Academic Support

If students are feeling overwhelmed by coursework, or if one particular class is really presenting a challenge, please come talk through academic support options. The first-year dean helps many students connect with Peer Academic Coaches for help in a class and get assistance with things like motivation and time management through Occupational Therapy. After students receive midterm grades, the deans will check in with anyone who receives a midterm warning (a grade of C- or below), to encourage reflection and help-seeking as students adjust to the rigors of the Caltech learning environment.

Administrative Processes

The path through Caltech looks a little different for everyone. The deans manage processes like leaves of absence, underloads, overloads, and E/I (Incomplete) grades at the end of the term. If the pace of the term just doesn't feel right, a conversation about dropping a course might be useful – even if it takes students below full-time enrollment for one term (i.e. an underload). It might also be helpful to talk about taking time away from Caltech to focus on students' well-being. The deans are happy to have these conversations and to explain what different options might be available, given students' particular circumstances.

Personal Well-Being

We frequently speak with students about personal and family issues, community concerns, or health conditions that may interfere with their studies. Since these situations are usually unique, we value one-on-one conversations, and our small student body and ability to do so is part of what makes Caltech unique. The deans also manage a student emergency fund for those with unanticipated financial challenges. Come talk to the dean if there are concerns about things like unexpected medical and dental bills, emergency travel, or if there is trouble making ends meet.

Exploring Options

In the third term, students will select their option (our word for "major"). Some students may come into Caltech certain knowing what their option will be. Others may have no idea. The Deans' Office organizes an Option Fair at the end of winter term to help students navigate this decision and facilitate connections with faculty from various options. The first-year faculty advisor is a great source of guidance and will assist students with course selection and thinking about options. The first-year dean is also available to help with academic advising around course selection and option planning if there are challenges to connecting with the faculty advisor.

Bottom line: Caltech can be difficult, and it can be really challenging to be away from home and navigating many new experiences and processes. If students don't know where to go, the dean is here to help! Come see the first-year dean and we can talk through concerns and problem-solve and identify next steps together. Students can book an appointment online at deans.caltech.edu.

Isabel Peng, Director of New Student Transition Programs and First-Year Experience, leads the efforts to ensure every student has the support and resources necessary to succeed during their first year at Caltech.



Isabel

The First-Year Experience (FYE) team oversees a robust suite of transition programs designed to support students from their initial enrollment through the completion of their first year. Key components include (1) Summer Preparatory Resources, (2) Orientation Week, and (3) Year-Round Engagement.

To ensure a smooth transition, the FYE team offers multiple opportunities for students and families to engage with campus leaders and stay informed throughout the



summer months and into the academic year. Students are encouraged to review the schedule below to explore the various engagement opportunities planned for the upcoming academic year.

Summer 2026

- **Regular Communication:** The Institute utilizes students' official Caltech email address as the primary channel for all critical updates, administrative deadlines, and event invitations. Students are expected to monitor their inboxes regularly throughout the summer to ensure they receive time-sensitive information tailored specifically to the incoming class. Copies of email communication from the FYE team are also uploaded on the [orientation website](#) for easy reference. Families are encouraged to check the website periodically for general community updates.
- **Virtual Info Sessions:** Incoming students and their families are invited to participate in weekly virtual info sessions designed to facilitate a successful transition to life at Caltech. From academic resources to wellness support, these sessions will introduce students to essential offices like the Caltech Library, Hixon Writing Center, Student Wellness Services, Deans' Office, and Financial Aid—all dedicated to helping students succeed. These webinars offer a valuable opportunity to hear directly from professional staff, understand the breadth of available services, and address specific questions before the academic year commences.

First-Year Experience Overview

Fall 2026

- **New Student Orientation Week:** Orientation Week provides an opportunity for students to fully immerse themselves in campus life, discover key resources, and build lasting connections. Through a series of engaging activities and interactive sessions, students gain valuable insights into the support systems designed to help them thrive both academically and personally.
- **First-Year Caltech Connectors (FCCs):** To facilitate a smooth transition, each incoming student is placed into an orientation group with their fellow students. These groups are guided by FCCs, who are Caltech's version of orientation leaders. They are new students' go-to peer mentors and friendly faces on campus. Together with their FCCs, students explore essential student services, establish new friendships, and participate in social activities.



First-Year Experience Overview

Winter and Spring 2027

- **Beaver Updates:** Each month, first-year students receive a newsletter, *Beaver Updates*, which serves as a go-to source for important community announcements, upcoming events, and first-year student spotlights.
- **Lunch at the Athenaeum:** Throughout the year, small groups of first-year students are invited to have a meal at the Athenaeum, offering a unique chance to connect with classmates and engage with Student Affairs staff. The staff who join in are thoughtfully selected based on what's most relevant to students at different times of the year—occupational therapy during exam season, Student-Faculty Programs during SURF application time, and more. It's a great way to enjoy a delicious lunch, gain valuable insights, and build connections.
- **Family Weekend:** Families of first-year students are invited to campus for a fun-filled weekend packed with exciting activities. Enjoy receptions, engaging lectures with faculty, campus tours, musical and athletic events, and more while getting a firsthand look at students' Caltech experience. The 2027 Family Weekend will be January 29-31. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect (or reconnect!) with faculty, Student Affairs staff, and fellow families.
- **Ongoing Partnerships with Student Leaders and Campus Offices:** Throughout the year, first-year students are also invited to workshops that support students' academic and personal journey, with topics such as financial literacy, study abroad opportunities, resume building and interview skills.

BEAVER UPDATES

ISSUE 03: JANUARY 2026

Happy New Year! Each month, Student and Family Engagement (SFE) sends a newsletter with a first-year student spotlight, as well as community announcements and upcoming events that are designated or open to first-year undergraduate students.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
RIYA GUPTA

If you or anyone you know would like to be featured in an upcoming spotlight, email speng@caltech.edu

Hometown: Irvine, CA

Anticipated Academic Option: Mechanical Engineering and Business, Economics, and Management

Dream vacation destination? Iceland. As a SoCal native, I would love to visit a cold place and learn about that experience.

Favorite memories of your first-year at Caltech so far? The people! Before I came here, I heard about the infamous "yap trap" of people stopping in halls to talk (and get distracted from work). Honestly, those have become some of my favorite memories because I get to learn so much from my peers.

SFE NEWS

Registration for Family Weekend (January 30 - February 1) is open! The weekend schedule is now available on Guidebook. Please remind your family to register before the registration deadline (Jan 21). We look forward to welcoming families of first-year students to campus soon!

Register Here for

Click to Register

Friendly reminder throughout the newsletter, click on the attached PDF version to access links!

Example: *Beaver Updates*, January 2026



Academic Support Resources

Academic success at Caltech is a collaborative journey, supported by a wide range of resources available from the first term onward. Whether students are looking to strengthen study strategies, deepen their understanding of course material, build effective time-management habits, or connect with tutoring and advising, these services are designed to support their goals. Students are encouraged to explore these resources early and often – the resources are intended to foster confidence and help students make the most of their academic experience.

Accessibility Services

Accessibility Services partners with students to ensure equitable access to Caltech's academic and campus environment for students with disabilities, temporary medical conditions, or other access needs. Through an individualized, interactive process, Accessibility Services works with students to determine reasonable accommodations that reduce barriers and support full participation in courses, housing, dining, and academics. Common supports may include testing accommodations, flexibility with attendance or deadlines, note-taking resources, housing or dining adjustments, and other disability-related services.

Students can begin the process by registering and are encouraged to schedule a meeting to discuss their needs, documentation, and available support options. Appointments and consultations are available throughout the academic year.

Learn more and get started: css.caltech.edu or cass@caltech.edu.

Class of 2030 Canvas Course

Over the summer, new students will be added to a Canvas course just for the class of 2030. This course includes information about how to prepare for fall classes, as well as a first assignment: writing a letter to their first-year faculty advisor. The course will be updated throughout the year to provide new students with timely information.



First Year Advising

All new students are assigned a faculty advisor to support them during their first year and until they declare an option (major). The Deans' Office assigns first-year advisors and ensures they have up-to-date information on policies and trends, and that they are best able to assist new students in course registration and completion of the first-year core requirements. If a student has difficulty reaching their faculty advisor or needs additional guidance, the first-year dean is available to provide support.

In addition, new students are assigned a staff mentor who checks in throughout the year, connects them with campus resources as needed, and offers encouragement during the transition to college life. Together, the first-year faculty advisor, staff mentor, and first-year dean form the core academic and administrative support team for each incoming student.

Library Resources

Students' Caltech ID card and access.caltech credentials unlocks open and free access to credible and published resources to support research and academic work. [LibSearch](#) is a one stop to search across the library's collection from physical books to digital articles from Caltech's databases and repositories. Don't pay for a

journal article and use the [DocuServe](#) service to access articles or books from other institutions. Students can also borrow required reading materials for classes from Course Reserves at Sherman Fairchild Library or online for a short time. Course Reserves are listed by instructors on Canvas.

The Library is more than just access to published research. At the TechHub on the first floor of Caltech Hall, students can use basic DIY tools to sew, craft, or repair items or use the free 3D printers to print models for projects, club or House event.

For printing, there are standard black and white, color, and wireless printing. Standard printing costs 10¢ per sheet for black and white and 20¢ per sheet for color. Students receive a \$25 printing credit at the library, resetting each term.

If students are looking for places to study, there are reservable study rooms located at the main library at SFL and all library locations have open, comfortable study spaces with wifi, accessible power outlets, and whiteboards.

One-To-One Tutorial Meetings With A Hixon Writing Center Staff Member

Tutorial meetings support writers working on any kind of academic writing at any stage of the process. Students can receive guidance on getting started, approaching assignments, learning how writing varies across disciplines, assessing the strengths and areas for improvement in a draft, and responding to feedback from others. Meetings are available with both professional writing specialists and undergraduate peer tutors. Students can schedule an appointment using this [link](#) and learn more [here](#).

Peer Academic Coaches (PACs)

PACs are upper class students who have done well in various courses and now want to help incoming students succeed. Coaches are trained to help students develop effective learning skills and build a deeper understanding of course material. Students can book a PAC appointment through an online platform for almost any time of day. Coaches are paid through the Deans' Office and there is no cost to the student.

Problem Set (Pset) Workshops and Group Tutoring

Pset Workshops are dedicated, structured time for first year students to work on sets in a collaborative group environment. Problem sets at Caltech are difficult and are not designed to be done alone – collaboration is key. In fall term, pset workshops take place two nights before sets are due and are designed to help new students learn to collaborate effectively, with facilitation from trained upper class students. In winter and spring terms, PACs host drop-in group tutoring in place of pset workshops, to allow students to get more help with that week's challenging concepts.

