Welcome to the 2026

FUTURE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORUM

January 29, 2026

The Future of Academic Affairs is...

COLLABORATIVE and CREATIVE

- Making technological advances work for us

- Reimagining how we use resources and space

- Working across units for greater impact

- Co-creating new interdisciplinary research and educational programs that tap new opportunities for grant and tuition revenue

COLLECTIVE IMPACT IS
A POWERFUL APPROACH TO COLLABORATION

FUTURE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORUM 2026

Examples of our Success via Collective Impact

COVID-19 Pandemic

- Quick action prompted by a focus on a singular goal

- Collective work and transparent, consistent communication

- Uniting as a community

- Maximizing expertise across the UC San Diego landscape

Working Groups focused on reducing equity gaps

- Increasing awareness and use of financial support such as CalFresh

- Reimagining student computing needs and support

- Making learning materials more accessible and affordable from the first day of classes

- Assessing & promoting student belongingness through a new toolkit

- Effective Pedagogy Survey to identify best practices to share and build upon

What we can do together going forward:

- Help all <u>students</u> be ready to learn through prompt access to course materials, technology, and basic needs (food)

- Provide faculty the support and preparation they need to thrive as educators, researchers, and campus leaders

- Support academic integrity and reliable testing options to empower faculty's educational goals for their students

- Help struggling students get back on track to graduate

Your ideas and input are essential for reaching these common goals. We also want to hear your thoughts about additional goals we can set ourselves as a campus.

# Erasing Equity Gaps via Collective Impact

Affordable Learning & Financial Support Working Group Updates

Erik Mitchell, University Librarian | ALFS WG Co-chair

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Affordable Learning & Financial Support Working Group Timeline

January 2026

Timeline (top labels, above):
- Erasing Equity Gaps via Collective Impact launch
- WG started forming goal areas
- Co-chairs further refined the 3 sub-goal areas
- CalFresh Communication Campaign Tiger Team formed
- 4 Ongoing WG Projects

Timeline dates:
Jan 2022 | Summer 2022 | June 2023 | June 2023 | Summer 2023 | April 2024 | April 5 2024 | April 26 2024 → Jan 2026

Timeline (bottom labels, below):
- 1st Working Group launch: Affordable Learning & Financial Support
- WG developed Vision Statement
- Food security data review
- CalFresh Communication Campaign Plan launched

Members

David Song-Ruiter (co-chair)	Jennifer Brown
Erik Mitchell (co-chair)	John Moore
Nan Chen (Backbone)	Josh Kavanagh
Samantha Berthelette (Backbone)	Kacy Cashatt
	Kirsten Kung
Alicia Magallanes	Maribel Gomez
Patty Mahaffey	Martin Reed
Silvia Marquez	Nancy Binkin
Tod Oliviere	Pa Chia Vue
Alex Phan	Patricia Juza
Amy Lerner	Richard Garfein
Anthony Singleton	Roger Hailstork
Dani Cook	Rosie Castaneda
David Artis	Sara Eckardt
Gayle Ta	Sophia Tsai
Georgia Sadler	Ted Johnson
Jeff Palmer	Tim Marconi

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AFFORDABLE LEARNING PROJECTS

Affordable Learning & Financial Support

Co-Chairs: David Song-Ruiter & Erik Mitchell

Completed

✔ Implemented the AY24/25 CalFresh Communication Campaign

✔ Support from AS has led to even more laptops being available for the Laptop Lending Program

Ongoing Projects

→ Supporting implementation of the Bookstore's Equitable Access Program

→ Implementing the AY25/26 CalFresh Communication Campaign

→ Exploring strategies to strengthen student financial wellness

→ Analyzing students' computer needs to inform future service offering

The Collective Impact Difference

Workgroup for Student Food Security

Academic Affairs

Institutional Research

The Hub Basic Needs Center

Wertheim School of Public Health

Financial Aid & Scholarship Office

Center for Community Health

CalFresh Communication Plan

There was an **18% increase** in student CalFresh applications compared to last year.[2]

At least **1,590 more** UC San Diego students received CalFresh benefits compared to last year.[3]

That translates to more than **$5.1 million** in additional grocery support for our students.[3]

Equitable Access Textbook Program

Coming Fall 2026

50%+

of UC San Diego undergraduates **do not** have all their course materials on day one

$1,365

Average annual materials cost at UC San Diego ([Estimated Basic Cost of Attendance 2025](#))

UCUES (2021)
Student Experiences with Course Materials Survey (2021)
OnCampus Research (2025) Student Watch™ *Attitudes & Behaviors Toward Course Materials*

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UC SAN DIEGO
TRITON1
One Price, One Place, Books Day One.

*Draft logo still in design phase. Do not replicate.

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TRITONONE POTENTIAL IMPACT

CURRENT MODEL

49%
Students with materials before the first day of class

$455/per quarter*
Current average digital price

Unpredictable textbook cost
Textbooks cost vary widely by major and publisher
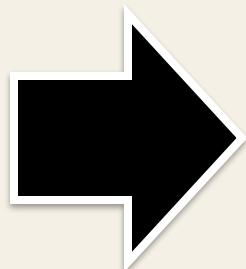
DAY ONE ACCESS

100%
Students with materials before the first day of class

$199/per quarter

Predictable Cost
Regardless of disciple or source

*Estimate; providing guideline for discussion

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

1 Sign up for classes each quarter knowing that they will have access to all required textbooks for one flat rate.

2 A flat rate of $199 per quarter will be applied to the student's account each quarter.

3 Students log in to Bookshelf under their Canvas account menu to start using their digital books and view program options, including **how to opt out**.

4 Students can take advantage of digital book features such as creating flash cards, highlighting text, and viewing instructor annotations.

