



**PROGRAM HANDBOOK**  
**2023-2024**

# Welcome to Cal State Long Beach!

## Welcome Beach Scholars and Families!

We are thrilled to be a part of this amazing time in your life! We are happy that you have chosen the Think Beach program and are excited to spend the next two-years supporting your academic, social/emotional, and developmental journey at CSULB.



The CSULB Think Beach Program strives to be a model inclusive higher education program that focuses on academic progress, campus inclusion, employment skills and opportunities, and the development of independent living skills. We also recognize the importance of mentorship and authentic inclusive opportunities that are unique to a college campus. None of this could be possible without the support of parents and family members. We honor the important role families play in student's success.

We understand this will be both an exciting and challenging time, as you transition to a new stage of growth and development. We will be here to guide, educate, and support both you and your family. We are grateful for the opportunity.

Welcome and Go Beach!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Kristin Powers and Dr. Kelli Sanderson  
Think Beach Co-Directors

**The contents of this handbook are based on Program Handbooks from existing inclusive postsecondary education programs, including UC Davis Redwood SEED Scholars, CSUN Explorers, and Appalachian State University Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program**

# Think Beach Program Overview

## Mission

*Think Beach is an inclusive, postsecondary education program seeking to support a self-determined and fully inclusive life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that will lead to competitive, integrated employment.*

## Vision

*Through participation in college classes and campus life activities, students in the Think Beach program will increase their social skills, independence, and self-knowledge. Upon completion of the program, Beach Scholars will have the skills necessary to transition to employment and/or independent living.*

## About Think Beach

***Think Beach is inclusive. This means that:***

- Beach Scholars attend their courses with other university students.
- Beach Scholars participate in social activities on campus with other university students.
- Beach Scholars have full access to all university programs and services.

***Think Beach is person-centered. This means that:***

- Beach Scholars determine their academic, career, personal, and social goals throughout their enrollment in the Think Beach program.
- Beach Scholars determine the amount of supports they need to be successful.
- The curriculum is individualized based on the scholar's goals and interests.

***Think Beach is mutually beneficial. This means that:***

- Beach Scholars help teach other students about intellectual disabilities.
- Beach Scholars help professors develop universal design for learning strategies to meet their students' needs.

# Staff Directory

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Think Beach Co-director

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Think Beach Coordinator

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# Important Dates

## *2023-2024 Academic Year*

### Fall 2023

Program Orientation	Saturday July 15
First day of classes	Tuesday, August 22
Labor Day (campus closed)	Monday, September 4
Veteran's Day (campus closed)	Friday, November 10
Fall Break (no classes)	Monday, November 20-Friday November 24
Last day of classes	Monday, December 11
Final exams	Tuesday, December 12- Monday, December 18

### Spring 2024

First day of semester	Monday January 22
Spring Break (campus closed)	Monday, April 1 - Friday, April 7
Last day of classes	Friday, May 10
Final exams	Monday, May 13 - Saturday, May 18

# CSULB Campus Map

## CAMPUS MAP

### COLLEGES

- COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
- COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
- COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
- COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
- COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
- COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS
- COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
- COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

### NOTABLE SPOTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">A</span> EARL BURNS MILLER JAPANESE GARDEN</li> <li><span style="color: red;">B</span> VISITOR'S BOOTH</li> <li><span style="color: red;">C</span> BROTMAN HALL</li> <li><span style="color: red;">D</span> LYMAN LOUGH FOUNTAIN</li> <li><span style="color: red;">E</span> STUDENT UNION</li> <li><span style="color: red;">F</span> 'NOW' SCULPTURE</li> <li><span style="color: red;">G</span> CARLSON BLOC TOWER</li> <li><span style="color: red;">H</span> BOOKSTORE/Amazon@the Beach</li> <li><span style="color: red;">I</span> UNIVERSITY LIBRARY</li> <li><span style="color: red;">J</span> MACINTOSH HUMANITIES BUILDING</li> <li><span style="color: red;">K</span> UNIVERSITY THEATER</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">L</span> STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER</li> <li><span style="color: red;">M</span> STUDENT RECREATION &amp; WELLNESS CENTER</li> <li><span style="color: red;">N</span> MARTHA B. KNOEBEL DANCE THEATER</li> <li><span style="color: red;">O</span> WALTER PYRAMID</li> <li><span style="color: red;">P</span> RECYCLING CENTER</li> <li><span style="color: red;">Q</span> UNIVERSITY HOUSING (On-Campus)</li> <li><span style="color: red;">R</span> UNIVERSITY POLICE</li> <li><span style="color: red;">S</span> KLEEFELD CONTEMPORARY</li> <li><span style="color: red;">T</span> CARPENTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER</li> <li><span style="color: red;">U</span> CSULB CAMPUS CONNECTION STOP</li> </ul> |
|--|---|
- PARKING LOTS:  
RESIDENCE HALLS/GENERAL/EMPLOYEE (see signage)