Occupational Therapy (OT) Services

OT Services teaches students skills and strategies to improve their routines and habits. Popular topics include time management, productivity, planning and organization, study strategies, procrastination, and sleep. Don't wait for things to feel unmanageable to seek support; working with OT in week 3 or 4 allows students to strengthen their routines while things are calm so students can be prepared when stress hits. Students can make an individual appointment through the [Student Health Portal](#) or by calling (626) 395-8331. To learn more, please visit [here](#).





Steven Metzmaker
Assistant Director of Residential Experience



Mahlet Tesfaye
Grad Residential Life Coordinator



Emily Sanger
Residential Life Coordinator



Luciano Lemus
Residential Life Coordinator



Julissa Guerrero
Residential Life Coordinator

Community Support Resources

In addition to Academic Support Resources, Caltech offers a wide range of Community Support Resources designed to help first-year students thrive. While this isn't an exhaustive list, it's a great starting point!

Religious and Spiritual Inclusion

Caltech is committed to providing an inclusive environment that respects and supports individuals of all religious, spiritual, and non-religious identities. As a community dedicated to discovery, innovation, and the pursuit of knowledge, we recognize that diverse worldviews enrich our scholarship and strengthen our shared mission.

First year students are encouraged to get involved in religious and spiritual life at Caltech in ways that are meaningful to them.

First-Year Caltech Connectors (FCCs)

Every incoming student is paired with an orientation group led by orientation leaders, or FCCs. These experienced leaders guide students through fun and engaging activities during orientation week and serve as invaluable resources, offering tips and insights on how to successfully navigate life at Caltech.

Interhouse Committee (IHC)

Representative and liaison for all members of the House system, organizes Rotation, interhouse sports, and selects student members of the faculty-student committees.

Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology (ASCIT)

Undergraduate student government at Caltech that hosts events for undergraduate students, oversees clubs, and works with staff and faculty to address students' academic and non-academic concerns.

Peer Advocates (PAs)

Student leaders who are trained through a weekly one-term course to listen, provide peer support, and connect students with professional resources. PAs focus on mental health, emotional well-being, and community support.

Title IX Advocates

Student leaders who are accessible resources for students seeking information or support around issues relating to equity, inclusivity, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or other forms of discrimination.

Health Advocates (HAs)

Student leaders who respond to situations related to physical health and medical emergencies. HAs are trained in first aid, CPR, and basic medical care to assist students with minor injuries or health concerns. HAs often have first-aid kits.

Resident Associates (RAs)

Graduate students who live in undergraduate housing and provide mentorship, guidance, and support. RAs are trained in community building, mentorship, conflict resolution, and emergency response.

Residential Life Coordinators (RLCs)

Full-time professional staff members who oversee the residential experience and support student well-being. RLCs supervise RAs and advise PAs, House ExComm, and other student leaders. RLCs strive to uphold a safe and inclusive residential environment. RLCs also organize social events that foster community building.



Words of Wisdom

In addition to the wealth of professional services available to guide incoming students, here are some of the most authentic insights from Caltech students who previously navigated the same transition as a new student just a few years ago. This section provides “real-talk” advice, tips, and encouragement directly from the current student body.

These contributors have navigated the first-year Core, conquered late-night study sessions, and learned the art of balancing a social life with a heavy course load. We hope these direct perspectives will help new students feel more confident, seen, and prepared as they begin their own journey.



As a transfer student, it's completely normal to feel a little lost and need time to adjust to a new environment. Caltech offers an abundance of opportunities, and when new ones come your way, don't hesitate to give them a try. Whether it's campus resources, house leadership, academic courses, or research, you can always explore and see what fits you best. Embrace these opportunities, as you never know what might become a meaningful part of your experience."

PEIYANG SONG, CLASS OF 2026, COMPUTER SCIENCE WITH A MINOR IN ROBOTICS, TRANSFER STUDENT FROM UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA





Honestly, I tend to get overwhelmed quite easily with work and activities. Ever since I arrived, I've wanted to join clubs and societies after reading about them online.

The main issue is that there are so many options, and I find it hard to say no. Initially, it's very exciting. As a first-year student, you meet many interesting people, which helps you connect with various campus offices and access available resources. My biggest advice is to learn about everything you can participate in, be strategic in choosing what's worth your effort, and then give it your all.


For sure, DARE MIGHTY THINGS!"

CAMILLA FEZZI, CLASS OF 2028, BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY (DOUBLE MAJOR)



I wish I had known more about extracurricular opportunities earlier so I could have gotten involved sooner. I joined the Caltech Y in third term and it gave me the chance to continue tutoring middle and high school students, which I find incredibly rewarding and plan to continue through graduation. There are also project-based teams like Robotics Club, Formula SAE, and Propulsion, Aeronautics, and Rocket Systems Engineering at Caltech (PARSEC) that offer valuable hands-on engineering experience. I recommend taking advantage of campus resources like Peer Academic Coaches and getting involved in research early. Do not be intimidated about reaching out to grad students or PIs, building connections is an important part of growing here. Most importantly, just try. Your time at Caltech is valuable, so use it to push yourself academically, professionally, and personally."

OLA AMR, CLASS OF 2028, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING



Involve yourself in as many opportunities as you can, especially as a first-year student. Things like student faculty lunches, Watson lectures, pizza courses, hanging out with friends, interhouse, off-campus events, and RA/RLC events will be some of the things you remember most and the most impactful in shaping who you become. Don't jeopardize learning, but use your first two term pass/fail wisely.



If you can choose a track in your option, choose the one that lets you take the most classes you want or the least classes you don't want to take.

Taking classes you won't enjoy isn't productive; you won't take much from them. Don't let difficulty deter you, as the most difficult are often the most rewarding. If a class is a requirement, make the most of it and don't fret.





Plan your course schedule in advance. If you have an upcoming busy term, don't take more than you can handle. Take the most interesting ones and check Caltech Course Experience Questionnaires (CCEQ). You have 24 hours: ~6 for homework, ~7 for sleeping, ~2 for eating/moving around, and ~4 for lectures. That leaves 5 hours of free time. Spend 1 hour for reels and socializing, and you have 4 hours left. Plan carefully since those hours can go quicker than you hope. Most importantly, enjoy your time here. You are part of the 1-2% who got accepted from the top 1% who applied to Caltech. You should be very proud and humble that you are here. These four years will fly by and become a memory, so don't waste this time and don't half-ass it (real advice I got from a prof here)!"

ALEKSANDAR MARINKOVIC, CLASS OF 2028, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING



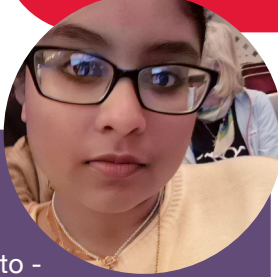

I wish I knew how helpful office hours are in learning. Whether you understand or don't, go to office hours. There's always something to take away from it. And if you don't understand, don't be afraid to ask – for those who ask, will find. Caltech is hard, but doable. So endure!"

ROBERT OTIENO, CLASS OF 2027, APPLIED & COMPUTATIONAL MATH



I really wish someone had told me how accessible and supportive the Caltech resources are. I held off on doing a lot of things - like asking for tutoring or scheduling counseling appointment - just because I thought that they'd be really hard to set up or that people might judge me. Everyone here wants you to succeed, from your upperclassmen peers in house to all of Caltech staff, and they'll do all that they can to help you, so always ask for help the moment you think you need it!"

MADI TONGCO, CLASS OF 2028, GEOBIOLOGY



"I remember how nerve-racking it felt being somewhere completely new and being on my own for the first time. There was a lot to adapt to - classes, problem sets, and just figuring out daily life, but along the way I found an amazing, tight-knit community of friends who made Caltech feel like home. My biggest advice is to lean on the people around you and try things outside of your comfort zone. You'll learn a lot about yourself and often find some of your favorite experiences where you least expect them."

KIRAN PABLA, CLASS OF 2028, COMPUTER SCIENCE WITH A MINOR IN ROBOTICS

In the next section of the handbook, take some time to explore the extensive list of student services designed to support first-year students. These tools and services are here to help students succeed both academically and personally. Whether students are looking for guidance on coursework, finding community, or navigating campus life, they will find plenty of options to make the transition smoother and the Caltech experience more rewarding.

Dining Services

Caltech Dining Services (CDS) is responsible for providing high-quality, nutritious dining for the Caltech community. From flexible meal plans to personalized dietary accommodations, we ensure every student feels supported and satisfied. Plus, our commitment to sustainability means students can enjoy their meals knowing they're good for both themselves and the planet. Whether students are grabbing a quick bite or sharing a meal with friends, CDS creates welcoming, community-driven dining experiences that bring Caltech people together.

We offer:

- **Meal Plan Advising:** Assistance in selecting and managing meal plans that best fit student lifestyles
- **Special Dietary Accommodations:** In collaboration with Student Wellness Services and Caltech Accessibility Services for Students, we meet specific doctor-advised dietary needs and religious dietary needs through individual consultations.
- **Engagement with Campus Events:** Active participation in campus events and special themed dinners
- **Sustainability Education:** Promoting environmentally responsible dining practices
- **Special Activities and Events:** We host exciting events like Midnight Madness during finals week, offering a fun and relaxing break for students. Our Pop-up Bistro events each term feature a three-course meal curated by our sous chefs, fostering connections and offering a unique culinary experience. Keep an eye on our Instagram for more information on other pop-ups like: Farmers Market and Boba Pop-up Shop



- **Extended Operating Hours:** Our units are open seven days a week, with at least one of them open Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 a.m., and Saturday to Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. during the regular school year. Services also include late meals to accommodate student athlete schedules
- **Tours:** Interested in exploring our dining facilities? Contact dine@caltech.edu to schedule a tour.

The student meal plan begins on Wednesday, September 23, 2026. For information on the student meal plan, please visit our website [here](#).

We invite new students to discover the variety of culinary options at Caltech Dining locations, from diverse meals at **Browne Dining Hall** to quick snacks at **Red Door Marketplace, Broad Cafe, and Avery Kitchen**.

Dining Plans

Anytime Plan

- Weekday House Dinners
- Weekend Brunch Service
- Weekday Open Kitchen
- Special Dinners
- All food item purchases from Browne Dining Hall, Red Door Marketplace, Broad Cafe, Avery kitchen:
 - Breakfast
 - Lunch
 - Dinner
 - Snacks

Flex Plan

- Weekday House Dinners
- Weekday Open Kitchen
- Special Dinners
- Declining balance can be used at any dining location for:
 - Breakfast
 - Lunch
 - Dinner
 - Weekend meals
- Purchases exceeding Meal Plan funds will be charged to student's Bursar's Account
- Unused funds at the end of the term are forfeited

Contact

- 🌐 dining.caltech.edu
- ✉️ dine@caltech.edu
- ☎️ (626) 395-2900
- 📷 @CaltechDining



Housing Office

The Housing Office provides convenient and comfortable housing to undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and guests participating in Institute-sponsored programs. Our staff focuses on housing operations, including:

- Maintenance requests
- Upgrades and changes in the residences
- Room selection and the housing lottery
- Summer conference services

Guaranteed Housing for Incoming Students

New students are assigned to one of the eight undergraduate houses or the Bechtel Residence. Students receive a temporary housing assignment that remains in place until the end of Rotation at the start of the fall term.

