

*Cynthia Roldan*

“If you come from a small town, you are familiar with everything and everyone there. Fresno is a large enough city to be exciting, but it's not so large that it's scary.”

**CYNTHIA L. ROLDAN**  
Junior



**L**ike many students on campus, Cynthia Roldan transferred to CSU, Fresno after attending one of the community colleges in the San Joaquin Valley. Citing many reasons for choosing the community college education route, she says her main reasons were wanting to “ease into college life” and to save some educational expenses.

As a liberal studies major at the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, 21-year-old Roldan could have gone to any number of schools to obtain her bachelor's degree. She came to Fresno, however, because she wanted to avoid being thrown into a totally new educational and living environment. “At least I had some familiarity with Fresno, and CSUF is a fine school,” Roldan says of her decision to continue her college education here.

Being close to her family is important to Roldan. Until this year, Roldan lived with her family in Orosi, California (population 4,075), which is approximately a 50-minute drive from Fresno. While living at home, she often helped out at the family-run hardware store. Although she doesn't need to work, Roldan still goes home occasionally to help out with the store when she needs extra cash. “We

have a closely knit, loving family, but we can be close even at a distance,” she says. Since her hometown is nearby, remaining “close” will be easy. “Plus, if I go home, I get free gas. My parents also own a service station,” Roldan adds with a laugh.

Roldan's family ties and her way of thinking things through strongly influence how she adapts to changes in her life. She also has definite educational goals for herself. “I want to force myself to go out there and meet people and do things. I don't want to have to say at the end of an academic semester that I didn't meet any new friends, etc., and that I'm disappointed in my university experience here. I think that if you don't like school, it is because you didn't try hard enough. The university is a good place to grow intellectually and to make new friends.” With that attitude, Roldan began her junior year — her first at CSU, Fresno.

**Did you form any expectations of what the university would be like?**

I think everything that I expected has come true because I tried to prepare myself for my next two years at Fresno State. I talked to my liberal studies counselor early, so I didn't have to worry about not knowing the requirements for my major, scheduling my classes, and

adjusting to the university. I visited the campus before Summer Orientation and asked questions. I had already had a taste of college life and the Fresno area, so I wasn't nervous about coming here. I prepared myself, so my transition was easy.

**Were you ready for a large university at the beginning of the school year?**

It's like everything else: you think it's going to be hard, but you're able to face most problems or situations because you have matured and learned from previous experiences. In high school, I thought “Oh, the College of the Sequoias is going to be so hard.” But, I was prepared. My only hope was that I was prepared for Fresno State, too. I was anxious about it.

**What fears did you have about coming to Fresno and the university?**

The main concern that bothered me was possibly not getting the courses I wanted and then not knowing where the classrooms were. At the College of the Sequoias, it wasn't much of a problem scheduling or taking the classes that I wanted. I have many friends who had attended CSU, Fresno, and they talked with me about the university and life in Fresno. Also, I have a lot of friends who