

August 24, 2011

Dear Parents:

Enclosed is a letter I recently sent all new freshmen entering Cal Poly's College of Science and Mathematics. As you can see, I emphasize responsible and safe behavior, studying and learning, and earning a degree in a timely manner. We deeply care about our students at Cal Poly and want them to be successful. We know that success isn't automatic and we will assist your student in any way we can. Ultimately, however, learning and academic success is the responsibility of the student.

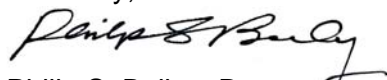
You will also notice my admonition that students who do not respect the privilege of college and are not successful will not be allowed to continue. It is especially important in these difficult economic times to use the resources of the California taxpayers responsibly and effectively and I hope our new and continuing students will recognize the sacrifices the people of California and families are making to support their college education.

Most freshmen entering the College of Science and Mathematics have great high school grade point averages (the average is around 3.8-3.9), but claim they studied only 3-5 hours per week outside of class in high school. If they double or triple this at Cal Poly, they will be studying independently more than they ever have in their lives and feel an understandable, but false sense of pride and confidence. In fact, however, if this is all they do, the total of time in class and studying could be less than 25 hours per week (in high school, they were in class alone 35 hours a week). We want to encourage a much greater commitment.

Some years ago I developed and initiated Cal Poly's "25-35" program. In the College of Science and Mathematics, the number of new students on academic probation at the close of fall quarter decreased and those on the Dean's Honor List increased. We ask our students to study 25-35 hours a week; with time in class, the total is equivalent to a 40-50 hour work week. We also ask our students to devote some time each weekend to their academics. Those who go home frequently or party excessively often do not reach their academic potential and some end up on academic probation. Academic success is all about effort. Though all Cal Poly students are capable, some of our top incoming freshmen end up on academic probation; some on the other end of the scale earn a position on the Dean's Honor List.

I ask you to help your student start thinking about academic success at Cal Poly by placing the enclosed "25-35" poster on your refrigerator. Thank you. I really want our students to get off to a good start, as I know you do. I have already met many of you at Open House and Summer Advising and hope to see you and your student in September. My best wishes to your family in this exciting and important transition.

Sincerely,



Philip S. Bailey, Dean
College of Science and Mathematics

Enclosure