A Pro Tip for Move-in: For move-in, students are advised to hold off on fully unpacking, as most relocate after Rotation once their final housing assignment is confirmed.

Fall Term Assignments

- Students who arrive early for First-Year Success Research Institute (FSRI), fall athletics, international-student orientation, and other approved academic programs will receive their temporary housing assignments upon arrival to campus.
- Students who arrive on September 19, 2026 will receive information about their temporary housing residence one week prior, but will not receive their specific room number until check-in on September 19.

Special Housing Arrangements

If students have a need for special housing arrangements due to a disability, please register for accommodations through Caltech Accessibility Services for Students. This can include:

- Emotional support animals
- Service animals
- Need for a single room
- Need for an unlofted bed



Housing Contract Requirement

All students with a housing assignment are required to complete a Housing Contract to secure their placement. Contracts are sent electronically via Adobe Sign in July, and students should monitor their inbox for notification.

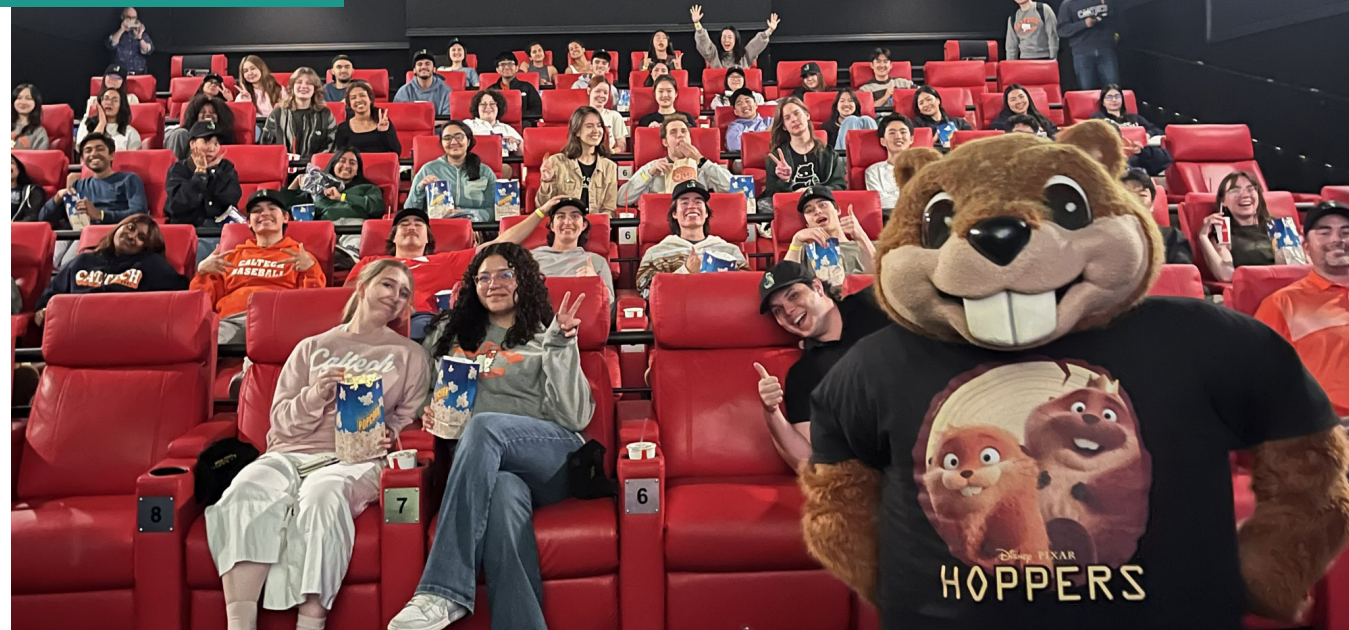
The contract must be signed by August 1, 2026, to finalize housing. For students under the age of 18, the contract is sent to both the student and a parent or guardian for signatures.

Throughout the academic year, our office is here to help make students' first year at Caltech smooth and comfortable. We provide:

- Summer housing for FSRI participants and fall athletes
- Temporary housing during orientation and Rotation
- Assistance with room moves to students' permanent assignment after Rotation
- Year-round maintenance services to keep the housing space in top shape
- The Stewardship Committee, where students can share ideas to improve campus housing
- A chance to paint murals in the North and South Houses – leave an artistic mark!

Contact

- 🌐 housing.caltech.edu/undergrads
- ✉️ ughousing@caltech.edu
- ☎️ (626) 395-6176
- 📍 414 S. Holliston Ave. (Center for Student Services, 1st Floor)



Student and Family Engagement

Student and Family Engagement (SFE) supports the academic and personal growth of all Caltech students by fostering safe, engaging, and inclusive environments that enhance learning and personal growth. Our office also works closely with families to provide a comprehensive support system for each student's success.

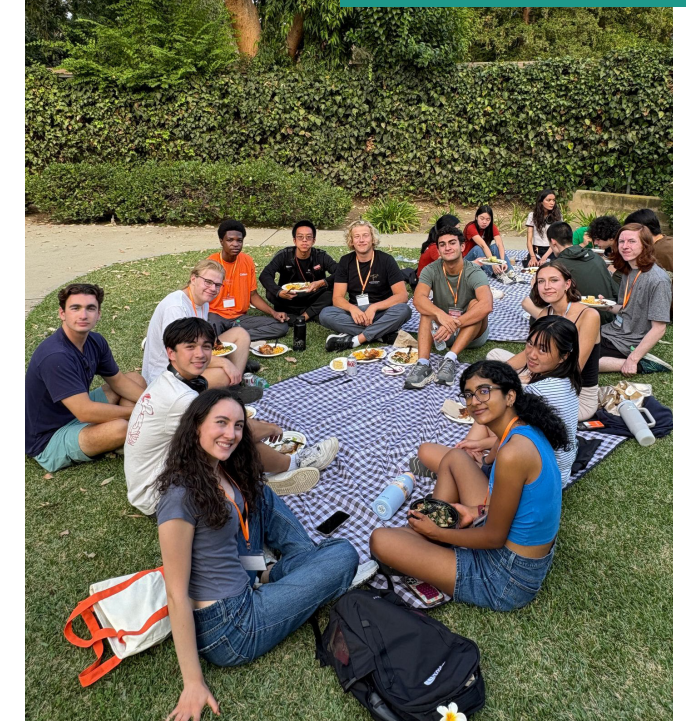
SFE comprises the following areas: New Student Transition Programs and First-Year Experience, Family Programs, Residential Experience, Student Engagement and Event Management, Finances and Operations, and the Faculty in Residence Program.

Our work is focused on these main objectives:

- Welcoming new students and families to the Institute
- Encouraging students' learning and development through academic and co-curricular programming
- Connecting families to Caltech and their students' experiences
- Engaging students in the community through clubs, events, and leadership opportunities
- Responding to individual and campus emergencies

Supporting First-Year Success: Orientation, Resources, and Community Building

SFE plays a pivotal role in facilitating a smooth transition for incoming undergraduate students by hosting new-student orientation week, connecting students to resources for academic and personal success, and fostering a supportive campus community. Through strategic initiatives and collaborative efforts, we hope to create a positive first-year experience that sets the foundation for students' academic and personal growth.



Our office supports undergraduate students in their first year at Caltech by providing:

Pre-Arrival and Orientation Support

- Summer resources (e.g., virtual info sessions, online learning modules, etc.) prior to students' physical arrival to campus
- New-student orientation upon arrival
- Rotation in the beginning of the fall term

Academic and Residential Support

- Academic support workshops
- Residential programming with residential life coordinators (RLCs) and resident associates (RAs)
- Student-faculty interactions in an informal setting, through the Faculty in Residence program

Social and Campus Engagement

- Monthly newsletter highlighting announcements and events for first-year students
- Opportunities to get involved on campus through clubs, organizations, and leadership positions
- Social and educational events on and off campus (e.g., monthly lunches at the Athenaeum, financial literacy workshops, trips to local sporting games, musicals, museums, movie premieres, and more.)

Contact

sfe.caltech.edu
SFE@caltech.edu

(626) 395-6321
 255 S. Hill Ave



Bursar's Office

The Bursar's Office is responsible for maintaining the accuracy of student tuition and fee accounts, as well as overseeing the billing process to ensure timely and accurate billing statements for students, faculty, postdocs, and club and House accounts. We are responsible for reviewing tuition and fees and approving account adjustments and accurate student refunds. In addition to collecting and disbursing funds, the Bursar's Office manages third-party billing, outside scholarships, and installment tuition payments.

As administrators for the Caltech and Institute loan programs, we can help answer loan-related questions.

Financial Support Services for New Students

We are here to support incoming undergraduate students with billing, collecting tuition and fees, processing payments, issuing refunds, managing student financial records, and addressing inquiries related to financial matters.

New students can find information on our website regarding balance due dates, online payments, payment plan options, and FAQs here: bursar.caltech.edu/newstudents.

Welcome letters for new incoming students will be uploaded to the student's portal in access.caltech.edu on August 13, 2026. The letters can be accessed through "My Student Documents."

The first billing statement for fall term will be released September 11, 2026.

- **Students receiving financial aid:** To avoid a late fee please be sure you have turned in all necessary documents and accepted your award letter by August 31, 2026.
- **Students using a 529 plan to pay:** You will need to request payment from your 529 plan as soon as the statement comes out on September 11 to make sure the payment arrives on time for the September 28 due date. (The 529 checks take about two-to-three weeks to receive by mail.)



Deadlines

Financial-Aid Documents

August 31, 2026

To avoid late fees, ensure all documents are submitted and the award letter is accepted.

First Billing Statement for Fall Term 2026

September 11, 2026

Billing statements will be released.

529 Plan Payment Request

September 11, 2026

Request payment as soon as the statement is released to ensure timely arrival.

529 Plan Payment Due Date

September 28, 2026

Payments from 529 plans should be received by this date. Estimated check arrival is two-to-three weeks.

Tuition & Fees Due Dates

Term	Tuition & Fees Due Date
Fall 2026	September 28, 2026
Winter 2027	January 4, 2027
Spring 2027	March 29, 2027

Contact

bursar.caltech.edu (626) 395-2900
 414 S. Holliston Ave. bursar@caltech.edu
 (Center for Student Services, 1st Floor)

Center for Student Success

The Center for Student Success brings together key resources to help students navigate the full arc of their academic journey, supporting them not just academically, but as whole people.