5 Pick up required print books (if necessary) from The Bookstore.

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FACULTY MAINTAIN ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Faculty

McGraw Hill Education

CENGAGE Learning

Pearson

cognella

Taylor & Francis

WILEY

ELSEVIER

NORTON

macmillan learning

AATBS A TRIAD COMPANY

TOP HAT

Sage

JONES & BARTLETT LEARNING

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Wolters Kluwer

VitalSource

Bookstore

Triton One

Triton Select

Students

Access to all the same publishers

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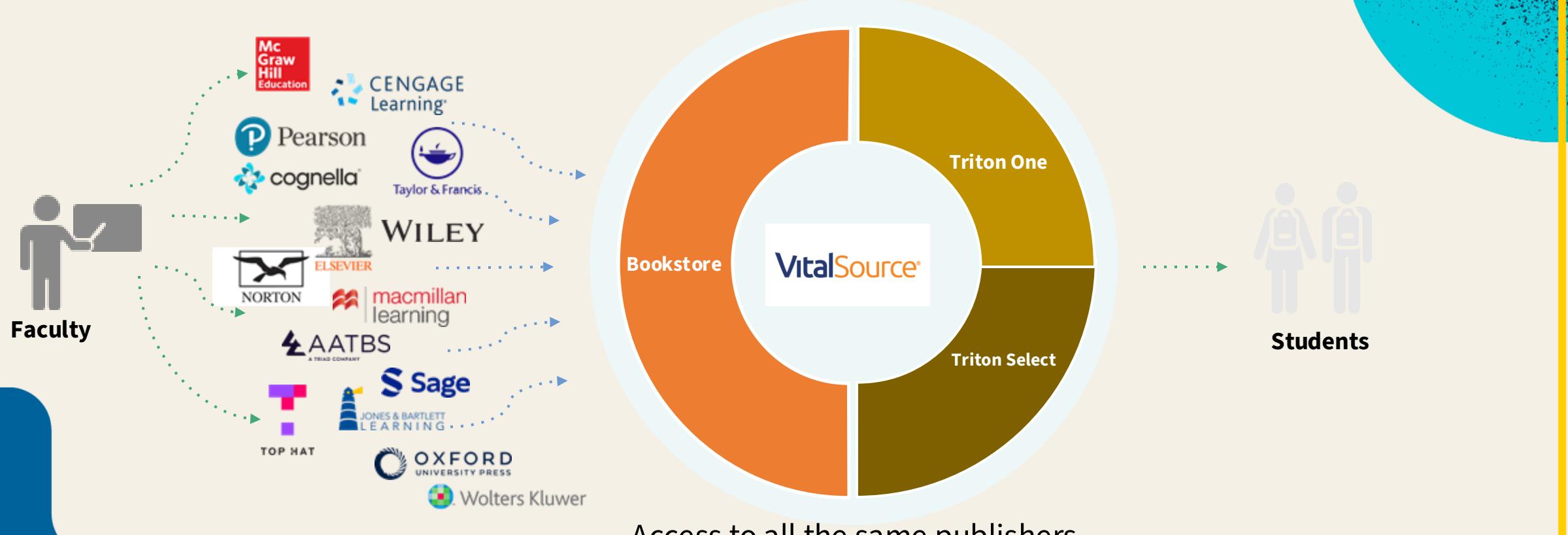
ENGAGING CAMPUS PARTNERS

University Leadership

The Chancellor

Chancellor's Cabinet

EVC & Leadership Team

Interim Chief Financial Officer

AVC Transportation & Activation

Enrollment Management

Educational Roundtable

AVC – Student Life, & ELT

Key Partners

The Library

The Commons

RRSS Leadership Team

Collective Impact

Campus IT

Integrated Procure-to-Pay Solutions (IPPS)

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (COLASC)

Faculty Leadership

Academic Senate

Student Centric Engagement

Associated Students

Director of Student Outreach & Engagement

For more information or FAQs' please reach out to Roger Hailstork, The Bookstore Director at **rohailstork@ucsd.edu** or 858-370-9932

Questions?

Current Efforts to Support Faculty Development and Faculty Leadership

Victor Ferreira

Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Success and Engagement

vferreira@ucsd.edu

Kumiko Haas

Director of Engaged Teaching

Teaching and Learning Commons

kuhaas@ucsd.edu

engagedteaching@ucsd.edu

FUTURE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORUM 2026

Center for Faculty Success & Engagement

- Victor Ferreira, Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Success and Engagement: vferreira@ucsd.edu

- Mafalda Gueta, Director: mgueta@ucsd.edu

- General email to contact FSE: fse@ucsd.edu

UC San Diego

FACULTY SUCCESS AND ENGAGEMENT

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Center for Faculty Success & Engagement

- Faculty Workshop and Events
  - *How to Prepare a Teaching Portfolio for Your File*
  - *Demystifying Tenure and Promotion*
  - *Life After Tenure at UC San Diego*

- Spring and Summer Writing Retreats

- Consultations with AVC Ferreira or FSE Director

We are an Institutional Member at NCFDD!

Our Center offers sponsorship opportunities for the following programs:

- Faculty Success Program

- Post-Tenure Pathways

- Department Chair Success Program

- New Virtual Courses

ncfdd

We are an Institutional Member at NCFDD!

But also, as a member, you get access to on-demand resources, programs, and webinars developed to help you combat faculty burnout and live a full balanced life.

- Weekly Monday Motivator

- Monthly Core Curriculum webinars

- Guest Expert Webinars and Multi-Week Courses

- Hidden Handbook Series

- And more!

ncfdd

FUTURE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORUM 2026

New Faculty Academy

- Equip new faculty with knowledge, strategies, and a community to succeed at these new responsibilities

- Year-long, cohort-based professional development

- Create a community of colleagues across campus

Partnership between Center for Faculty Success & Engagement and The Teaching + Learning Commons.

New Faculty Academy

- This year we have **23 faculty participants** representing **6 different schools** across campus.

- Participants from the 2024-2025 Cohort overwhelmingly rated the sessions as useful to their research, pedagogy, and professional development, with survey respondents planning to apply strategies, tools, or other information learned from the sessions.

"It was wonderful to make and strengthen connections and to **build a sense of community with my colleagues across campus**."

2024-25 NFA Participant

"I am excited and **grateful for all the support I have received since day 1**."

2024-25 NFA Participant

FUTURE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORUM 2026

New Faculty Academy

NEW FACULTY ACADEMY

FALL 2025

OCT 3 — **WELCOME & ORIENTATION**
In-Person, Faculty Club 12:00-1:30p

OCT 17 — **DEVELOPING A NETWORK OF MENTORS, SPONSORS, COLLABORATORS, AND MENTEES**
In-Person, Raza Resource Centro Conference Room, 12:00-2:00p

Nov 7 — **RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**
Virtual, 12:00-2:00p

WINTER 2026

Jan 16 — **ESTABLISHING A WRITING PRACTICE**
In-Person, Geisel Library, Seuss Room, 12:00-1:30p

Feb 6 — **LAUNCHING A SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH PRACTICE (for non-STEM Faculty)**
Virtual, 12:00-1:300p

Feb 20 — **LAUNCHING A SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH PRACTICE (for STEM Faculty)**
Virtual, 12:00-1:300p

Mar 13 — **GETTING STARTED WITH EFFECTIVE AND EQUITY-MINDED TEACHING**
In-Person, Geisel Library, Seuss Room, 12:00-2:00p