Think Beach  
Office

tore

# Think Beach Office

The Think Beach office, located in ED2-155 (otherwise known as the “Community Clinic”), provides a space for Beach Scholars to meet with program staff and attend weekly workshops.

Beach Scholars can also come to the Think Beach office if they are experiencing difficulties and need a quiet place to regroup.

*Community Clinic “waiting room” and Think Beach Coordinator’s office pictured below*



# CSULB Campus Use

CSULB Campus provides many spaces for students to study, get academic help, or have fun! The Think Beach office may not always have what the student needs and may not always be able to provide an adequate space for certain activities. Students can explore other options around campus for gathering information, working on class projects or homework, studying, or spending free time between classes and activities.

**Think Beach study area:** If you are near the center of campus and need a place to hang out, the tables near the University Student Union Information Center (second floor; the floor surrounded by windows) will be another location for Beach Scholars to connect with peers.





You can access this area by entering the doors near the bottom of the elevator, listed as University Student Union West Entrance-Floor 2 (door signage pictured below).



This is the sign to follow: Long Beach Ballrooms & USU South Plaza. The Information Desk is to the right. Beach Scholars can meet with each other and/or peer mentors in this general area.



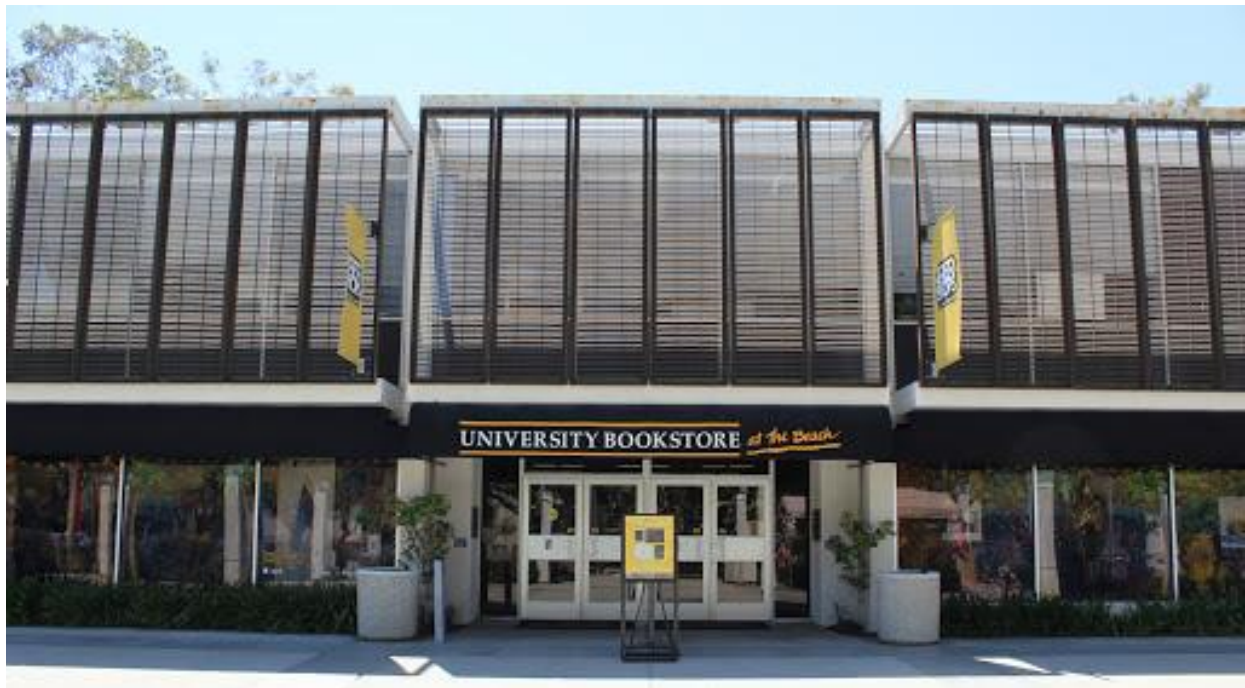
**Options for lunch:** There are a variety of dining options on the CSULB campus, including: restaurants located in the University Student Union (USU), The Nugget Pub & Grill, Outpost Grill, Caffeine Lab in the library, Shake Smart in the SRWC, campus convenience stores, or enjoy a packed lunch on campus.