Whether students are managing the intensity of coursework, navigating a disability, or facing personal challenges, we're here to ensure that no one falls through the cracks.

Our mission is to ensure every student has access to the tools, guidance, and support needed to thrive – academically, personally, and beyond. Whether students are requesting accommodations through accessibility services, seeking support from the CARE Team, or simply trying to figure out where to turn when things feel overwhelming, we're here to help.

Accessibility Services

Caltech Accessibility Services for Students (CASS) provides equitable access for students with disabilities and medical condition -- whether permanent or temporary.

How We Help

- Academic accommodations
- Housing accommodations
- Dietary accommodations
- Support for neurodiverse students
- Ongoing case management

Contact

414 S. Holliston Ave.
 (Center for Student Services)

Jocelyn Vargas
 Accessibility & Neurodiversity Specialist
jocelynv@caltech.edu | [Calendly](https://calendly.com) | Room 248

Christopher Barragan
 Director, Center for Student Success
cbarraga@caltech.edu



Start the Process:

1. [Complete Accessibility Services Registration Form](#)
2. Submit documentation from a licensed provider
3. Meet with a case manager (via Calendly)

2026-27 Deadlines for Incoming Students

- May 5:** Housing & Placement Testing requests open
- June 9:** Deadline for Testing Accommodations
- June 19:** Deadline for Housing Accommodations
- Sept 1:** Deadline to ensure Academic Accommodations for Fall term

Students can register for accommodations at any time during their Caltech journey, this deadline is only for those that wish to have approved accommodations by the first day of classes.

Learn more about accessibility services here: css.caltech.edu

CARE Team

The CARE Team is a multidisciplinary group supporting students through:

- Mental health & well-being
- Academic & social adjustment
- Crisis response & referrals

When to Reach Out:

- Mood/behavior changes
- Absences or missed assignments
- Social withdrawal
- Talk of self-harm or suicide
- Academic burnout or distress

Submit a private referral: caltechcares.caltech.edu

Center for Inclusion and Diversity



The mission of the Caltech Center for Inclusion and Diversity (CCID) is to enhance the experience of all Caltech community members holistically through education, advocacy, cultural exchange, leadership development, and coalition building. We serve as a hub of resources and partner with various stakeholders to advance inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) at the Institute and within the scientific community.

The CCID hosts various events throughout the year, including affinity spaces, cultural exchange opportunities, cultural holiday celebrations, LGBTQIA+ community celebrations, identity development programs, IDEA-related dialogues, and IDEA-related workshops. CCID programming, support structures, and campus organizations are open to anyone in the campus community, regardless of race, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual identity, and/or any other protected characteristic.

The CCID signature programs and events are the First-Year Success Research Institute (FSRI), Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF), the Inclusive Leadership Recognition Certificate Program, the STEMinar Speaker Series, the Unpacking Hate Series, the Dine and Dialogue Series, and the annual Celebration of Excellence event.

CCID is the perfect place for first-year students to connect with students, staff, and faculty to find community and opportunities for learning and development.

How does the CCID support incoming undergraduate students?

- Year-round programming and advising support (one-on-one and in groups)
- Office hours for one-on-one support and advising of multiple clubs and organizations
- Affinity spaces each term on the programming slate for students to connect with others with similar identities, experiences, and allies.
- Ongoing Affinity Groups: First-Gen Students at Caltech & Women's Engagement Board
- Cultural exchange programs, cultural celebrations, and educational workshops

Affinity groups and spaces are open to everyone, regardless of race, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual identity, and/or any other protected characteristic


First-Year Summer Research Institute (FSRI) and QuestBridge:

The CCID supports first-year students participating in the First-Year Success Research Institute (FSRI) program and the Caltech QuestBridge chapter through support programming during the transitional summer and throughout the academic year.

FSRI's first-year programming includes a comprehensive summer orientation and a year-round educational program comprising an engaging research project and community-building activities. The program also helps students adapt to a collaborative learning environment, build a solid research foundation, receive dedicated staff-and-faculty mentorship, and develop meaningful relationships within a community.

The Caltech QuestBridge chapter hosts programming throughout the year to welcome new QuestBridge scholars to campus and foster community among them.

Contact

 ccid.caltech.edu
 414 S. Holliston Ave.
 (626) 395-6207 (Center for Student
 ccid2009@caltech.edu Services, 2nd Floor)



Career Achievement, Leadership and Exploration

Career Achievement, Leadership, and Exploration (CALE) is dedicated to helping Caltech students, postdocs, and recent alumni turn their ambitions into reality. Whether students are exploring career options, planning next steps, or actively applying to grad school, med school, industry roles, or entrepreneurial ventures, CALE is here to support students at every stage of their journey. From personalized career advising and application reviews to on-campus recruiting and alumni networking, we provide the resources that open doors. Plus, we oversee on-campus student employment, helping students gain valuable experience along the way.

Our values include:





- **Collaboration:** We are a community of dreamers, builders, and innovators, working together to turn aspirations into achievements.
- **Empathy:** We approach the world, ourselves, and the future with understanding, compassion, and a commitment to positive change.
- **Integrity:** In our work, character, and responsibility as scientists and engineers, we hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards.
- **Diversity & Inclusion:** We celebrate different perspectives and experiences while recognizing that inclusion is an ongoing journey of growth.
- **Dependability:** As the foundation of all successful future endeavors, we strive to be a trusted and unwavering source of support for the Caltech community.

Our office supports first-students by providing:

- Targeted programming and resources throughout the academic year, including résumé building and networking workshops
- Support for exploring and deciding among SURF, internships, and other options
- Opportunities to engage with alumni, faculty, recruiters, and more-senior students regarding career exploration and planning for summer
- Finding work-study and other on-campus employment opportunities such as research in a lab

As first-year students adjust to college life – both academically and personally – it is important to recognize that this transition takes time. Students are encouraged to give themselves the space to find their rhythm and avoid feeling pressured to take on too much at once. By pacing themselves and prioritizing their well-being, they can better navigate this period of change. Support is available to help students explore professional development opportunities whenever they feel ready.

Contact

 career.caltech.edu
 414 S. Holliston Ave.
 (626) 395-6361 (Center for Student
 cale@caltech.edu Services, 3rd Floor)



Equity and Title IX Office

The Equity and Title IX Office serves the entire Caltech community, including staff, postdoctoral scholars, faculty, students, and those participating in education programs at JPL. We provide support, guidance, and resources to address concerns about unlawful harassment, sexual misconduct, and discrimination. Our work ensures compliance with Title IX, Title VII, state law, and Caltech policies while fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment.

We empower the Caltech community by offering:

- Clear guidance on options to address concerns
- Preventive education and outreach to promote awareness and inclusivity
- Informal and formal resolution pathways under Caltech's policies and procedures

Our processes and preventive measures focus on promoting respect and inclusion. By treating everyone fairly and working transparently, we provide response options and training that support our community, address problematic behavior, and reflect our commitment to a safe campus.

Our mission is to eliminate barriers so that every member of our community can reach their full potential. We work collaboratively to create a campus free from discrimination, unlawful harassment, and sexual misconduct using education, outreach, and intervention to drive meaningful change. Together, we can build a safer, more inclusive Caltech where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

We actively engage with community members, including faculty, staff, and student House leadership, peer advocates, and Equity and Title IX Advocates, to develop training and events. Our goal is to equip individuals with

the tools to be active observers, trauma-informed peers and colleagues, inclusive community builders, and positive influencers on campus.

For first-year students looking to deepen their understanding and make a difference, we offer the Equity and Title IX Advocate program. This program provides in-depth training on policies, trauma-informed support, and bystander intervention, while connecting individuals to resources. Want to get involved or learn more? Email our office for details on these opportunities!

The team includes:

Lynzie De Veres, Assistant Vice President Equity, Equity Investigations, Title IX Coordinator
ldeveres@caltech.edu | (626) 395-3130

Paula Knop, Administrator
pknop@caltech.edu | (626) 395-1790

Mackenzie Stewart, Deputy Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Resolution Specialist
mstewart@caltech.edu | (626) 395-4424

Lauren Lockwood, Deputy Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Resolution Specialist
lauren@caltech.edu | (626) 395-4424

Campus Sexual Violence Advocate (Confidential Resource)
confidentialadvocate@caltech.edu | (626) 395-4770

Contact

equity.caltech.edu | 414 S. Holliston Ave.
 (626) 395-3132 | (Center for Student Services, 2nd Floor)
equity@caltech.edu



Financial Aid

Caltech Financial Aid is dedicated to providing access to educational opportunities in support of student success by offering need-based aid in alignment with the principles of vertical and horizontal equity, while attending to the distinctive needs and resource disparities of our students.

Caltech Financial Aid plays a crucial role in supporting incoming undergraduate students by helping them receive and navigate financial assistance for their education through:

- **Application Assistance:** Providing guidance on the financial aid application process, helping students understand the required documentation and deadlines
- **Financial Aid Decisions:** Notifying and explaining to students the types and amounts of financial aid they are eligible to receive
- **Individual Counseling:** Offering one-on-one appointments for students to discuss their unique situations and receive personalized guidance
- **Financial Aid Appeals:** Reviewing appeals for additional financial assistance in consideration of special circumstances, such as sudden changes in financial situation
- **Communication:** Communicating important updates, reminders, deadlines, and eligibility information to students throughout the year

New students are able to accept their financial aid offers in the early summer when access.caltech log-in credentials have been provided by the Information Management Systems & Services (IMSS) department. All aid should be accepted by and all related loan documents should be completed by the end of July to ensure the timely disbursement of aid in the fall.

Other relevant information for new students:

- Deadlines for applying, accepting, and changing financial aid: finaid.caltech.edu/applying/deadlines
- Policies related to maintaining financial aid eligibility: finaid.caltech.edu/policies
- Information for appealing the financial aid offer: finaid.caltech.edu/appeal
- Federal loan information: finaid.caltech.edu/typesofaid/loans/stafford

Contact

finaid.caltech.edu | 383 S. Hill Ave.
 (626) 395-6280 | Schedule a Meeting
finaid@caltech.edu



International Student Programs

International Student Programs (ISP) believes Caltech thrives as a diverse international community. ISP supports international students in pursuit of academic, professional, and personal goals through individualized immigration advising, intercultural programming, and advocacy.

