Frequently Asked Questions about Student Involvement in Campus Activities & Organizations

I want my student to focus on their studies. Won’t being a member of a student organization or going to an activity distract them from their education?

Your student is going through a major transition as they get acclimated to their new university. It is important that they connect with other students, faculty, and staff to help make that transition successful. Attending a workshop, concert, or other program is a great way to meet other people and develop friendships that can help make this transition easier. The more comfortable your student feels on campus, the easier it will be for them to focus on their studies & seek out educational services they may need during their education.

How will these experiences help my student while they are at CSULA and in the future?

Most of CSULA’s student organizations are focused on academic majors and careers. By participating in one of these student organizations, your student will be developing important skills including public speaking, time management, program planning, and conflict resolution. These skills will be useful as they enter the workplace and are faced with new challenges.

Participation in leadership programs, student organizations, and community service are all experiences that should be listed on a student’s resume. When applying for employment or graduate school, your student will be a more competitive applicant if they demonstrate they participated actively in their university experience.

While the university provides a lot of information during Orientation, many students get encouragement to use campus services from their friends. As your student attends activities and organization meetings, they will meet people who will help them get connected to services when they need them most. Students who have used the Writing Center, established a relationship with a tutor, or who have taken some of the same courses your student is taking now are valuable resources.

A university education is expensive. How much will these activities cost?

Most campus activities are free and a benefit of being a CSULA student. Off-campus trips usually require a fee. These experiences are optional and transportation is always provided. Some student organizations charge dues to their members. Most organizations that charge dues are careful to keep the costs low.

Are there jobs at CSULA for students?

Yes! A campus job is convenient as hours can be tailored to complement a student’s class schedule. Supervisors understand the need for time off to prepare for final exams. For more information on campus jobs visit the Career Development Center online at http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/cdc/
What else should I expect now that my student is at the university?

At the university, your student may take classes that begin at 6:20pm and end at 10pm. Given that the university is ‘open late’ for classes, there are some activities that are offered at night and many of our organizations meet in the evening. Encouraging your student to stay on campus for a meeting or to attend an event is important. Establish clear communication expectations to help alleviate any concerns you may have by agreeing on a time you’d like your student to call home with a quick check-in.

Who can I call if I am unsure if an activity is safe or appropriate for my student?

Contact the Center for Student Involvement at (323) 343-5110 or the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at (323) 343-3100.

The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) at California State University, Los Angeles can connect students with over 130 student organizations, coordinates a variety of leadership development initiatives, and presents activities that encourage students to connect with each other and the campus community. For more information on CSI, please visit http://www.calstatelausu.org/csi