**Locations to study:** Library (basement or 5th floors; private study rooms are available), University Student Union (USU), computer labs, food court, or outside tables around campus.



**Bookstore:** Supplies and books for classes can be picked up at the campus bookstore. Student ID cards can be paid for and picked up on the second floor.



**Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC):** Beach Scholars will have access to CSULB's Student Recreation and Wellness Center. Peer mentors will accompany Beach Scholars each week to the SRWC for a health center social visit; however, Beach Scholars are welcome to use the SRWC apart from scheduled time with their peer mentors. Facility includes cardio/weight equipment, rock climbing wall, swimming pool, racquetball/basketball courts, and an indoor track.

*Student Rec and Wellness Center Fees*

€ \$130/semester (included in your Think Beach program fees)

*Student Health Center Fee (separate from CPIE tuition)*

- \$75/semester (summer, fall, or spring)



# Beach Scholars Student Expectations

*Think Beach's primary goals are to best prepare students for independence and employment. Students who participate in Think Beach will be asked to agree to these expectations.*

1. Follow the guidelines in the student handbook and those of the university, including the Code of Student Conduct.
2. Make an effort to create a safe and orderly learning environment by being dependable, respecting others, demonstrating honesty and a positive attitude in the classroom, on campus, and at career placements.
3. Identify your needs and accommodations for classes, internships, or jobs.
4. Communicate with teacher(s), Think Beach staff, peer mentors, supports, and family about successes and/or challenges/issues you need help with.
5. Participate in Person-Centered Planning to identify skills, interests, and needs by setting goals with the help of my team (Think Beach staff, family, friends).
6. Show progress on my goals throughout each semester in the Think Beach program.
7. Attend weekly required meetings with peer mentors.
8. Take responsibility for the decisions you make, do your best to make good choices and accept natural and given consequences.
9. Be respectful, follow instructions and strive to meet the expectations of teacher(s), supervisor(s), Think Beach staff, and others who are on my team.
10. Contact the Think Beach office, professors, supports and work supervisors when you will be late or absent from responsibilities.
11. Accept and apply feedback from Think Beach staff, instructors, work supervisors, and other university staff.
14. Always strive to be at your best, remembering that you are becoming independent and acting as a young adult.

*Students will sign the Think Beach Student Expectation Form during Program Orientation. This form indicates that students are aware of the program expectations.*

# University Expectations

## California State University, Long Beach Policies

Beach Scholars are a part of the CSULB community. They must adhere to all CSULB rules, policies, and procedures, which includes the following:

- CSULB Campus Regulations, including Student Code of Conduct  
[https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/campus-rules-and-regulations/regs\\_book\\_full.pdf](https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/campus-rules-and-regulations/regs_book_full.pdf)
- General Student Policies:  
[https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/campus-rules-and-regulations/regs\\_book\\_general\\_student\\_policies.pdf](https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/campus-rules-and-regulations/regs_book_general_student_policies.pdf)
- CSULB Campus Policies:  
[https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/campus-rules-and-regulations/regs\\_book\\_general\\_campus\\_policies.pdf](https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/campus-rules-and-regulations/regs_book_general_campus_policies.pdf)

## Student Attendance Policy

It is our expectation that Beach Scholars will attend and participate in all scheduled classes, PCP meetings, and other scheduled support appointments and activities.