ISP provides a friendly, welcoming space in which to advise international undergraduate, graduate, and non-degree students, as well as recent alumni on all immigration-related matters. We are here to help if students have questions regarding:

- Visa acquisition and renewal
- Internships and post-completion employment authorization
- SEVIS (Student & Exchange Visitor Information System) transfers

Important documents to bring when entering the U.S.:

- Passport
- Valid student visa (Canadian citizens exempt from visa requirement)
- Printed Caltech admission/decision letter
- Printed SEVIS document (I-20 or DS-2019)
- Printed SEVIS I-901 fee receipt (downloadable from fmjfee.com)

iBegin@Caltech is a special orientation for international students to meet ISP team members and to participate in welcome activities to start their journey at Caltech, **Friday, September 18 through Saturday, September 19, 2026.**

ISP Signature Programs and Collaborations

- **Globe Troopers** is the summer intramural softball team that welcomes players of all levels. Students are encouraged to come to learn the game and have some fun in the summer sun.
- **ISP Art&Soul** is a monthly event for international students and allies to explore creative expression through rotating mediums (visual art, storytelling, music, movement, and more), guided by student facilitators and guest artists.
- **Immigration Roadmap** is an annual series designed to help international students navigate the intersection of U.S. immigration and employment opportunities in industry, academia, and entrepreneurship.
- **International Education Week** features presentations and conversations showcasing the global impact of academic collaboration and discovery and highlighting the vital role of international education and partnerships in advancing knowledge and innovation.
- **International Students Association at Caltech (ISAC)** is a student club and an important partner with ISP, as ISAC aims to enrich the international student experience and build lasting global connections through social events, cultural exchanges, mentorship programs, and advocacy
- **World Fest** is a week-long celebration of international diversity on campus, featuring global food, music, and engaging presentations. Co-sponsored by the Caltech Y.

Contact

international.caltech.edu/about/isp
 414 S. Holliston Ave.
 (Center for Student Services, 2nd Floor)
 (626) 395-6330
isp@caltech.edu



Student Wellness Services

Student Wellness Services is committed to supporting the health and emotional well-being of Caltech students. Our office consists of health, counseling, and occupational-therapy services. We support our students through providing caring, inclusive, and individualized health care.

- Office visits, events, and workshops are free to all enrolled Caltech students
- Services are not dependent on enrollment in any insurance plan. You may choose to keep your existing home insurance plan or elect the student health insurance plan for coverage

Health Services

- Comprehensive care: offering primary care and urgent visits for illnesses or injuries
- Guidance and referrals: your first point of contact for health needs, including referrals for specialty care, imaging, and specialized testing
- Convenient lab services: onsite lab draws with processing through Labcorp

Counseling Services

- Sessions are confidential and free to enrolled Caltech students
- Plans are holistic and individualized depending on a student's needs
- We offer short-term counseling, consultations, and crisis support
- We facilitate workshops, groups, and referrals to community providers

Occupational Therapy

- Teaches practical skills and strategies to improve your routines and habits
- Popular topics include time management, productivity, organization and planning, and sleep

Our office also offers a range of workshops and groups throughout the year. Examples of workshops include:

- Caltech Connect: suicide prevention training
- Mindfulness meditation
- Getting better sleep
- LGBTQ+ support group

How to book online for health and occupational-therapy appointments

1. Log onto the [Student Health Portal](#).
2. Select **Appointments**.
3. Select **Schedule an Appointment** and select desired service (Health or OT) when prompted.

Health checklist for new students

Before students dive into college life, there are some health entrance requirements to complete in the summer. Submit all required information through the Student Health Portal by July 29, 2026 (it opens in June!). Our health team will review students' info and let them know if anything is missing so there is time to handle vaccines or blood work before arriving on campus.

If students haven't submitted their info or contacted Health Services by the first day of classes, the registrar will drop their classes for the fall term. Yikes! Let's avoid that.

To help students prepare:

- ✓ Gather your vaccine records and health info **ahead of time.**
- * Keep an eye on the **New Student Health Entrance Requirements** section on the [Student Wellness Services website](#).
- ➔ Monitor your Student Health Portal **Secure Messages** for important messages from **Student Wellness Services.**

Contact

wellness.caltech.edu
 (626) 395-8331
 Health and Counseling
 1239 Arden Rd. at Student Wellness Services South
 Occupational Therapy
 1245 Arden Rd. at Student Wellness Services North

CENTER HOURS
 Monday – Friday
 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 (Closed on Institute holidays)

LAB HOURS
 Monday – Friday
 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 Wednesdays
 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 (closed 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.)

Center for Teaching, Learning and Outreach

The Center for Teaching, Learning, and Outreach (CTLO) supports Caltech's multifaceted educational efforts, including undergraduate and graduate courses and curricula, formal and informal teaching and learning, and partnerships with PreK-12 teachers and students.

The CTLO is committed to advancing evidence-based, inclusive practices through our programs and services, and to fostering innovation based on this foundation.

Our office supports undergraduate students at Caltech by providing:

University Teaching offers programs and services to Undergraduates to support Caltech's culture of peer-to-peer learning, studying, teaching, and mentoring such as:

- Training for the Peer Academic Coach program
- Learning Resources for improving your study habits and helping you to study smarter, not harder
- Specialized Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (UTA) orientation
- Ongoing collaboration with the Undergraduate Academics and Research Committee (ARC), such as the Student Guide to Filling out TQFR's (course feedback surveys)
- Workshops for the Course Ombuds program, which facilitates communication between students and the teaching faculty

Outreach offers several opportunities for Undergraduates to connect to the broader educational community in Pasadena and beyond. PreK-12 outreach support includes:

- Mentoring and tutoring opportunities with local middle and high school students
- Educational outreach office support for development and implementation of hands-on demonstrations and lessons designed for PreK-12 students
- Coordination and support for campus clubs that bring PreK-12 students and families to campus or that visit local PreK-12 schools
- Seminars and workshops for students interested in outreach

The Undergraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning (UGTL) equips students with foundational knowledge and practical skills for effective teaching and learning in higher education. Participants learn to apply evidence-based teaching theories, design and assess engaging instructional strategies, reflect on and improve their own learning practices, and foster inclusive learning environments. These strategies can be applied while at Caltech as a TA or Peer Coach, and prepare those interested in pursuing future faculty positions.

Prior to arriving on campus, students can access resources on our website, ctlo.caltech.edu, to learn more about:

- Caltech's Peer Academic Coaching program: What is a PAC? How do students prepare for a successful coaching session?
- The difference between Peer Academic Coaching, Office Hours, and Recitation Sections
- Learning strategies to be successful during the students' Caltech academic career – work smarter, not harder!

Contact

ctlo.caltech.edu 414 S. Holliston Ave.
 (626) 395-8427 (Center for Student
ctlo@caltech.edu Services, 3rd Floor)



The Undergraduate Deans' Office

The Undergraduate Deans' Office fosters the academic and personal growth of undergraduate students through counseling and support. We encourage students to see one of the associate deans about any matter, large or small. We are available to discuss academic concerns, personal well-being, community issues, or plans after Caltech. We work closely with faculty and other student affairs staff to help students overcome obstacles and achieve their goals.

One of the other important roles served by the Deans' Office is that of helping students to observe and implement Caltech's community standards. To that end, we play a supportive role to the Honor System and are also responsible for the enforcement of Institute policies.

The office manages academic components of New Student Orientation, is responsible for a number of student-centered grants and funding sources, and offers peer academic coaching, as well as other academic-support programs.

Our Team

Jennifer Jahner
Faculty Dean of Undergraduate Studies,
Professor of English

Lesley Nye
Senior Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students

Kristin Weyman
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students
and Dean of First- and Second-Year Students

Maura McDinger
Director of Conduct and Community Standards

Therese Bagsit
Operations Lead

Sara Loredo
Office Assistant

Make an appointment with one of the deans or a member of the professional staff [here](#).



Contact

deans.caltech.edu 414 S. Holliston Ave.
 (626) 395-6351 (Center for Student
deansoffice@caltech.edu Services, 2nd Floor
 Mail code: MC 210-87 Room 210)

Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad



The Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad (FASA) Office provides advising, resources, and workshops to help students navigate Caltech's official Study Abroad/Away programs and supports students and alumni apply and prepare for domestic and international fellowships.

Study Abroad/Away can be done during students'

Junior or Senior year at Caltech, usually in the Fall term. Applications are due the year before (Sophomore or Junior year) and students are only able to be away for one term. The earliest students may apply to study abroad is January 25, 2028, when applications for the 2028-2029 academic year exchange applications are due.

The FASA Office also supports undergraduates with a Summer Study Abroad Fellowship (Bishop) and Summer Travel Prize (SanPietro) as well as assistance in preparing for application to graduate fellowships.

If students are considering a master's degree, a PhD, a year of research abroad, or a gap year to pursue a personal project, our office offers resources to plan for fellowship and scholarship opportunities during their undergraduate years. We host annual information sessions and provide guidance throughout the application process.

Fellowships, funded by federal agencies or private foundations, generally fall into three main categories: funding for graduate study abroad, STEM-focused fellowships, and broader fellowships that either support STEM fields or are open to students from all disciplines and are awarded based on criteria beyond a chosen field of study.

During the summer and fall, FASA offers individual advising appointments as well as special walk-in hours for students interested in learning more about fellowship opportunities and the application process.

First Year At A Glance From A Student's Perspective:

Fall Term

You just arrived at Caltech, and your first year is a good time to begin considering studying abroad. Key tips to plan ahead: Look at your upcoming class schedule, review what classes to take, and consider what year would be best for studying abroad.

During this term students can:

- Attend the Welcome to Study Abroad information sessions.
- Review the different [partner universities](#), look over applications and surveys from previous Study Abroad participants. We have binders that are specific to your option in the FASA Office Library.

Winter Term

First year students are eligible to apply for a summer study abroad fellowship through the Amasa Bishop Summer Study Abroad Fellowship. Interested students should attend the information session during this term and visit the [Bishop Fellowship web page](#) for more information.

Spring Term

Undergraduate students do not apply for graduate fellowships until their junior year or fall of their senior year, however, first-year students may attend fellowship information sessions (e.g., Watson, Fulbright, Gates, Churchill, Rhodes, or Marshall) to learn about these options early on. A strong academic record is essential for these fellowships, as are non-academic activities. You can begin building the foundation for fellowship applications by joining clubs, pursuing leadership positions, participating in community service, and building professional relationships with faculty for strong references.

Contact

fasa.caltech.edu
(626) 395-2150
[@fasa.caltech](https://www.instagram.com/fasa.caltech)
FASAOoffice@caltech.edu

414 S. Holliston Ave.
(Center for Student
Services, 3rd Floor)



Hixon Writing Center

The Hixon Writing Center (HWC) assists Caltech students in becoming better writers and communicators, supporting their success in coursework, research, and career preparation. Its resources can be used when struggling with a writing task, but they are also beneficial when students aim to elevate their work from good to great.

