

Dear Prospective Slug,

Please take a few minutes to read this newsletter, there is a lot of important information that can help you in your search.

First, I would like to thank you for your interest in one of the finest Universities in the world. UCSC is not only a great school, but is one of the most, if not the most, beautiful school anywhere. One to two miles away are beaches that are included in the list of top ten beaches in the United States. Great Surfing is only minutes away. On top of all that UCSC has a great swim program. If you are willing to work hard, (9-11 swim sessions per week/ 3 weight training sessions per week/ 3-4 dryland sessions per week) you will have the opportunity to swim your fastest.

Last year UC Santa Cruz had approximately one hundred and sixty inquires about the swim team. The freshman class this year may be the best we have ever had. This year early inquiries are running above last years. This is good and bad. It is good because Santa Cruz has had great success and is a desirable place to go to school and swim, bad-because we don't have the space that we had just a few years ago when almost anyone would have a place to swim. I feel that there are several reasons for this. One is that UCSC has been discovered as a great place to go to school. Our number of applications the last couple years proves this. Two, we have had seven very good years with the swim teams. UCSC is a place that a swimmer has the opportunity to train very hard and swim very fast in a competitive Conference and Division. If the rate of inquires holds for the year there will be no way we can keep in contact with 160+ seniors. Therefore I am asking all swimmers with interest about the program to help us streamline the process. ***Please fill out the recruit form included in this letter. If you send back the recruit form we are assuming that you have serious interest in UCSC and being a member of the swim team.*** At this point in the year that would mean UCSC is one of your top three schools of interest. Please check the times listed. If you have the times and send back the form you will be added to our database of recruits.

For those swimmers at the stage of gathering information about various schools please visit our Athletic website at www.goslugs.com link to the swim teams and you can get information about the team, team records, coaches, past newsletters, meet results and more. If you have any questions please contact me 831-459-3372. Your best chance at contact with me is by

e-mail at kmusch@ucsc.edu. I am more than happy to answer any questions that I can. The University also has extensive information on the web; please visit www.ucsc.edu/ if you have any questions about admissions, financial aid, housing, cost...

Second, let's talk about what may influence your decision about where to attend school. We have many swimmers that list other schools of interest that include Division I schools.

For those of you set on swimming at a Division I school, look at the Division I qualifying times. The qualifying times are a little faster than what is needed for an Olympic Trial Qualifying time. If you are fast enough to have an OT cut out of high school, then you probably should go to a Division I school (one that hopefully has a good swim program) and take the scholarship offered. Take the time to evaluate the school and swim team. There are many Division I schools that may have a lot of money, but not very good swim programs or not be very good schools. DI does not necessarily equate to faster swimming. If swimming faster does not matter to you, and you are swimming for the money, then make the best deal you can and not worry about if you go faster. If you are good enough you will get offers from the top programs. These programs generally have good coaches and you should do fine. If you do not qualify for DI NCAA's you will find your season over in February. If you are not in the top/scholarship level of high school seniors, then your concerns should be more about the school and if you fit into and can contribute to the team. Will you get an opportunity to swim fast? Besides the top schools many of the DI programs send few, or no, swimmers to DI NCAA's. Look at the times. The top 20-22 swimmers in DI make an event for NCAA's. That equates to about the top 40-50 in the world. If you are not in the top 40-50 in the world, you will not be swimming at Division I NCAA's.

For the vast majority of swimmers Division II or Division III is a better fit. The time standards to make NCAA's is generally a little faster than the Junior National Standards. The winning times, of course, are pretty fast and usually the top 6-8 swimmers in an event make Senior National Times. The competition at the NCAA's is pretty stiff. For example a women that swims 5:00.00 in the 500 free (a pretty good time) can be competitive at the Division III meet and be a possible All-American. For the same women at a good DI school, she may not even make the travel squad, and not swim after a year or two because she does not receive any attention, or a chance to ever

swim a relay or make a final at the conference meet. A big part of your college experience should be that you helped your team, and you played a role, and knew that you were important.

The Division III qualifying times and championships are about equal to the the Division II qualifying times and championships. Overall the DIII NCAA's is a little faster, mainly because there are a lot more schools in DIII, and many of the DIII schools offer scholarships. These scholarships are not suppose to be based on athletic ability but the simple true is, there is a lot of money available for swimmers at DIII schools.

Third ,So what does this all lead too. At the University of California, at Santa Cruz, a DIII school, we offer a combination of a great school (one of the top twenty public schools in the country, top 20 this year) and a great swim program (possibly top ten in the country for both men's and women's team this year). We do this without any bogus scholarships. What is offered from the financial aid office is based solely on need.. We don't cheat and we don't give swimming scholarships that go by different names. We have been successful because our swimmers are given the opportunity to train hard, and get better, and they do. We have a very competitive NCAA championship, and are in a very good conference with teams that include UC San Diego, Pepperdine, Cal State Bakersfield, Cal Baptist University, Seattle University, Loyola Marymount University, among others. Our swimmers swim because they want to, because they love it. They are not swimming for money and it is not a job. We have had a great record of success and improvement and this coming year can be the best ever.

So when you are thinking about schools, think about the total package. Take away the available scholarships that are offered (being realistic, there just is not that many to begin with), and I feel we offer a total package as good as any school in the country.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to e-mail me at kmusch@cats.ucsc.edu or call at 831-459-3372. I will do my best to get back to you asap.

Kim Musch
UCSC Swimming and Diving

During the last several years the UCSC Swim teams have experienced considerable growth. We are no longer able to take all comers onto the team. To help you, I have listed below times that should do well in our conference championships. If you are faster than the times listed below you are considered a solid recruit for us. If you do not have these times out of high school, we will consider you in a try-out bases during the first few weeks of the season. Unfortunately, we are unable to carry all those that wish to swim here and must set some time standards for the coming year. If the recruiting does not go as anticipated then the time standards will be relaxed.

	Women	Men
50 free	25.49	22.00
100 free	55.99	48.70
200 free	1:59.00	1:48.50
500 free	5:16.00	4:50.00
1650 free	unlimited	unlimited
100 back	1:02.50	58.50
200 back	2:20.00	2:07.00
100 breast	1:09.59	1:01.50
200 breast	2:33.00	2:16.00
100 fly	1:01.00	54.50
200 fly	2:16.00	2:02.00
200 I.M.	2:13.00	2:01.00
400 I.M.	4:52.00	4:22.00
Divers	unlimited	unlimited

If you are truly interested and not at these times, please send in a recruit form. We never know what will make the team from year to year. We let everyone tryout during the first part of the season.

We take everyone on the team to the Conference Championships. So if you make the team, you get as much a chance to swim fast as anyone on the team. We are allowed to score the top 17 swimmers from the team and designate those swimmers for finals.