

TEACHING AT CAL STATE EAST BAY

Thank you for choosing to be part of the professorate at Cal State East Bay. You are joining the ranks of approximately 330 Tenured or Tenure Track professors and over 400 lecturers who teach in over 60 majors and help us to educate approximately 12,500 undergraduate and 2,000 graduate students every year.

Teaching is the number one priority of our University, and while many of our faculty write papers and grants, serve on campus committees, and volunteer in their communities, it is understood by all that our first obligation is to offer excellence in the classroom and the laboratory. We are a teaching university.

Who are your students? You may know that Cal State East Bay has been recognized as the most diverse campus on the mainland of the United States, which means that our students are from a wide variety of racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds. Roughly speaking, 31% of our students are Latinx, 22% are Asian, 15% are White, 10% are African American, 10% are multiple ethnicities or decline to state, and 9% are international. 55% of our students are the first in their families to go to college and 45% of all students qualify for PELL aid (which generally means that they are from low-income families or have very little income themselves).

First generation, minority, and low-income college students have many challenges. Usually, they don't know the ropes of going to college, selecting a major, and balancing life/work/school obligations. Caring faculty are critical, as these students (and others) may not know how to get help (like tutoring, counseling, food assistance), how to ask questions (politely ask in class, write to the instructor after class, or go to office hours), or how to get involved in campus life (join a club, fraternity/sorority, get a job on campus, etc.)

So, teaching and helping our students will require not only your disciplinary expertise, but also your willingness to make yourself available, to put yourself in a student's shoes when trying to convey difficult or sensitive information, and getting familiar with the services our campus has to offer, so you can assist your students with making the most of their college experience.

We also have services available to you! The Office of Faculty Development puts on workshops throughout the year to help you improve your teaching, kick-start your research, and find out about support services. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs makes internal grants available so that you can explore new avenues of research. And, your Chair, Associate and Dean are also willing to speak with you at any time should difficulties arise.

So, thank you, again, for joining Cal State East Bay. Your work will make the difference in 1000's of lives. We hope you will keep learning, keep helping, and reaching out. Please let us know if any of us can help you in this important journey.