The HWC assists undergraduate students at all stages of the writing process, from brainstorming at the start of a project to reviewing work in progress or consulting on the final polishing or editing of a piece. This support is offered through in-person and online [one-to-one meetings](#) with [professional writing specialists](#) and [peer tutors](#) focusing on the writer's goals. Students regularly meet with us to reach the following goals:

- Understand a writing assignment
- Overcome writing procrastination
- Brainstorm and generate new ideas
- Make a plan for an important writing project
- Understand a new genre or style of writing
- Identify and reach a particular audience
- Find targeted resources and models
- Identify strengths and weaknesses in a draft
- Enhance the clarity of writing
- Respond effectively to feedback from a professor
- Gain confidence in writing and enjoy the writing process

Contact

writing.caltech.edu
(626) 395-3706
writing@caltech.edu

414 S. Holliston Ave.
(Center for Student
Services, 3rd Floor)

Academic Writing Assistance

We work with writers in all academic disciplines. We support writing across academic genres, including lab reports, abstracts, proposals, research papers, argument-driven essays, research proposals, and slide decks/presentations.

Application Writing

We also support students who are composing writing for competitive fellowships, internships, and jobs. We recommend that students start working on fellowships with the [FASA](#) office and visit [CALE](#) to begin their search for internships and jobs.

Workshops and Events

Students in some humanities courses will attend small group workshops organized by their professors in the Hixon Writing Center. The center also hosts events and workshops to support student learning, such as an introduction to writing a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) proposal.

Becoming a Peer Tutor

Undergraduates who enjoy supporting peers and are strong academic writers may consider [applying to join our team](#) as a peer tutor. We recruit new tutors annually during the winter term.



Library

The Caltech Library partners with students, faculty, and staff across the Institute in the creation, dissemination, and discovery of knowledge. We are dedicated to supporting student success, fostering curiosity, and informing decision-making by providing access to credible resources, research support from specialized librarians and expert staff, and comfortable spaces.

Search, Borrow, and Request

Students have access to physical and digital collections of books, articles, databases, media, and rare and unique materials. Search across all our collections through LibSearch, the Caltech Library's online search discovery center. The Caltech ID card and access.caltech credentials act as a library card to borrow items, place book holds, check item due dates, and renew loans.

Textbooks assigned for courses are available for short-term use from the Library's Course Reserves collection, both physically and digitally.

Students can also conveniently request outside research materials from other institutions through our DocuServe interlibrary loan service and request items to pick up from our main Sherman Fairchild Library location.

Locations and Essential Resources

We are one library with six locations across campus. Each location has separate building hours and available collections and services.

Most locations include reservable and walk-in spaces, rooms, and booths for events, group collaboration, and

private study, as well as standard black and white, color, and wireless printing. Standard printing costs 10¢ per sheet for black and white and 20¢ per sheet for color. Students receive a \$25 printing credit at the library each term.

Sherman Fairchild Library

Sherman Fairchild Library (SFL) is the main library on campus and is open late throughout the week and even later during midterms and finals. Visit SFL to:

- Borrow a Course Reserve book
- Pick up online hold requests from LibSearch or DocuServe
- Borrow an ebike, sensory kit, or HDMI cable
- Check out monthly displays and exhibits
- Book a private group study room or attend a movie night, workshop, or a de-stress event

Caltech Hall

On the first floor of Caltech Hall, the TechHub makerspace is home to:

- The 3D printing lab
- Large-scale poster printing and scanning
- Laptop, camera, and other major equipment lending
- The tabletop board game collection
- and do-it-yourself machines and tools for research and community projects
- Additionally, the Lookout on the ninth floor is an open and flexible collaboration and study space with expansive views of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Division Libraries

The libraries located in Dabney, Cahill, and North Mudd contain specialized subject collections – humanities, astronomy and astrophysics, and geology, respectively – with open study spaces and basic printing services.

Caltech Archives and Special Collections

The Caltech Archives and Special Collections house rare and unique materials from Caltech's history and the history of science more generally, from the letters and research notes of Caltech scientists to books from the Scientific Revolution. Learn more at archives.caltech.edu and visit by appointment.

Contact

 library.caltech.edu  library@caltech.edu
 (626) 395-3405

Registrar's Office

The Registrar's Office is here to help students navigate their academic journey at Caltech. From course registration to graduation, we manage student records, enrollment, and key academic policies. Incoming first-year students may have questions about:

Enrollment & Course Selection

- The fall schedule: we build it based on students' preferences
- How to register for classes online through REGIS (the Registrar's Information System)
- What to do if students need exceptions or adjustments

Academic Policies & Requirements

- Grading policies for core, introductory, and advanced courses
- Understanding core requirements and how to track students' progress with the degree audit

The Registrar's Office also handles all things related to academic records. Need official documentation? We've got students covered with:

- Enrollment verifications: Track down proof of the student status for insurance, scholarships, or other needs
- Grades: Access academic performance
- Transcripts and academic records: Request official and unofficial transcripts anytime
- FERPA compliance: Student records are protected, and we ensure their privacy rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Advising on Procedures & Requirements

- Fall schedule approval: Make sure any changes to the fall schedule are approved by the advisor by the end of the first week of classes. Have questions about core requirements? Start by consulting the advisor, and if students need further clarification, we're here to help!
- Core requirements and policies: We have a [web page](#) summarizing core requirements straight from the catalog. Keep in mind that incoming first-year students will follow the 2026-27 catalog, which will be published in September 2026.



- Requesting an academic exception: Need to request an exception for course enrollment or core requirements? Begin by speaking with a Registrar's Office team member—we'll guide students through options and the process.

Managing Your Academic Eligibility

At the Registrar's Office, we're here to help students stay on track with their academic goals! To remain enrolled for the next term, students must meet [eligibility requirements](#) by the first day of classes. Generally, this means:

- Completing at least 27 units per term
- Maintaining a 1.9 GPA and earning a total of 108 units by the end of the year

Be mindful that extensions (E or I grades) can impact students' eligibility. If there are questions or concerns, our team is here to help navigate different scenarios and ensure students stay on track.

Contact

 registrar.caltech.edu  414 S. Holliston Ave.
 (626) 395-6354 (Center for Student
 regis@caltech.edu Services, 1st Floor)



Student-Faculty Programs

The Student-Faculty Programs (SFP) Office provides leadership to undergraduate experiential learning initiatives, including undergraduate research with SURF as our primary program; develops and implements resources that support effective and inclusive mentoring practices; and contributes to campus diversity efforts, including the recruitment and support of graduate students from racially minoritized and historically marginalized communities in STEM.

What to Expect from SFP during Students' First Year

Through the admissions and orientation process, first-year undergraduate students hear a lot about the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) program. During the academic year, particularly in the Fall and Winter Terms, the SFP Office provides advising support to all students interested in doing a SURF while at Caltech. From educating students on why research matters to walking them through the application process, our events and programs include:

- Participation in Orientation Week
- Weekly drop-in advising sessions with SFP staff
- Research Ambassadors provide peer-to-peer advising and support on a residential level
- Information sessions hosted by the SFP Office
- Collaboration with campus partners
- Discover JPL, a programming series which aims to promote the research opportunities available at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)

In addition to advising students on how to pursue undergraduate research at Caltech, our office works to highlight the innovative work completed by our students. Some of these events include:

- SURF Seminar Days (one in the Summer Term and one in the Fall Term)
- Doris S. Perpall SURF Speaking and the Gee Family SURF Poster Competitions
- Undergraduate Research Week

Information about all of these events and programs can be found on our webpage (sfp.caltech.edu) via the Calendar tab. Throughout the academic year, our office communicates important events and deadlines through campus directory email.

Tips for First-Year Students

Our office strongly encourages first-year undergraduates to begin exploring research areas of interest as soon as possible. This can be done by attending Pizza Courses and option seminars, talking to upper-class students, reaching out to the SFP Research Ambassadors, and browsing the various option websites.

Students can also enroll in "Learning How to SURF," which is a no-unit course, offering tips and advice on navigating undergraduate research opportunities at Caltech and beyond.

Contact

 sfp.caltech.edu
 sfp@caltech.edu

 (626) 395-2885
 315 S. Wilson Ave.



Campus Security

Caltech Security and Parking Services supports Caltech's research and educational mission by providing extensive security and safety services to the campus community. Faculty, students, staff, visitors, and guests of the Institute are welcome to contact Security for immediate incident response, including emergency medical response, safety escorts, lockouts, access and card systems, parking permits, investigations, and many other services.

The Department is led by Chief Hampton Cantrell and supported by a team of more than 35 security professionals, including management staff. Eight Special Response Officers (SROs) are certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). Campus Security conducts patrols and provides security services 24 hours a day.

Emergency Communications

New students: please confirm your contact information is up to date in My Personal Information in access.caltech.edu to receive emergency notifications called Caltech Alerts. Caltech Alerts are also posted on caltech.edu/emergency.

The Institute has 28 emergency telephones located throughout the campus. These telephones dial directly to Security. Each unit has operating instructions.

Quick Tip for Incoming Students: Add your emergency contact information through your [access.caltech](https://access.caltech.edu) account. Choose someone who is at least 18 years old and can reliably be reached in an emergency. It's best to list a parent, guardian, or another trusted adult. We recommend not listing siblings or others who are under 18.

Emergency Preparedness

Emergencies can happen at any time, often without warning. There are a few things every new student should do in order to be prepared for emergency situations. Learn about them [here](#).

Caltech has planning and response teams prepared to respond to emergencies, including natural and human-induced disasters. These plans are continuously reviewed and exercised to ensure a state of readiness. Caltech's [Emergency Preparedness website](#) provides information on emergency procedures, training opportunities, and resources on personal preparedness.



Personal Security Tips

Protect your personal belongings by keeping laptops, phones, and wallets with you at all times, especially in shared spaces like libraries, lounges, and hallways. Lock your doors and windows during the day while in your residence, and always secure them at night or whenever you step out, even for just a moment. A few simple precautions can go a long way in keeping our campus safe for everyone.

Parking on Campus

All vehicles parked on campus must display a valid parking permit, which can be purchased through the [Parking Office](#). Discounted rates apply for owners of qualified low-emission vehicles.

Other Services:

- Caltech students can receive a [Free Metro Pass](#), which is valid for unlimited rides on all Metro bus and rail lines, as well as many local bus systems, including Pasadena Transit.
- Caltech students can register their bicycles through Campus Security, which will help identify a bike if it is lost or stolen and later found. Security will provide a free U-lock when students register.
- Caltech students can [register for Zipcar](#) at the discounted rate of \$35 per year. There are four Zipcars housed on the Caltech campus. Zipcars can be rented by the day or by the hour for the fees listed in the Zipcar registration with the membership plans.

Contact

security.caltech.edu
EMERGENCY: 626-395-5000
NON-EMERGENCY: 626-395-4701
 e.g., requests for escorts, general questions

Emergency Preparedness

Emergencies can occur unexpectedly at any time. Caltech has dedicated response teams ready to handle both natural and human-induced disasters.

The Caltech Emergency Preparedness [website](#) offers details on emergency procedures, training programs, and personal preparedness resources.

