OCTOBER 2023

First-Year Advising Team at Dornsife's Major & Minor Fair

RENDEZVOUS ROUNDUP
Major Explorations & More!

Thanks to all who joined us during last month's First-Year Experience event, Exploring Majors & Minors, and Dornsife's Major & Minor Fair. Couldn’t make it? Download our resource guide here!

Upcoming Events

MON, OCT 23
9 AM - 5 PM
Sustainability Hub | Halloween Costume Drop 'N Swap

MON, OCT 23
4 PM - 5 PM
Dornsife FYE | Career 101: Career Prep for Freshmen*

TUE, OCT 24 &
WED, OCT 25
11 - 11:50 AM
Kortschak Center | Stress Management Workshop (Zoom)*

TUE, OCT 24
1 PM - 2 PM
Center for Political Future | Conversation with Secretary Pete Buttigieg (RSVP)

TUE, OCT 24
5 PM - 6 PM
Career Center | Meet the Mentors

THUR, OCT 26
1 PM - 2 PM
Center for Political Future | How to Reduce Election Anxiety

THUR, OCT 26
7 PM
Can’t make it today? We have one more FYE event this semester: **Thriving Through Your First Year**, November 16, 3:00-5:00 PM. Click on our flyer below to learn more!
FYA CONNECTION

Get Registration Ready!

Spring registration is just around the corner. Have you met with your First-Year Advisor yet? Completion of a **Pre-Registration Advising Appointment** is required before you can enroll in next semester's classes. Check your email for instructions from your advisor, or click below to reserve an appointment.

Schedule Advisement

In the meantime, check out our videos (**Natural Sciences**, **Humanities & Social Sciences**) and handouts below to help you get registration ready!

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RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

La CASA and Student Equity & Inclusion Programs

**Isis Galeno** is a Dornsife FYA Graduate Assistant and a Class of 2021 alumnus with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Non-Governmental Organizations & Social Change

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Night with *The Hunger Games*

Events with an asterisk* may count toward an FYE prize! Visit FYE for details.

For more USC events, visit EngageSC.

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First-Year Advising Team

**Office**: GFS 320
**Email** | **Web**

Registration Dates

**FRI, NOV 10**
Last day to drop a class with an official transcript "W"

**NOV 22 - 26**
Thanksgiving Break

**FRI, DEC 1**
During my time as an undergraduate student at USC, La CASA became an important part of my college experience. Not only was La CASA a place where I could learn and grow as a student, it was also a place where I could just hang out and have fun with other Latinx students on campus.

Located in STU 400, La CASA provides a variety of programs, events, and resources which aim to support and empower Latinx students. For example, when I was an undergraduate they hosted final exams study break sessions, Loteria playing sessions, and a Power Pan Dulce workshop series. Ultimately, La CASA became my home and safe space on campus, and I hope that it can be the same for a new generation of Latinx students at USC.

To learn about La CASA’s events, click here or follow them on Instagram @lacasadeusc.

Looking to connect with more communities? View a full list of Student Equity & Inclusion Programs by clicking below.

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**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

**Study Survival Strategies**

Midterm grades are in—but that's no reason to panic! If your grades leave much to be desired, here are some handy tips, including insight from senior English (Creative Writing) and Psychology major **Valentina Gomez**.

**Assess your situation**

- Use your syllabus or Blackboard to calculate your grade—and the wiggle room left to fix it. This helps you set realistic goals to reach an ideal grade.

**Ask for help**

- Connect with your professors and TAs. No one knows better what you need to succeed than you and your professor.
- Take advantage of USC’s study resources, such as peer tutoring and academic support centers.

**Time management**

- Cramming vs. studying: give yourself enough time to study instead of cramming at the last minute. Studies show cramming is ineffective.
- Visit the Kortschak Center for help managing your time.

**Study environment**
Set up a **focused** study environment—whatever that means for you.

Use your full range of **senses** (smell, taste, touch, sound, as well as sight) while studying and before exams to aid your **memory recall**.

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### Study Environment

“**My ideal study environment depends on what I’m studying for. For difficult exams, I like a quiet environment at home or a library. If I feel more comfortable with the material, I like studying in more social environments like a busy coffee shop or with a group of friends. It’s a Psych concept: the harder your task is, the less stimulus you should have distracting you.**”

**Valentina Gomez**
Senior

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### Group projects

- Put dates on the calendar right away so your **group expectations** are clear and you have plenty of time to work, even with unexpected delays.
- Do your best on your **delegated work**, and let the professor know if a teammate falls through.

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### On Group Projects

“**Find ways to communicate that work for you, like text versus email. If you can choose your group, choose wisely. College is very self-motivated learning, so if your teammates aren’t motivated there’s not a whole lot you can do to change that. Feel comfortable talking to your professors if there’s a discrepancy with the work being done. A teacher in middle school once told me that when you’re doing group work, you’re not trying to earn 25% each, you’re all putting in the effort to earn 100%.**”

**Valentina Gomez**
Senior

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### Body doubling

- Studying independently with friends to hold each other **accountable** makes it easier to start—which is the hardest step.

Studying can feel daunting, but these tips will help you prepare for success so you can finish your semester with confidence.

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**WE’RE HERE TO HELP!**

Contact us at [fya@dornsife.usc.edu](mailto:fya@dornsife.usc.edu)
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