SPRING 2026

Apr 17 — **STRATEGIES FOR TENURE AND PROMOTION**
In-Person, Geisel Library, Seuss Room, 12:00-2:00p

May 15 — **CLOSING CEREMONY**
In-Person, Faculty Club, 12:00-2:00p

NEW FACULTY ACADEMY 2.0 (New)

WINTER 2026

TBD — **MENTORING STUDENTS**
In-Person, Geisel Library, Seuss Room, 12:00-1:30p

SPRING 2026

TBD — **DOCUMENTING MENTORING EFFORTS**
In-Person, Geisel Library, Seuss Room, 12:00-1:30p

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Teaching + Learning Commons

Our guiding principles:

- Support and enhance student and faculty success through transformative, evidence-based teaching and learning practices
- Meet faculty where they are at
- Multiple avenues of support
- Assist in building community wherever and whenever we can

TLC Programming and Support for Faculty

- Directly partner with educators spanning all ranks and schools
- Continue to cultivate relationships with departments and schools – tailoring support to their specific needs
- **Teaching consultations, classroom observations, and early student feedback**
  - **270 +** with more than **130** unique instructors*
  - Frequent topics include **Course Design**, **Syllabus Review**, and **Grant Support**
- **Teaching workshops and Learning Communities**
  - **1,700 +** registrations representing **780+** unique participants*
  - Including topics such as **Holistic Evaluation of Teaching, Teaching and Learning w/ GenAI Learning Community, Teaching with Care, Assessment Learning Community**

data from 2024-2025 academic year

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Join Our Newsletters and reach out to us!

Engaged Teaching

[Schedule a Teaching Consultation](#)

Sign up for our listserv

https://tinyurl.com/ETHemails

Center for Faculty Success & Engagement

bit.ly/FSE-list

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THANK YOU!

FUTURE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORUM 2026

Questions?

The Future of Assessment

Dr. Tricia Bertram Gallant

Director, UC San Diego Academic Integrity Office & Triton Testing Center

Chair, University of California Assessment Center Consortium Taskforce

**FUTURE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORUM 2026**

The Current State: Students

There are 2 industries telling students to outsource their assessments

GenAI
(since 2022)

Contract Cheating
(since 2006)

EduBirdie™
Writing platform
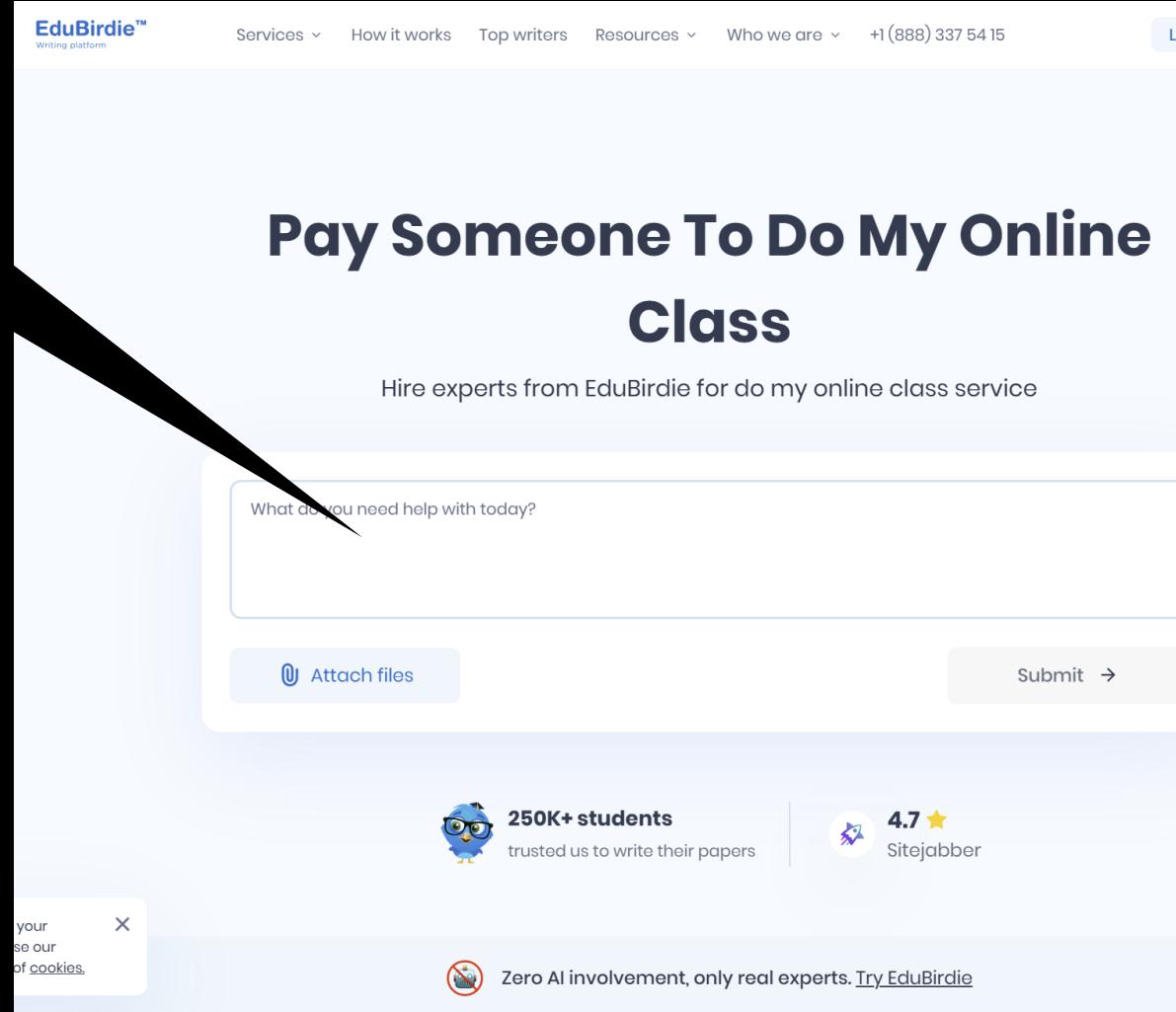
Services | How it works | Top writers | Resources | Who we are | +1 (888) 337 54 15 | Log

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#Comet #College #StudyHack #PerplexityAI
#CometBrowser #AI #Productivity #StudyTok #Study
#Student

in the time it took me to make this drink, comet wrote a whole assignment for me. #worksmarternotharder

They can't get away from it

Question 8 — smartsolve — 10 pts

Benzene reacts with concentrated nitric acid in the presence of concentrated sulfuric acid to form which of the following products?