### Extended Leave

Our program is built on academic semesters that are 16 weeks long. This means that any extended absence can greatly affect the academic progress of the Beach Scholar. It is for this reason that any extended leave longer than five days will need to be approved **in advance** by the Co-Directors. We strongly suggest that all extended family trips be scheduled outside of the CSULB academic calendar.

[https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/academic-affairs/academic\\_calendar\\_22-23\\_text.pdf](https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/academic-affairs/academic_calendar_22-23_text.pdf)

# Academics

## **Certificate in Integrated Career Studies**

Think Beach is a two-year (four-semester) inclusive higher education program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Beach Scholars will develop an individualized program of study in consultation with Think Beach staff. Each program of study will outline specific courses, workshops, and vocational experiences for students to complete. After 4-semesters in the program, Beach Scholars who complete all required program requirements will earn a certificate in Integrated Career Studies.

## **Coursework**

Each Beach Scholar’s program of study will be unique – based on career goals developed through person-centered planning. However, each scholar is expected to enroll in and complete two CSULB undergraduate courses per semester. Some courses are required, while others are electives selected in consultation with Think Beach staff.

In Fall 2023, all Beach Scholars will enroll in the following two courses through CSULB Open University:

- Nutrition 132: Introductory Nutrition (3 units)
- Counseling 191: Career and Personal Explorations (3 units)

Here is a sample program of study:

Semester	Course 1	Course 2
Fall Year 1	NUTR 132: Introductory Nutrition	COUN 191: Career and Personal Explorations
Spring Year 1	COMM 110: Interpersonal Communication	Career Focused Elective 1 (3 units)
Fall Year 2	C/LA 390 A/B/C: Career Readiness: Exploring Careers, Professional Profile, & Preparing for Interviews	Career Focused Elective 2 (3 units)
Spring Year 2	REC 201: Teamwork and Group Dynamics	Career Focused Elective 3 (3 units)

## **Grading**

Based on each Beach Scholar’s unique strengths and needs, students will have the option to enroll in courses for the following grading options: grade, credit/no credit, or audit. Options will be selected in consultation with Think Beach staff.

### **Think Beach Workshops**

Beach Scholars will attend weekly Think Beach workshops designed to support Beach Scholars in their transition to adulthood. Topics include life skills, study skills, vocational skills, and campus resources.

### **Person-Centered Planning**

Students are at the center of our program. Beach Scholars will work with a designated faculty mentor to create a Person-Centered Plan (PCP). The PCP serves to highlight student interests and strengths while also identifying needed supports. The goal of the PCP is to support the scholar's educational and vocational experiences by planning specific goals and action steps that will lead to the student's vision for his or her future.

The first person-centered planning meeting will occur at the start of the semester. The team will meet 2-3 times throughout the academic year to check in and modify the plan and/or supports as needed.

### **Academic Tutor**

Each Beach Scholar will have at least one designated Academic Tutor, or "Study Buddy." Academic tutors will support Beach Scholars in making plans to complete assignments and navigating Canvas. Academic tutors may also assist Beach Scholars in reviewing class notes, readings, and assignments.

### **Office of Disability Services**

Beach Scholars must apply for accommodations through the Bob Murphy Access Center (BMAC). BMAC works to ensure that the university remains in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The purpose of accommodations provided through BMAC are to minimize the effects of a disability so that students have equal access to programs, services and activities. In addition, Beach Scholars may provide additional modifications to coursework (with instructor approval), a peer support in the classroom, or other supports for campus and career participation.

For more information, go to the BMAC website at: <https://www.csulb.edu/student-affairs/bob-murphy-access-center>



### **Satisfactory Progress Policy**

We anticipate the students will be meeting basic expectations, however, if they do not, we will spend the Person-Centered Planning meeting in October working to find ways to support the student to be successful in the basic expectations of our program. All students who are meeting basic expectations will be ready to create a Person-Centered Plan in October.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress** means that a student is working toward their course completion in CSULB courses and attending all required Think Beach workshops and meetings.

