



Dinners With Anteaters

1. What is Dinners with Anteaters (DWA)?

Dinners with Anteaters is a program that brings students, alumni, staff, and faculty together for an evening of food, fun and conversation throughout Orange County. It is a great opportunity for students to network and get advice from alumni, faculty, staff and other students in a casual dinner setting

2. How does Dinners with Anteaters work?

Dinners with Anteaters takes place once per academic quarter, typically on a Saturday evening. Volunteer alumni/staff/faculty will host individual dinners on the same date, either in their home or at a local restaurant. Students will be pre-assigned to a specific dinner based on their major and/or interests.

3. What are my primary responsibilities as a dinner host?

Your primary responsibilities include providing students with a warm meal as well as sharing your advice and experience in a friendly and welcoming environment.

4. Where can I host a dinner?

Dinners can be hosted at your own home or at a local restaurant. If you are hosting at a restaurant, consider choosing a place with a low noise level and located close to UCI.

5. What time can I host the dinner and how long do they typically last?

The event starts at 6PM for all dinners so you will be able to host at that time, and most dinners will last approximately 2 hours long.

6. Can I host a dinner with other people?

Yes, you can host a dinner with other people. It is a bonus if they are also an Anteater but anyone is welcome. The more the merrier!

7. Can I request a specific student demographic for my dinner?

We will try our best to accommodate requests but we cannot guarantee it. Please indicate your request during time of registration and our DWA team will contact you for further discussions.

8. What is a dinner lead and what is their role?

Each dinner will have an assigned dinner lead, who is a member of the Student Alumni Association. The role of the dinner lead is to communicate important information to both hosts and students. They also serve as the point of contact for any questions or concerns for both hosts and students. Feel free to direct any questions or concerns to your dinner lead!

9. I'm not available on any of the event dates, but I would love to host in the future.

At this time, DWA occurs on an annual basis. You will be able to host on any of the dates that you are available during that weekend. Although DWA will take place on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday to ensure student availability, we may be able to make a special exception if you prefer to host on Sunday of that same weekend. Please make this request at the time of registration or contact us in advance through email at dinnerwithanteaters.uci@gmail.com.

- 10. I'm not a UCI alumnus/na but I want to host.** We welcome any staff, faculty, retirees/emeriti, parents, of UCI to host.
- 11. What if I can't host that weekend?** We are only able to accommodate dinners that take place during the same weekend as the event date. If you have any concerns, please make this request at the time of registration or contact us in advance through email at dinnerwithanteaters.uci@gmail.com.
- 12. Will I receive students with dietary restrictions?** You will be able to indicate on the registration form whether you will be able to accommodate students with dietary restrictions. We will only assign students that you indicated that you can accommodate.
- 13. Are my dinner expenses tax deductible?** Meals supplied by hosts may be tax deductible*. Please request a gift in kind form from us and save receipts for submission with form. *Please consult with your tax advisor.
- 14. Will I be compensated for the meal?** Hosts will not be compensated for the meals. However meals can be tax deductible*. Please request a gift in kind form from us and save receipts for submission with form. *Please consult with your tax advisor.
- 15. Is it expensive to host a dinner?** How much to spend on dinner is completely up to the host. Past hosts have saved money by providing simple meals like pizza or In N Out. Sometimes a home cooked meal like spaghetti and meatballs can be cost friendly as well. Other helpful tips include co-hosting with other Anteaters friends and splitting the dinner costs between all co-hosts. You also have the freedom to host a smaller group when you register.
- 16. What if my house isn't big enough to host a dinner?** Some hosts can opt to host their dinner at a local restaurant if their home is not large enough. Otherwise past hosts have gotten creative by setting out chairs in the living room or other area in the house. The students are pretty flexible and don't mind balancing the plates on their laps. Great food and company is all they need!