- ○ Benzoic acid
- ○ Benzaldehyde
- ○ Nitrobenzene
- ○ Phenol

Google — research on the great depression

AI Mode | All | Images | Videos | News | Short videos | Forums | More
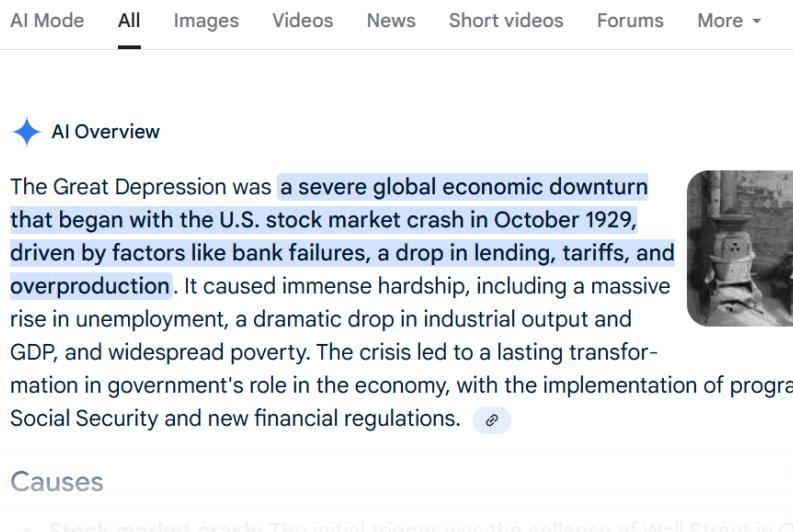
✦ AI Overview

The Great Depression was a severe global economic downturn that began with the U.S. stock market crash in October 1929, driven by factors like bank failures, a drop in lending, tariffs, and overproduction. It caused immense hardship, including a massive rise in unemployment, a dramatic drop in industrial output and GDP, and widespread poverty. The crisis led to a lasting transformation in government's role in the economy, with the implementation of program Social Security and new financial regulations.

Causes

- Stock market crash: The initial trigger was the collapse of Wall Street in Oc

56°
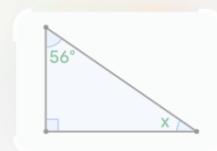
Step 1
Step 2
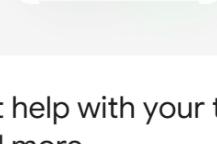
Answer: X = 34°

**Get help with your toughest homework problems and more**

Right-click and choose "Search with Google Lens" to select a problem to solve

Not interested | Try it

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The push for   ne

grammarly

Product   ct Sales   Log in   **Get Grammarly** It's free

ai-agents / ai-grader

Becoming Superhuman

SUPERHUMAN
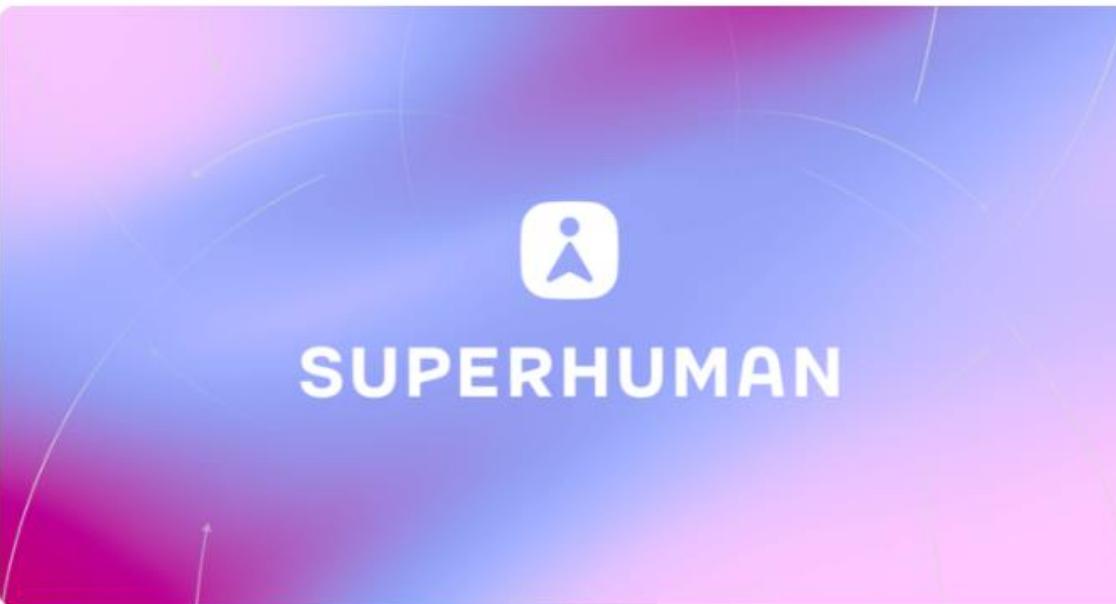
A new name for us. And new powers for you.

You might think you've only recently started writing with AI. But if you're one of the 40 million people who use Grammarly every day, you've been writing with AI for years.

