

SEMESTER KICKSTART

SUMMER 2026

Semester Kickstart (formerly Quarter Plus) gives incoming first-year students a head start on their academic journey, offering an intensive opportunity to earn credits and begin their Cal Poly experience before the fall semester begins.

This intensive program includes enrollment in 8 units of academic coursework. Social activities and the opportunity to become familiar with campus life and the San Luis Obispo community are added benefits. Visit kickstart.calpoly.edu for more details about the program.

Semester Kickstart learning assistants are the lifeline of the program. Serving as peer mentors, learning assistants serve as positive role models that demonstrate academic success, personal integrity, and a commitment to the Cal Poly community. Learning assistant involvement is critical to mentor students and provide consistent, daily communication between staff, faculty, and program coordinators. This position provides an opportunity for learning assistants to develop skills in leadership, mentoring, team building and public speaking.

The learning assistant position will begin with **mandatory paid training** from **Monday July 6 - Friday, July 10**. The position then kicks into full swing when the program starts. The 2026 program dates are **Tuesday, July 14 - Tuesday, August 11**. Please review all the key program dates on page 3. **Learning assistants must be available on all these dates. In addition to the above dates, there will be one evening meeting during the spring quarter.**

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Collaborate with Semester Kickstart instructors, program staff and other learning assistants to support the success of participants, program activities and events.
- Attend class for the assigned Semester Kickstart course and facilitate study sessions to support material learned in class.
- Serve as the first line of communication for students that may be facing challenges.
- Organize and facilitate social activities for students to attend on Wednesdays.
- May be required to work evenings and weekends as required to support the program.
- Support general program presentations, recruitment and student outreach and extracurricular activities.
- Attend required weekly staff meetings.
- Meet regularly with instructor of the assigned course.
- Other duties as assigned.
- Submit/review approved hours for pay weekly.

QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:

- Cal Poly cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Ability to take the initiative and work well with minimal supervision.
- Ability to communicate effectively and be sensitive to all program participants.
- Ability to work as a collaborator with students, peers, staff, and faculty.
- Strong overall awareness of campus resources and topics important to new students.
- **Position will require up to 30-40 hours/week and may include weekend and evening hours.**
- May be enrolled in units during summer provided that the course dates do not occur during the learning assistant training and the program dates.
- Must **NOT** be enrolled in other programs, courses, activities **or have another job** during the Semester Kickstart Program.
- As a Learning Assistant, you are considered a 'mandated reporter' under the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act and are required to comply with the requirements set forth in CSU Executive Order 1083 as a condition of employment.
- Must complete required campus training prior to the start of the program.
- Must pass an FBI/DOJ Background check and get a Live Scan at Cal Poly Police Department prior to the start of the program.

COMPENSATION

\$18.00 per hour

STUDY SESSIONS

Study sessions provide learning environments outside of class to supplement material taught by the course instructor. No new material is taught in study sessions; students are provided with an opportunity to collaborate with one another to further their academic success in the program. Learning assistants guide discussion of the material, provide learning activities, and challenge students to critically engage with the course material. Study sessions will vary by course. Learning assistants attend all weekly class sessions so they can focus on that week's content, not on general review. Learning assistants are required to prep and facilitate study sessions and are expected to prepare collaborative, challenging activities to foster student learning. This is included in the potential 30-40 hour work week schedule. There is no tutoring involved in this position.

What study sessions involve:

- Discussion, debate, and practice of specific course topics.
- Focused and structured study time.
- Collaborative learning.
- Critical thinking and application.
- Study skills in context.
- Opportunities to complete course assignments, as needed.

What study sessions do not involve:

- Individual Tutoring.
- Excessive homework time.
- Lectures – Learning assistants are not required to reteach the course material.

TIME COMMITMENT

Time Commitment-all scheduled days and times below are mandatory but subject to change pending program need.

Learning Assistants MUST be available between **July 6 - August 11 for the following:**

- Mandatory training – Monday, July 6 - Friday, July 10.
- Semester Kickstart move-in morning - Tuesday, August 12.
- Semester Kickstart Orientation Day led by learning assistants - Wednesday, July 15.
- Attend assigned class daily **MTTF between July 16 - August 11.**
- Facilitate two two-hour study sessions per week. You may not go over your allotted 40-hour limit. Study sessions are typically held on Mondays and Wednesdays but can be held during Monday-Friday on an as needed basis.
- Meet with assigned instructor on regular basis.
- Attend one-hour weekly staff meetings on Wednesday mornings.
- Attend weekly COMS or GE learning assistant meeting.
- Plan, supervise and facilitate social activities on or off campus during evenings (Monday-Friday) and weekends as required to support the program.

NOTE: During the program, up to 30-40 hours per week commitment should be expected. A maximum of 40 hours can be worked in any one week. Overtime will not be permitted. Any time over 40 hours per week is prohibited.

2026 KEY DATES

- Friday, April 10, 2026: Cal Poly Open House; opportunity for Learning Assistants to help with the Semester Kickstart Resource Fair table.
- TBD: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm: Learning assistant meet & greet via zoom
- Monday, July 6 - Friday, July 10, 2026: Mandatory on-campus learning assistant training

2026 PROGRAM DATES

2026 Program Dates: Tuesday, July 14 - Tuesday, August 11

Tuesday, July 14: Program move-in

Wednesday, July 15: Student Orientation & social activities

Thursday, July 16: First Day of Classes

Monday, August 10: Move to Fall Housing

Tuesday, August 11: Last day of classes and finals

QUESTIONS?

Extended, Professional and Continuing Education via email: extended@calpoly.edu

Contact Semester Kickstart at kickstart@calpoly.edu