## **Employment**

Though our program is multifaceted, a primary focus is on employment. Changing outcomes for students with intellectual disabilities means changing opportunities. We will be using person-centered planning to guide our efforts and taking our cues from the strengths, hopes, and dreams of the student. Our students will participate in a variety of vocational experiences, from job shadowing to internships and paid jobs. We will use employment as an opportunity to build independent living skills.

## **Peer Mentors**

Beach Scholars will be supported by a team of CSULB peer mentors. These mentors are trained by our staff and specialized and assigned in one of three areas: Academic, Social, and Health and Wellness. Each mentor group serves a different purpose and all will be connecting with the scholars daily or weekly. Some academic mentors will go with Beach Scholars to CSULB courses. The mentors are there to not only build personal relationships with scholars, but to facilitate inclusion into all aspects of campus life and community.

# Emergency Procedures

Beach Scholars can use the following information and guidelines in the case of an emergency.

1. The CSULB BeachALERT Emergency Notification System communicates official information to our students, faculty, staff, and other community members during certain emergency situations utilizing voice, email, and text messages.

Information on how to receive CSULB BeachALERTS can be found at the link below:

<https://www.csulb.edu/university-police/emergency-notification-system>

2. In case of an emergency while on-campus, Beach Scholars can contact CSULB Campus Police by calling or texting 911.  
There is also a 24/7 non-emergency line: 562.985.4101
3. Beach Crisis Text Line :The Beach Community now has a free 24/7, high-quality text-based mental health support and crisis intervention hotline. Students can access this service by texting BEACH to 741741.

## Medication

Think Beach does not provide a designated medical staff member to administer medications. Students accepted to the Think Beach program must be able to manage and administer their own medications. If there is a change in medication type, dosage, or tune administered, it is the responsibility of the student/parent/guardian to notify staff immediately. Think Beach is not responsible for managing or refilling prescriptions.

## Family/Guardian Information and Student Privacy

The role of the parent and their relationship with their child's school changes when the child enters college. As university students, students and their families are no longer protected by the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). As a university student, the student will take on increased responsibility in their educational process, with the intention of them developing self-advocacy skills and independence.

The Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) is the law that protects students' personal and educational information from being shared without their consent. Once students are 18 years of age, they must give consent to family or others to see their educational records. This includes anything related to academic coursework like grades, records regarding conduct, or a student's disability. These cannot be shared without written permission from the student.

FERPA outlines a student's rights to privacy and CSULB has a FERPA policy here:

<https://www.csulb.edu/student-records/ferpa-for-students>

Our goal is to develop students who are self-advocates and able to reach out to administration, faculty and staff with their needs. However, sometimes students may also need to reach out to family for extra support or guidance. Below is a list of times when the Think Beach staff will reach out to family:

- Medical: Pain or illness not typical for student.
- Finances: Commuter or transportation access.
- Procedural Processes: Related to work or recreation where additional authorization is required (e.g. sports physical, TB testing).
- Patterned behavior that significantly impacts the educational success of the student despite additional program support. These behaviors may put the student's well-being, enrollment status, and/or safety at risk.
- Safety: On/off campus requiring additional agency involvement (e.g. emergency first responder, fire and rescue, and any other law enforcement agency).
- Formal Processes: Title IX or Student Conduct issues.

### Procedures to follow:

1. Staff will inform and will notify the Beach Scholar of the need to discuss a concern with their parent/guardian.
2. Student will contact parent/guardian with support from the Think Beach Staff
3. Student will introduce the topic of concern to the parent/guardian and together the Beach Scholar, staff and family will problem-solve on the best approach to take regarding the current need.

## Parent Tips

We request parent involvement in the student's life while attending CSULB. We also believe students benefit by learning on their own, becoming self-advocates, learning from mistakes, and continuing to make better choices. This often means the parent must step back from some of the prior engagement they have had in their child's life. To support the students in making this shift, we suggest families step into a role that empowers, advises and supports. Instead of advocating for their child, they are advocating with them. When parents hear a fear or complaint from their student, it is helpful to guide them towards solving the problem on their own, encouraging them to ask staff and other trusted individuals for help so that they can begin to self-advocate.