Except you don't think of it as AI. You probably don't think of it at all. You just type, and corrections appear—in every app, on every device—without you having to ask.
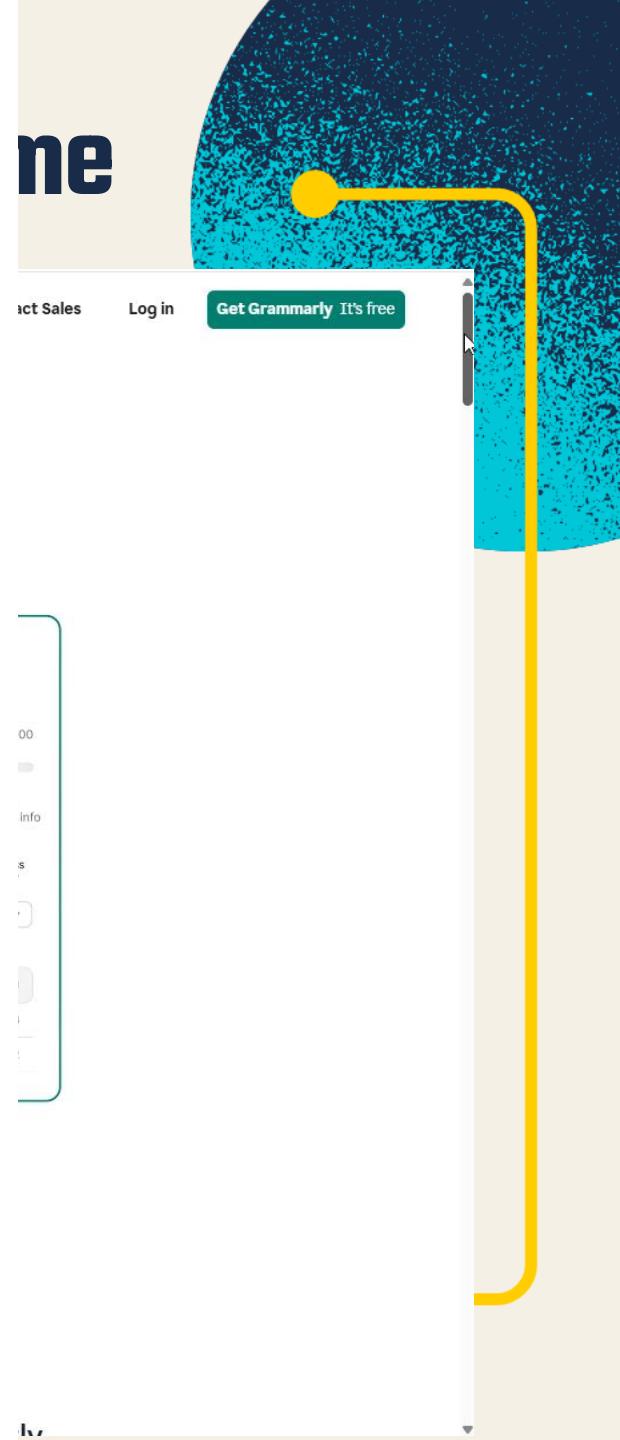
They're targeted as the core consumer...
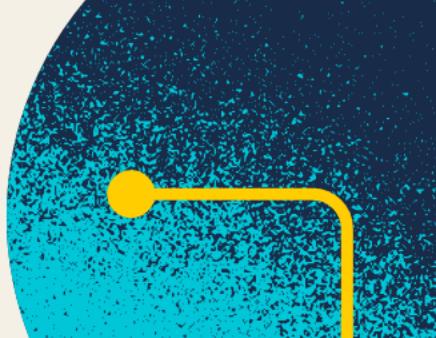
AI in Education Timeline

Nov 2022	Feb 2023	Jul 2023	May 2024	Apr 2025	Apr 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025
ChatGPT 3.5 OpenAI releases ChatGPT	**Google Bard** Google releases Bard (Gemini)	**Claude 2** Anthropic releases Claude 2	**ChatGPT Edu** OpenAI releases ChatGPT Edu	**Free AI Access** Google & OpenAI give students free access	**Claude for Education** Anthropic introduces Claude for Education	**Grammarly AI** Grammarly launches free AI Agents	**Student Tools** Microsoft Copilot & Perplexity Comet free

...and the entire educational system was "intentionally entangled"

https://podcasts.apple.com/lk/podcast/forever-chemicals-forever-consequences-what-pfas-teaches/id1460030305?i=1000702028461

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They're told "everyone is doing it"

Perplexity AI · Follow
Sponsored · 🌐

What's worse: copy-pasting everything to ChatGPT or YouTube ads? Comet cuts out both.

Meet Comet:
❌ No YouTube ads
⚡ Clicks, types, and does work for you
🗑️ No more file downloads or switching tabs - ask Comet to FIND the context

Unlock 1 year free when you sign up with a student email and verify your status.

#Comet #College #StudyHack #PerplexityAI #CometBrowser #AI #Productivity #StudyTok #Study #Student

in the time it took me to make this drink, comet wrote a whole assignment for me. #worksmarternotharder

The Future of Assessment

Yuta Rasell 🔷 · 3rd+
Talent & Ops Leader | Startup Advisor | Founding Teams 0→1 · T...
View my services
2d · 🌐

We often ask whether AI will replace people.
But that's not the real question. The real shift is already happening: people who know how to work with AI are replacing those who don't.

Tricia Bertram Gallant, PhD

And they're told "sit back, relax"...

…"doing school is easy"

Q1. In which of the following ways have you used generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT) for your coursework in the past year?

Select all that apply

85% have used GenAI for coursework in the last year
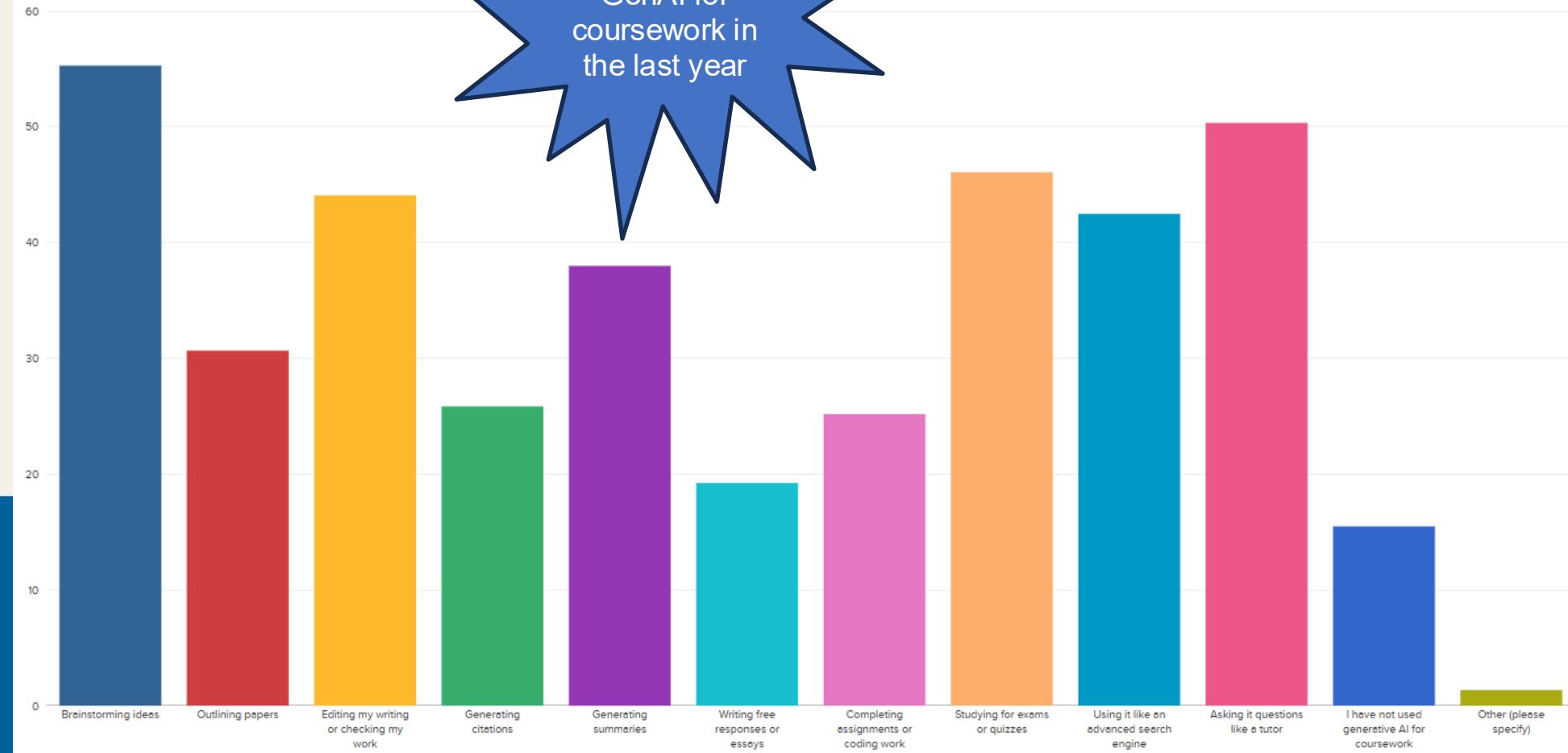
Inside Higher Ed
July 2025
N = 1,047 students from 166 two- and four-year institutions