To stay prepared, every new student should review the following steps:

1. Learn What To Do in Emergency Situations

- Take time to learn specific emergency procedures for responding to particular events, e.g., earthquakes. This information can be found on the Caltech Emergency Preparedness [website](#).
- Once on campus, students will be provided with additional information about their residence's emergency plan, evacuation routes, and assembly area.

2. Stay Connected and Be Informed

- During an emergency, official information will be sent through [Caltech Alerts](#) and posted on the Caltech [website](#).
- Keep your personal contact information up to date in access.caltech.edu to ensure you will receive emergency information. Please include a current cell phone number to receive Caltech Alerts via text and phone call. Students can add family contact information to the "add another phone" option.
- Download the Everbridge 360 app. The Organization Code is "Caltech". You will receive Caltech Alerts and be able to communicate with Campus Security directly. Instructions for download [here](#).
- Make a communication plan for your family, including how everyone will reach one another in different situations. If you live locally, identify an out-of-state contact in case Los Angeles area codes become overwhelmed. A text message may be the best way to get in touch.

3. Prepare a Personal Emergency Kit

Students can make one or buy one from a variety of vendors or at the Caltech Store.

Here is a list of personal preparedness items that may be helpful to have:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water (2 gallons per person per day) | <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine (30-day supply) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonperishable snacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight and batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Local map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone charger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> ½ tank fuel in your car, if applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash (small bills and coins) | <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries/personal sanitary items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First-aid kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket (foil or fabric) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dust mask | |





Fire Safety

Fire Safety Information for New Students from Caltech Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S)

Prevention Starts With You

Kitchen Safety

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Stay nearby while food is heating or popping
- Burnt food creates smoke that can activate alarms
- Use ventilation (fans/windows) when cooking

Charging & Battery Safety

- Use manufacturer-approved chargers only
- Do not charge devices on beds, couches, or under pillows
- Avoid overcharging — unplug when fully charged
- Stop using damaged, overheating, or swelling batteries

Electrical Safety

- Extension cords are not allowed for permanent use
- Use UL-listed power strips
- Do not overload outlets
- Replace damaged cords immediately

Open Flame & Heat Sources

- Candles are not permitted
- Space heaters are not allowed unless approved
- Open flames and unauthorized heaters are major fire risks

Be Prepared & Know What To Do

Know Your Exits

- Identify at least two ways out
- Keep exit pathways clear
- Never block doors or stairwells

Know Your Equipment

- Locate fire extinguishers and alarm pull stations
- Use extinguishers only if trained
- When in doubt, evacuate

If the Fire Alarm Activates

- Evacuate immediately
- Close doors behind you
- Move to a safe location
- Wait for the all-clear

Contact

safety.caltech.edu
 Campus Security: x5000 or (626) 395-5000

Kim Yu | Fire Safety Specialist
kim.yu@caltech.edu (626) 395-6727

Student Insurance Guide

All registered students must have medical and dental insurance, either through Caltech's student plans or other coverage that meets Caltech's waiver requirements.

The bullets sections summarize what to do, what to know, and where to go for help. Visit the student website at hr.caltech.edu for detailed information and to learn more.

Action Items

- Students must actively choose to ENROLL or WAIVE Caltech's student medical and dental insurance plans — even if they are returning and waived last year
- Vision insurance is optional, and enrollment is required
- The waiver/enrollment period will begin in July and end in August. If students do not make a choice by the August deadline*, they will be automatically enrolled and billed for medical and dental insurance

**After the deadline, students generally cannot enroll or waive coverage unless they have a qualifying life event (e.g., loss of other coverage) and complete the request within 60 days.*

Coverage Dates and Costs

- Medical is effective and billed by insurance terms:

Fall: Sep 1–Dec 31

Winter: Jan 1–Apr 30

Spring/Summer: May 1–Aug 31

- Dental and vision are billed in full once per year and coverage is active from September 1st to August 31st
- Visit the Student Benefits website at hr.caltech.edu for current cost information

Overview of Caltech Plans

Anthem Medical: Designed to cover routine, urgent, and emergency care while students are on campus, at home, and traveling (including abroad). Students can visit any doctor or hospital, but they will generally pay less when they use Anthem in-network providers.

Common in-network cost examples*:

- Telehealth (LiveHealth Online): \$0 for enrolled students
- Mental Health Office Visits: \$0 for the first 25 visits
- Routine / urgent care office visit: \$15 copay

**Review the insurance carrier's plan summaries for coverage details.*

Anthem Dental: Helps cover routine and preventive dental care (e.g., exams/cleanings) plus other services like basic and major dental work; students will generally pay less when they use Anthem in-network providers.

EyeMed Vision: Helps cover routine vision care such as an annual eye exam and either glasses (frames/lenses) or contact lenses, with the best savings when using EyeMed in-network providers.

Contact

Enrollment/Waiver Questions or Issues

During the summer's enrollment/waiver period, contact Anthem at sae_member_support@anthem.com or (833) 332-0797 M-F (8 - 6pm PT).

Outside the enrollment/waiver period, contact the Caltech Benefits Office at hrbenefits@caltech.edu or (626) 395-6443.

Plan Questions

What's covered, ID cards, in-network providers, claims: Contact the insurance carrier directly.

Anthem is available at (833) 332-0797 and Eyemed is available at (866) 800-5457.

Extra help navigating Anthem

Caltech's Anthem Concierge at (626) 395-6628 or caltech_anthem_concierge@caltech.edu.

General Questions

For general questions, billing, and everything else, contact the Caltech Benefits Office at hrbenefits@caltech.edu or (626) 395-6443.

Checklist for New Students

- [Review the Student Website](#) to understand your Caltech insurance options and to ensure you have proper access to care while on campus.
- Enroll or submit your waiver by the August deadline.
- Find in-network providers (primary care physician, specialists, urgent cares, dentists, optometrists, etc.) so you know where to go for care when you need it.
- Download the Sydney Health app (Anthem) and access your digital medical and dental ID cards. (If applicable).
- Download the EyeMed app and access your digital vision ID card. (If applicable).
- Save your insurance contacts (Anthem and Eyemed) and the Caltech Benefits Office in your phone. (If applicable).



Information Management Systems & Services

Information Management Systems & Services (IMSS) provides essential computing support, including email and calendar, voice and data networks, software, research computing, and information security.

Prior to new students' arrival, they will receive their Caltech account details via the email address used in their application.

Get Started with Your Caltech Account

- [Your Caltech Account](#) provides access to campus-wide online tools.
- [Duo \(multi-factor\) authentication](#) is required to access Caltech systems, including email, registration, and courses.
- [access.caltech](#) online portal provides centralized tools and services. Log on and "Set Security Questions" to recover your password if needed.

Connect to the Caltech Network

Before connecting to the Caltech network, ensure your operating system and software are updated with the latest security patches, run antivirus software, and enable a firewall.

Wired, Wireless, and VPN access

- [Caltech Secure](#) is the main wireless network
- [Eduroam](#) for wireless network access worldwide
- [Virtual Private Network](#) (VPN)

Get Started with Key IT Services

Microsoft M365

- [Email and calendar](#)
- [Teams](#) for messaging, collaboration and file sharing
- [OneDrive](#) cloud storage

Canvas for online learning and course management

Collaboration, Storage & Backups

- [Box](#) cloud storage
- [Crashplan](#) secure cloud backups for your PC
- [Google Workspace](#) for cloud storage, messaging, calls
- [LabArchives](#) electronic notebook for research data
- [Zoom](#) video conferencing

Information Security

- [Cybersecurity Recommendations](#) for new students
- [Cybersecurity Essentials Training](#) under Course Catalog > Computer Security
- [DMCA Infringement](#) copyright-infringement policy
- [Duo and MFA](#) policy
- [Generative AI Guidelines](#)
- [Password Guidelines](#)
- [Spot Phishing Scams](#)

Site-Licensed Software

- [software.caltech.edu](#) webstore for Matlab, Mathematica, SolidWorks, etc.
- [Microsoft software for students](#)

Mail Services

Mail services provides on-campus mail delivery and facilitates external delivery and receipt of packages and letters. All undergraduate mail is processed and distributed at the Tech Express, located in the Keith Spalding Building lobby. It is staffed Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Package Shipping Guidelines

Incoming students' mail service codes (MSC code) will be emailed in advance of students' physical arrival to campus. Mail services can begin receiving packages two weeks prior to students' arrival on campus.

For example:

If your arrival on campus is...	You may send packages starting...
Sunday, August 9, 2026	Sunday, July 26, 2026
Saturday September 19, 2026	Saturday, September 5, 2026

Please do not send packages early, as the facility does not have space to hold items.

Mailbox

Students' mailbox assignment remains the same while they are an active student. If students go on leave or withdraw from Caltech, the mailbox is not held and will be reassigned to a different student. Mailboxes should be checked daily.

Use the following address format for all inbound mail and packages sent via the U.S. Postal Service and express carriers (e.g., FedEx, overnight services, OnTrac, DHL, Amazon, etc.). Each incoming student will be assigned a unique MSC number, which will be sent to them via email prior to their move-in date.

Undergraduate Student's Legal Name
MSC Number
1200 E. California Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91126

Student Tips for Sending Mail/Packages:

- Use your legal name (avoid using nicknames unless they are also listed in the directory)
- Do not use a parent's name
- Keep your online directory address updated through [access.caltech.edu](#)
- Mail services is closed on weekends and Institute holidays
- Once your items arrive on campus, mail services staff will directly email you to retrieve your items at the Tech Express. Your items are not ready until you receive an email from us, rather than the sender

Mail Services Offers:

- Campus mail distribution
- Undergraduate mail delivery
- Mailbox key distribution (and replacement key if needed)
- Full-service post office
- Special services (certified, delivery confirmation, insured, registered)
- Processing of outgoing mail
- Priority Mail and First-Class Mail
- Stamps and shipping supplies
- Accepts outgoing intercampus mail
- Accepts prepaid packages and letters
- FedEx Ship Center offering discounted rates to the Caltech Community
- Fax services
- Passport photo services

Contact

- [imss.caltech.edu](#)
- [\(626\) 395-3500](#)
- [help@caltech.edu](#)
- [367 S. Holliston Ave., Room 204](#)

Contact

- [mailservices.caltech.edu/mail-services](#)
- [1200 E. California Blvd.](#)
(Keith Spalding Building, Room 104)
- [\(626\) 395-3703](#)

Athletics, Recreation & Instruction

The Department of Athletics, Recreation & Instruction (ARI) is dedicated to supporting the health, well-being, and enjoyment of all members of the Caltech community. Whether students are looking to stay active, compete, or simply enjoy recreational activities, ARI offers a wide range of opportunities. From physical education classes and intercollegiate athletics to intramural leagues and informal recreational programs, its offerings are designed to promote well-being and encourage a balanced lifestyle.

