Founded in 1972, Oakes College offers students a place to understand, accept, and celebrate human diversity. Poised at the edge of UCSC's natural preserve, Oakes is at the leading edge of scholarship, community building, and integrated co-curricular experiences. Our multicultural theme housing recognizes historical and contemporary figures whose lives and activism symbolize the struggles for social justice and equality. In this context, our students are encouraged to see their differences as an opportunity for growth and discussion rather than a barrier.

We invite you to enjoy a self-guided tour of our college using this pamphlet for tour stopping information. Use the guide on the flip side to help guide your way.

The tour begins at what is known as the Oakes Circle. This is the main reference point for many of our students and serves as the entrance to our college.

...where difference is not a barrier, but an invitation to grow.

Find us on social media:

Instagram: @oakescollege
Facebook: @Oakes College Programs

For more information on Oakes College, please visit our webpage at oakes.ucsc.edu
1. Academic Building
Close to the Oakes Circle, located on the first floor, the College Office provides assistance with academic advising, registration processes, and on-campus student mail. At the far end of the first floor, the Westside Writing Center offers writing consultation services and tutoring. The Second Floor is home to the Community Studies department and the Oakes Service Learning program. Throughout the building you will also find faculty offices, classrooms, two student-initiated murals, and the Oakes Reading Room (a study room and home to Oakes Senate).

2. Student Life Office
Housing, programs, and residential life offices are located here. In front of the office is the Upper Lawn, where BBQs and outdoor movies are hosted when the weather is warm.

3. J. Herman Blake Provost House, Garden & Lower Lawn
Across from our garden we have the private residence of our college Provost. The space is often opened up for student and faculty receptions. Below the Provost House is our Lower Lawn. The lawn is a popular location for students to enjoy college-wide events or simply spend the day in the sun.

Named after Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in the history of California and after Queen Lili'uokalani, the last sovereign monarch of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, these apartment buildings are primarily for our continuing and transfer students.

5. Oakes Café
Students from all across campus make the Oakes Café one of our most popular eating destinations. Next to the café is the Guzman Room, a space for students to study, hangout, or relax in. It's named after Ralph C. Guzman, who along with J. Herman Blake, co-founded Oakes College.

6. Amphitheater & Learning Center
Overlooking the Pacific, the Amphitheater is a great place to enjoy the sun. Located at the top of the stairs, the Learning Center is our large scale event space and is often used for tutoring meetings and events. A computer lab for student use is located next to the Learning Center.

7. Dorm Quad
Named after renowned authors and social activists, these four buildings are our dorms (Wiesel, Biko, Huerta, and Hong-Lim) where we primarily house first year students.

8. Kahlo & Shabazz Apts., Underdome
Named after Frida Kahlo, celebrated artist and social liberation activist and after couple Betty Shabazz and Malcolm X, civil rights advocates and educators, these apartment buildings primarily house our continuing and transfer students. Underdome is the site of various activities, including our 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament.

Our Namesakes:
All of our residential buildings are named after figures who have meant a great deal in progressive social justice issues. All of our building namesakes were selected by students.