Brainstorming ideas · Outlining papers · Editing my writing or checking my work · Generating citations · Generating summaries · Writing free responses or essays · Completing assignments or coding work · Studying for exams or quizzes · Using it like an advanced search engine · Asking it questions like a tutor · I have not used generative AI for coursework · Other (please specify)

N 1,047

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Tricia Bertram Gallant, PhD

Students are overly tempted to offload their learning & assessments

The Current State: Faculty

Faculty are short-staffed given cuts to TA support (and to departmental admin support), so their assessment and pedagogical decisions are impacted

Unsupervised assessments dominate

More high stakes assessments

Fewer tutoring/office hours

The Solution

Secure some assessments

Recommendation:

50-75% in UG courses

OR

At benchmark points in a program

Open Assessments (for Learning)
- Individualized
- Multiple attempts
- GenAI allowed
- Scaffolded to summative assessments

https://educational-innovation.sydney.edu.au/teaching@sydney/program-level-assessment-two-lane/

Secure Assessments (of Learning)
- Program → Course
- Focus on process, not artefact
  - Oral Assessments
  - Demonstrations
  - Presentations with Q&A
- If must be an artefact → Best in a Computer-Based Testing Center (CBT)

UC San Diego's Triton Testing Center as an Exemplar Comprehensive Center
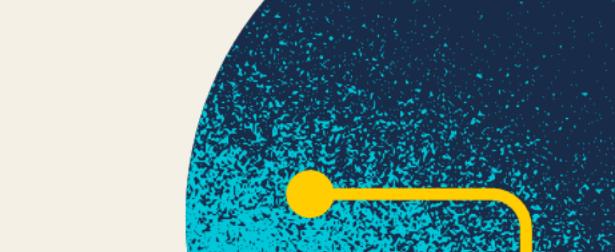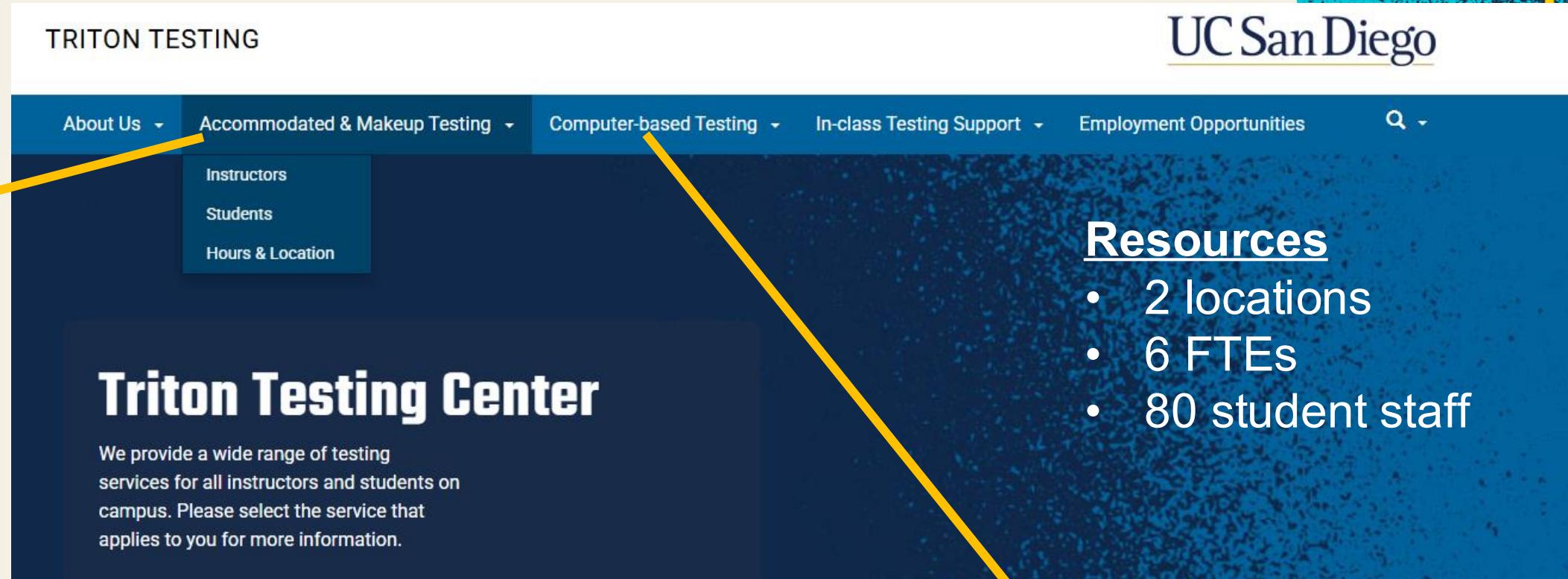
AY24-25:
11,575 tests

Resources
- 2 locations
- 6 FTEs
- 80 student staff

WI26 (predicted):
28,000 assessments
(on the PrairieLearn platform)

