

UCSD provides e-mail to all incoming students starting fall of 1996

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UCSD PROVIDES E-MAIL TO ALL INCOMING STUDENTS

The University of California, San Diego, will automatically establish free Internet electronic mail accounts for all incoming students starting in the fall of 1996, according to Richard Backer, assistant vice chancellor for Enrollment Management/ Registrar.

"From the moment these new students complete their campus orientation, they'll have access to e-mail, as well as a wealth of UCSD information on the World Wide Web," said Backer. "With more students having access to computers than ever before, we expect usage to be high."

Approximately 3,650 new students will benefit from this service, Backer noted. Through several computer labs on campus managed by UCSD's Academic Computing Services, UCSD also provides e-mail access for students who don't have computers.

"Not only will the students be able to easily interact with each other," said Backer, "e-mail will give them access to the faculty, where they will be much more likely to develop connections with their professors. Some faculty even offer students the capability of completing homework assignments via e-mail. They also can use e-mail with their academic advisers.

"Through the Internet," Backer continues, "students have access to the UCSD's Info-Path, where they can look through the library's on-line catalog, read the university's General Catalog, and visit home pages of the various UCSD academic departments, colleges and services. For instance, many departments list their class schedules and any changes and updates, and many faculty post their course syllabi."

Backer says that each of UCSD's five college has its own home page, with descriptions of special features and academic requirements. University support services such as the housing office, the bookstore, food services and Health Care Services also have Internet home pages.

"Additionally, various campus programs, student organizations and research groups have their information listed," he added. "Students can preview an organization to see if it meets their needs. They can even find out how to create their own campus group."

Rick Accurso, manager of User Services for UCSD's Academic Computing Services, said that this new automatic registration of students for e-mail services also has a practical purpose.

In this age of high technology, he noted, UCSD officials feel that giving students access to e-mail and other Internet-based communication tools is a valuable educational experience.

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