The Caltech Athletic Complex is the heart of our community, where we come together to train, play, get fit, and explore new skills and perspectives. Learn more about the facility and check hours [on our website](#).



Recreation Membership

Enjoy an all-access recreation membership—included for all undergraduate and graduate students! Just swipe in with the Caltech student ID and enjoy a wide range of fitness and recreation options:

- Tennis courts, pickleball courts, pools, gyms, track and field spaces, as well as open spaces
- Climbing wall and bouldering cave
- Cardio and strength equipment available, with three weightlifting areas
- Weight room and equipment orientations
- Intramural leagues and teams for club sports
- Free group-fitness classes including: HIIT, Pilates, spin, barre, yoga, and more; [sign up for classes online](#).

Physical Education Courses

- All undergraduates are required to complete nine units of PE.
- PE courses help students learn new skills and increase knowledge in a different way than in the classroom.
- Courses satisfy a range of interests and abilities.
- Discover a new hobby or pursue a passion you already have while improving fitness, reducing stress, and earning units.

Intercollegiate Athletics

- Caltech Athletics is home to 16 NCAA Division III Intercollegiate Athletic Teams.
- Approximately 30% of our undergraduate students participate in NCAA team sports.
- Home events are free and open to our community.
- Team schedules and live streams can be accessed via the [GoCaltech.com website](#).
- Student-athletes can expect direct communication from the coaching and athletic administration staff regarding team updates, NCAA eligibility, and medical clearance.

Contact

- ✉ Recreation and PE hmorgans@caltech.edu
- ✉ Intercollegiate Athletics carly@caltech.edu
- 🌐 gocaltech.com
- ☎ (626) 395-3253
- 📍 1200 E. California Blvd.

Caltech Y

The Caltech Y's mission is to enrich student life and challenge students to grow into responsible citizens of the world. For more than 100 years, the Caltech Y has supported the lives of Caltech students through a variety of programs and services initiated and led by students. Our work is guided by five pillars: Perspective, Leadership, Adventure, Civic Engagement, and Service (PLACES).

As a student-led organization, the Caltech Y operates under the vision and direction of student leaders. Here are some of our signature programs:

Educational & Civic Engagement

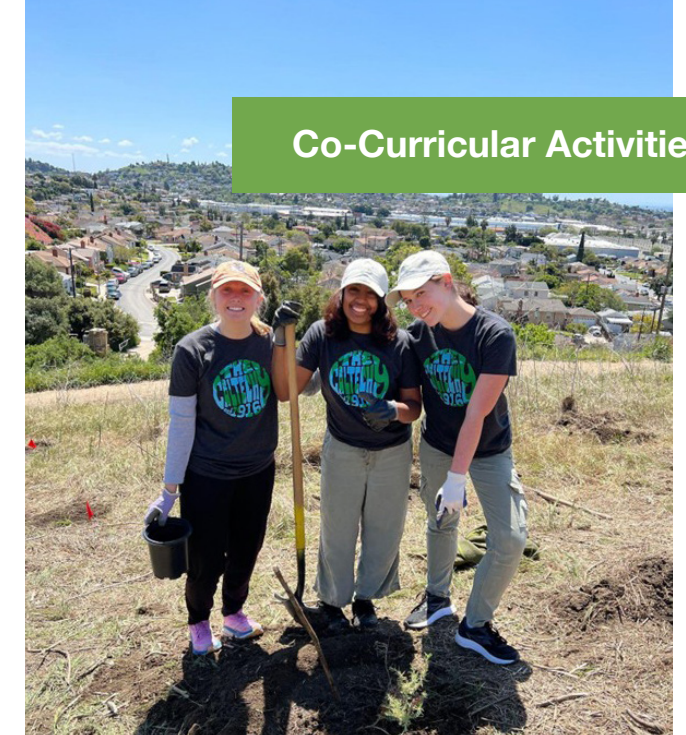
- **Alternative Break Trips** – Domestic science policy in DC, cultural immersion in India, sustainability in Hawaii, global policy in Geneva, and more (changes annually)
- **Student Activism Speaker Series** – Engage with renowned scientific and humanitarian leaders

Outdoor Adventures

- **Y Hike (Yosemite Pre-Orientation)** – Start Caltech with community while hiking in the Sierras. Incoming students will receive more information about the Y Hike opportunity in the summer
- **Equipment Rentals** – Affordable outdoor gear for the Caltech community

Community Service

- **Make a Difference Day** – A campus-wide day of service across LA
- **Rise Tutoring** – Mentor local 8th–12th graders in math and science on campus 4 days a week



- **LEAP (Lab Equipment Access Plan)** – Donated lab equipment delivered to under-resourced public high schools
- **Union Station Homeless Center** – Volunteer to cook and serve dinner

Culture & Community

- **World Fest** – A week of international celebration with performances and global cuisine
- **Cultural Cuisine Tours** – Explore LA's food scene through authentic restaurants and student leaders
- **Explore LA** – Museums, plays, sporting events, concerts, and more

Exploration & Travel Awards

Over \$50,000 awarded in funding for cultural exploration, service and advocacy, conferences, public policy engagement, and personal growth, applications open in October

Lead with Us

- **ExComm** – Oversees all Y programs and major initiatives
- **Y-Outdoors Committee** – Plans trips and adventure programming
- **SASS Committee** – Focuses on policy, activism, and world issues
- **LEAP (Lab Equipment Access Plan)** – collects science equipment to donate to under resourced high schools

Contact

- 🌐 caltechy.org
- ✉ caltechy@caltech.edu
- ☎ (626) 395-6163
- 📍 505 S. Wilson Ave.



Campus Activities and Engagement

Caltech is a fast-paced, high-achieving environment, and student life extends well beyond academics. Campus Activities and Engagement provides opportunities for students to unwind, connect, and grow outside the classroom. Whether students are looking to de-stress, build lasting friendships, develop leadership skills, engage in volunteer work, or connect with alumni, the office offers a wide range of resources and programs. It supports students in finding balance, enjoying their time on campus, and creating meaningful experiences that shape their Caltech journey.

Events and programs are designed to integrate seamlessly into students' demanding academic schedules, offering a balance of work and recreation. Opportunities include:

- Exploring creativity at Techstock
- Innovating at Hacktech
- Celebrating Pi Day
- Participating in Ditch Day
- Contributing to Caltech's tradition of pranks

With alternative interhouse events and a variety of other activities, students have numerous opportunities to build leadership skills, connect with peers, and fully engage in campus life.

Tom Mannion, senior director of Campus Activities and Engagement, serves as the advisor to the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology (ASCIT) and teaches one of Caltech's most popular courses -- a cooking and food science class that combines hands-on learning with culinary exploration.

Campus Activities and Engagement also facilitates connections between students and Caltech alumni through networking events and mentorship opportunities in partnership with the Caltech Alumni Association. These programs provide students with access to career guidance, mentorship, and meaningful conversations, strengthening connections across the Caltech community.



Contact

✉ mannon@caltech.edu 📍 107 Lloyd House
 ☎ (626) 395-6819 📍 (on Olive Walk)



Performing and Visual Arts

At Caltech, we understand that true learning extends far beyond the confines of the classroom. It is a journey of self-discovery – a quest to uncover new passions, perspectives, and talents. Caltech Performing and Visual Arts will provide students with a gateway to this enriching experience, offering a myriad of opportunities to explore, create, and connect with fellow artists and enthusiasts in the fields of music, theater, and the visual arts.

The Performing and Visual Arts **faculty** are committed to quality in performance and education, and share a dedication to serve students who wish to enrich and broaden their college experiences.

Students can receive **academic credit** for their participation in the following classes:

MUSIC
Guitar Classes
Chamber Music Ensembles
Jazz Band/Improvisation
Symphony Orchestra
Wind Orchestra
Glee Club/Chamber Singers
THEATER
Theater Production
Storytelling for Scientists
Improvisation for Scientists
ARTS
Silkscreen and Silk Painting
Drawing and Painting
Ceramics



At the start of the school year, auditions for music ensembles and theater productions will take place, and you will be able to sign up on our website. For more details and audition schedules, please visit our [website](#).

Group-Specific Questions

- | | |
|--|---|
| Guitar Classes
Dr. Matthew Elgart
melgart@caltech.edu | Glee Club/ Chamber Singers
Nancy Sulahian
sulahian@caltech.edu |
| Orchestra and Wind Orchestra
Dr. Glenn Price
gprice@caltech.edu | Theater
Brian Brophy
brophy@caltech.edu |
| Chamber Music Ensembles
Maia Jasper White
mjasper@caltech.edu | Arts
Jim Barry
jbarry@caltech.edu |
| Jazz Band/Improv
Barb Catlin
bcatlin@caltech.edu | |

Contact

🌐 pva.caltech.edu ☎ (626) 808-2641
 ✉ hschoe@caltech.edu 📍 305 S. Hill Ave.

Directory

Office	Phone	Website
Athletics, Recreation & Instruction	(626) 395-3253	gocaltech.com
Bursar's Office	(626) 395-2988	bursar.caltech.edu
Caltech Center for Inclusion & Diversity	(626) 395-6207	ccid.caltech.edu
Caltech Y	(626) 395-6163	caltechy.org
Campus Activities and Engagement	(626) 395-6819	mannion@caltech.edu
Campus Security	Emergencies: (626) 395-5000 Non-emergency: (626) 395-4701	security.caltech.edu
Career Achievement, Leadership, and Exploration	(626) 395-6361	career.caltech.edu
Center for Student Success	(626) 395-1344	css.caltech.edu
Center for Teaching, Learning, and Outreach	(626) 395-8427	ctlo.caltech.edu
Dining Services	(626) 395-2900	dining.caltech.edu
Equity and Title IX	(626) 395-3132	titleix.caltech.edu
Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad	(626) 395-2150	fasa.caltech.edu
Financial Aid	(626) 395-6280	finaid.caltech.edu
Hixon Writing Center	(626) 395-3706	writing.caltech.edu
Information Management Systems and Services	(626) 395-3500	imss.caltech.edu
International Student Programs	(626) 395-6330	international.caltech.edu/about/isp
Library	(626) 395-3405	library.caltech.edu/library/home
Mail Services	(626) 395-6371	mailservices.caltech.edu/mail-services
Performing and Visual Arts	(626) 395-3295	pva.caltech.edu
Registrar's Office	(626) 395-6354	registrar.caltech.edu
Student and Family Engagement	(626) 395-6321	sfe.caltech.edu
Student Wellness Services	Health: (626) 395-6393 Counseling and Occupational Therapy: (626) 395-8331	wellness.caltech.edu
Student-Faculty Programs	(626) 395-2885	sfp.caltech.edu
Undergraduate Deans' Office	(626) 395-6351	deans.caltech.edu





Caltech

1200 East California Boulevard
Pasadena, California 91125