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UC San Diego

A California Assessment Center Consortium

An Ambitious Proposal to Enhance Access, Equity & Integrity
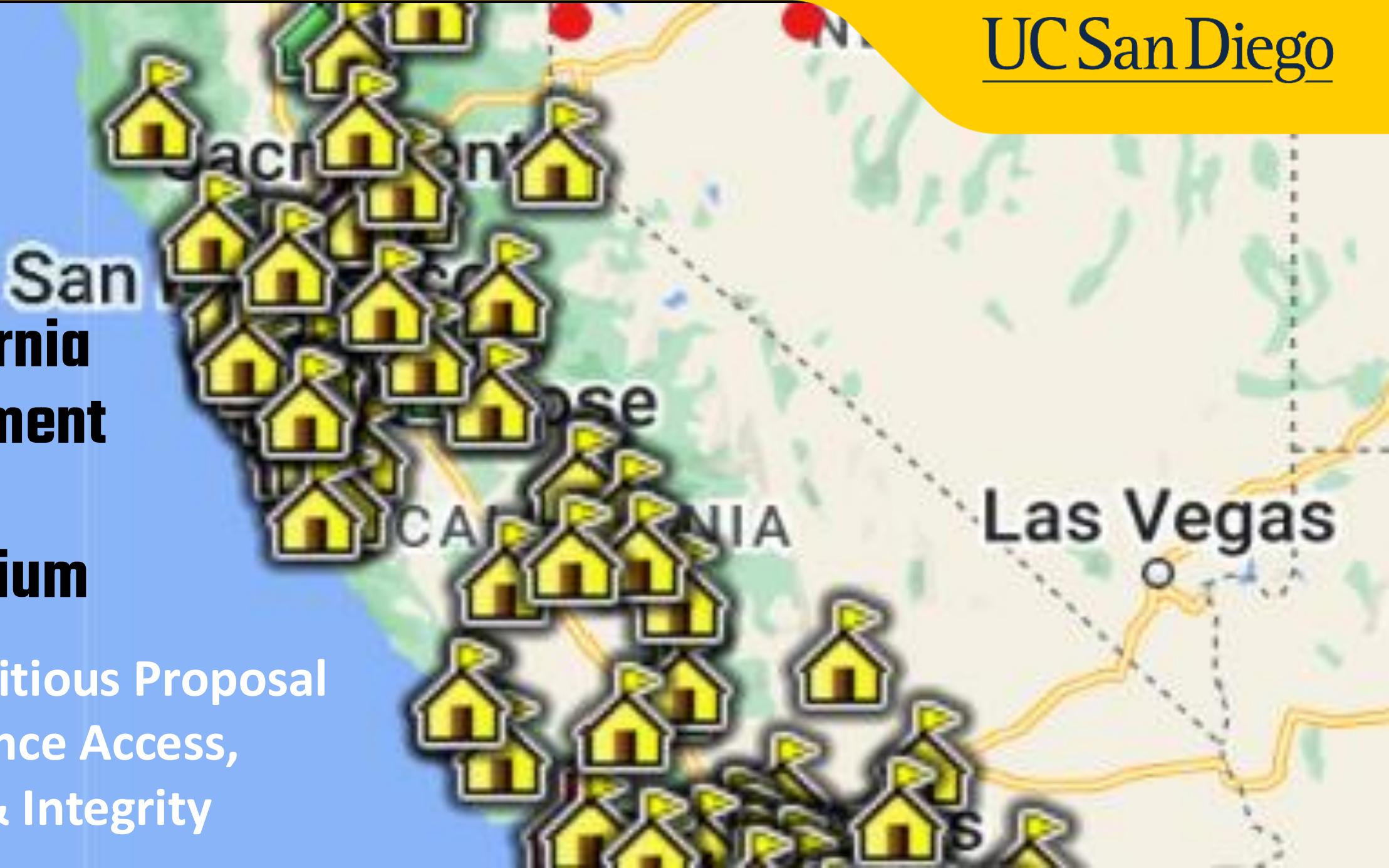
A California Assessment Center Consortium

A network of assessments centers within the UC, Cal State & Community College systems to enable access for all California-based students and enhance degree integrity

Image created with ChatGPT-4 (DallE-3)
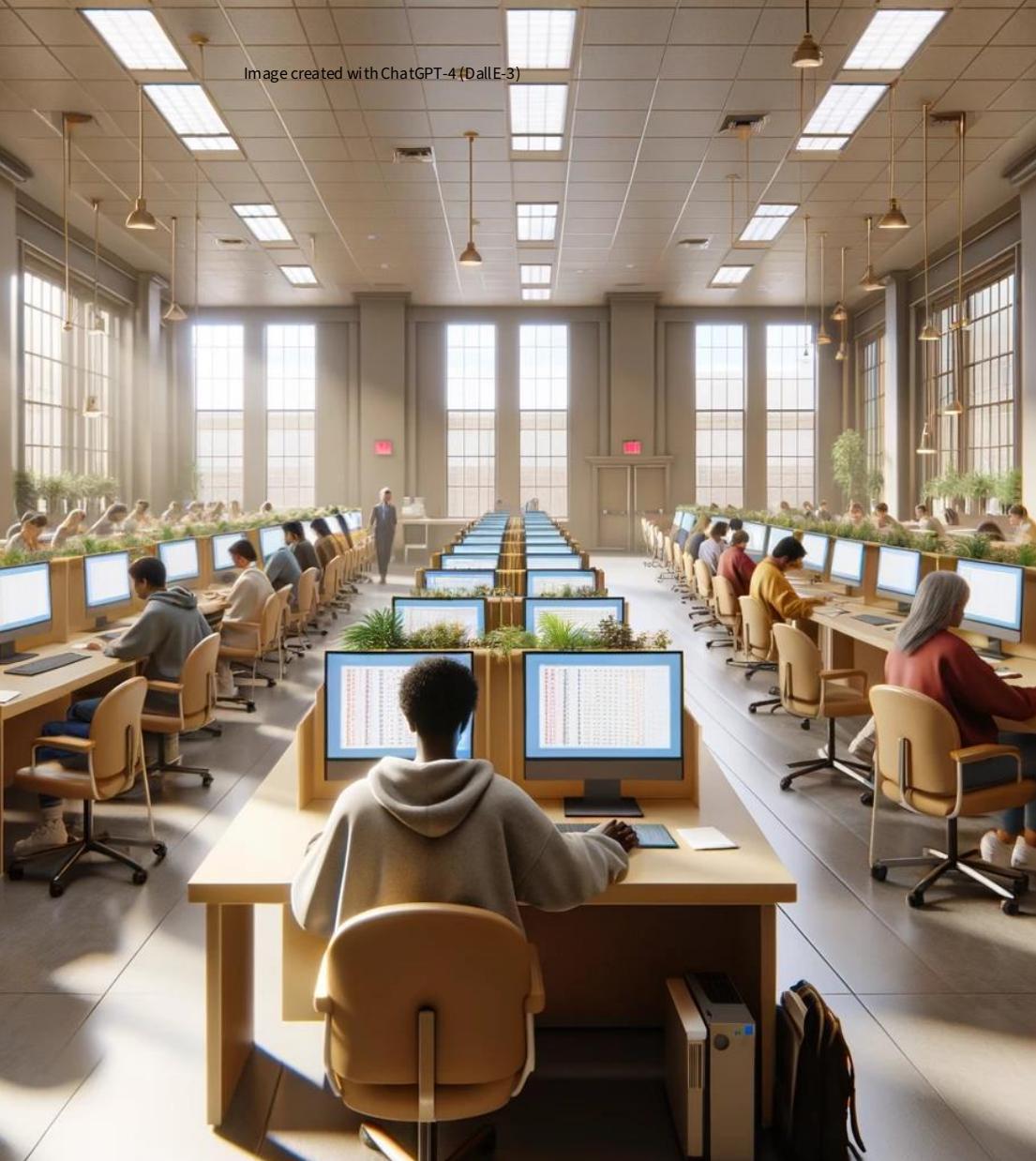
Student Benefits

