

UC SANTA BARBARA

College of Engineering

A message from Tresa Pollock, interim dean of UC Santa Barbara's College of Engineering

To the COE Community,

As students, faculty, and staff converge on campus for the first day of fall classes after more than a year of remote instruction, I just want to say, welcome back! I'd also like to express my appreciation for your patience, dedication, and diligence over the past eighteen months. I know it wasn't easy, but you rose to the challenge — and here we are.

Our return to campus allows our students and all of us to enjoy everything the UCSB College of Engineering has to offer: top academics, world-class faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, our collaborative spirit, and the campus's breathtaking views.

Like all of you, I am hoping for a smooth return to normalcy. As of today, the verified vaccination rate among our students is nearly 98 percent. Ventilation for all campus buildings and classrooms has been inspected by Facilities and meets or exceeds the standards established by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers. Ventilation has been further improved by maximizing fresh air inflow into all campus buildings. In addition, student housing issues have been resolved.

Though the official census count is still three weeks away, the preliminary fall enrollment numbers for COE are encouraging. Currently, 1,662 undergraduate students are enrolled, an increase of 6.3% compared to last fall. There are also 772 graduate students enrolled for fall, a 6.9% jump. We are also seeing a notable increase in the number of new students compared to a year ago: 32% among undergraduates (500/379) and 28% (205/160) in new graduate students. Again, these are the preliminary numbers.

I am still getting settled into my new position, and I appreciate the well wishes that I have received from many of you. I am extremely honored to serve as the interim dean, and I welcome everyone's input to ensure that the College of Engineering remains a truly collaborative and inspirational environment.

Warm regards, and all the best for a healthy and successful 2021-22 academic year!



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