- Consistent & predictable testing procedures (reduced assessment anxiety)

- Enhanced agency through flexible scheduling

- Mastery learning (reduces equity gaps)

- Reduced temptations & opportunities to act against their own values

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Faculty Benefits

- Better use of their time, and class time

- Reduced administrative load

- Offers viable frequent, low-stakes assessment administration option

- Keeps the benefits of Computer-based testing

UC Benefits

- Enhanced degree integrity

- Reduced litigation risk

- Simplification of test scheduling

- Alignment with UC mission & goals

- Efficiencies at scale

- Decrease burden on disability resource centers

- Increase in online/summer offerings

FUTURE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORUM 2026

# THANK YOU to the Triton Testing Center Career Staff!

Taylor Jackson-Vachon
Manager

Vanessa Samson
Assistant Manager

Testing Specialists

Pauline Escoto

Gerardo Gardner

Brenda Cruz

Neha Niranjan

FUTURE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORUM 2026

Thank you to Previous & Present Members of the Assessment Center Planning Groups

Informal Workgroup (2022-2024)
Armando Fox (Berkeley); Corey Chomas & Jennifer Belleci (Davis); Adam Kasarda & Constance Huang (Irvine); Albert Mason (Los Angeles); Bracken Dailey, Laura Riley, Kelly Downey, & Delmis Sosa (Riverside); Tricia Bertram Gallant & Taylor Jackson-Vachon (San Diego); Timothy Montgomery, Clay Littrell, & Haley Meyn (San Francisco); Gary White, Kalli Talafus, Michelle Stransky, Alice Nguyen, & Mike Wilton (Santa Barbara); E Zawicki, Nicole Albaum, Alyssa Gomes, & Aaron Zachmeier (Santa Cruz)

Current Taskforce (2025-2026)
Armando Fox (Berkeley); John Marx (Davis); Constance Huang (Irvine); Leigh Harris/Ava Arndt (Los Angeles); James Zimmerman (Merced); Kelly Downey (Riverside); Tricia Bertram Gallant (San Diego); Haley Meyn (San Francisco); Linda Adler Kassner (Santa Barbara); Aaron Zachmeier (Santa Cruz); Gail Heyman & Niels Gronbech-Jensen (Senate); Rolin Moe & Courtney Wilson (UCOP)
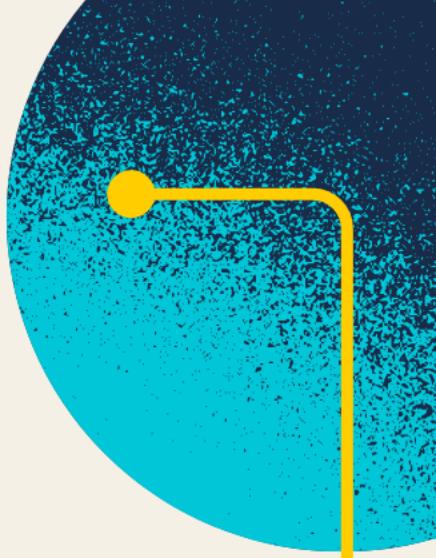
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Questions?

Collective Impact
Mentoring, Coaching, & Advising (MCA) Working Group
Academic Difficulty

Dr. Maricela Alvarado, Director of Online Student Experience | MCA Co-Chair

Melissa Ellew, Dean of Academic Advising Eleanor Roosevelt College

Academic Difficulty: Group Objective

The focus of the Academic Difficulty Intervention group will be on helping students who are not in good academic standing return to good academic standing.

Academic Difficulty: Definitions of Academic Status

- Good standing: end quarter with 2.0 term and cumulative GPA.

- Academic Notice: end quarter with less than 2.0 *term* or *cumulative* GPA.

- Subject to Disqualification (two possible reasons):
  - 3rd consecutive quarter of Academic Notice *and* cumulative GPA below 2.0
  - Term GPA less than 1.5 *regardless of cumulative GPA.*

Factors that Impact Academic Performance:

- Academic

- Financial

- Basic Needs

- Mental Health/Well-Being

- Physical Health

- Relationships

- Transitions

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Areas of Support for Students:

- **Colleges**
  - Monitor academic progress, send academic standing messages and academic disqualification messages
  - Provide interventions (i.e., canvas classes, advising meetings)
  - Create and maintain backontrack.ucsd.edu and academic standing messages

- **Academic Departments**
  - Interventions dependent on department size and capacity
  - Working with Academic Advising Program Director

- **Student Support Programs**
  - Interventions based on student populations (i.e., success plans, additional communication, 1:1 meetings)

Project Updates:

All College Initiative: Return after Disqualification (RADQ) Pilot Project

- Pilot project for students returning FA25
- Coordinated between all Eight Colleges (and within each college)
- Monitoring through SP26
  - MyEmma (newsletters with reporting features)
  - GPAs
- Post assessment survey

Project Updates:

Academic Difficulty Group

- Fall Quarter Meetings
    - Identified current interventions
    - Coordinated support via the Virtual Advising Center (VAC)
- Winter Quarter
    - Canvas Class Template in progress

Looking Forward

- Outcomes from RADQ Pilot Program
- Canvas Template
- Data from Institutional Research

Questions?

Melissa Ellew mellew@ucsd.edu
Veronica Abreu vabreu@ucsd.edu

Thank you for attending the

FUTURE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORUM

Recording will be posted at:
https://evc.ucsd.edu/news/events.html