Dear Prospective Students:

Thank you for your interest in UC Santa Barbara! This is an exciting time for you to be thinking about your future, and we are glad you are considering our campus as the next step in your education. You will find that the roads to growth and personal fulfillment take you far beyond intellectual pursuits. With that in mind, I invite you to get acquainted with our vibrant campus life.

This LGBTQ Resource Guide provides information on a wonderful variety of programs, organizations, events, activities, and campus services available to you, should you choose to become part of our UCSB family. I encourage you to browse through this guide and familiarize yourself with our community, including our Resource Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity, which celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2014. This center is one of several academic and personal support systems on our campus for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning communities.

At UC Santa Barbara, our community encompasses a rich and diverse mix of cultures, backgrounds, talents, and perspectives. This diversity is an essential part of our academic excellence. We hold a five-star ranking by the national nonprofit Campus Pride and made its most recent Top 30 list, with high marks for LGBTQ academic life, student life, residence life, and campus safety. And our Career Services is a 2014 Out for Work LGBTQ Certified SILVER Career Center.

Our campus is also proud to offer a minor in LGBTQ Studies in our Department of Feminist Studies. Beyond the classroom, our vibrant LGBTQ campus organizations, mentorship programs, and educational and social events help create an engaging community. Our Rainbow House and gender-inclusive housing and restrooms offer supportive residential environments. Our campus also offers LGBTQ programming throughout the year, including films, performances, and a Pride Week each spring.

Many exciting opportunities and rewarding experiences lie ahead for you at UC Santa Barbara, and we hope to have the pleasure of welcoming you to our beautiful campus in the fall. In the meantime, I offer you my sincerest best wishes for your continued success.

HENRY T. YANG
Chancellor
University of California, Santa Barbara

CHRISTINE DOLAN  Associate Director, Resource Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity (RCSGD)
Pronouns: They, them, theirs

The RCSGD serves LGBTQ students and communities in order to decenter dominance. Cultivating safer and brave spaces for people to learn about allyship and inclusion is an important service we are committed to for UCSB. We know that LGBTQ people are everywhere, at every intersection of identities, and we know that all oppression is connected. Our liberation is collective, and until we can join in solidarity to challenge racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, ableist and other systems of oppression, we cannot be free. We are committed to advocating with you and to supporting and honoring you in your journeys. We welcome your presence and participation, and we are excited to connect with you any time!

ABIGAÍL SALAZAR RODRIGUEZ  Program Coordinator, RCSGD
Pronouns: She, her, hers, ella, they, them, theirs

The legacy of the Center represents the importance of LGBTQ students’ existence and history of being in the frontlines of movements on campus and within the larger community. The Center was created through students’ resilience and is designated for you to thrive in the face of adversity. It is the RCSGD’s mission to honor this legacy and to continue to provide support, resources, education and tools for the UCSB community to feel empowered and uplifted. We are excited to witness and to become part of your journey at UCSB.

El legado del centro representa la importancia de la existencia de estudiantes LGBTQ y su historia de estar en la vanguardia del activismo universitario. El centro fue un resultado de su lucha y existe para que podamos prosperar ante las adversidades. Es la misión del RCSGD de honrar este legado y de seguir proporcionando apoyo, recursos, educación, y herramientas para que la comunidad continúe resistiendo y triunfando. Estamos muy contentos de ser testigo y de formar parte de su travesía en UCSB.

3,000 visitors to the RCSGD each year

10th annual Queer People of Color Conference hosted in 2015
ENGAGING ORGANIZATIONS

LGBTQ STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS A-Z

- Black Quare: Black/African Diasporic LGBTQ group
- Breaking the Binary: Bisexual and Polysexual communities
- Eucalyptus: Chancellor’s Advisory Committee for LGBTQ faculty and staff
- FUQIT (Friendly Undergraduate Queers in it Together): Social group
- Keshet: LGBTQ Jewish student group
- KUFF (Kink University Fetish Fellowship): Exploring Kink and BDSM
- La Familia De Colores: Queer and Xican@/Latin@ organization
- oSTEM (Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
- QAPI (Queer Asian Pacific Islander group)
- QiTO: Queers in the Outdoors
- Queer and Transgender People of Color Collective
- Queer Art Collective: Organization dedicated to creating and incorporating art into the campus community by and about LGBTQ students
- Queer Commission: Associated Students group for funding and activism
- Queer Student Union: Political and social group for LGBTQ students
- S.A.S.S (Society for Accessible and Safe Spaces): Closed support and social space for transgender students

SPOTLIGHT: oSTEM

Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (oSTEM) aims to promote and support LGBTQ individuals in their pursuit of STEM careers. oSTEM creates visibility and connection to LGBTQ STEM mentors and promotes internship and scholarship opportunities. They work to bridge the gap between the LGBTQ and STEM communities, removing hurdles for success. Their weekly meetings are both social and educational, collaborating with professionals from the CIA, the Keck Graduate Institute and SACNAS (the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science). The chapter also attends the annual National oSTEM Conference.

73% of undergraduate classes have fewer than 30 students
18:1 student-to-faculty ratio
17th anniversary of UCSB RCSGD in 2016
OUT & ACTIVE FACULTY & STAFF

YASMIN QUIGLEY Judicial Affairs Coordinator, Residential & Community Living

“UCSB MEANS TO ME... UCSB helped me on my journey towards self discovery and relationship building. As a former UCSB student, I am grateful to look back at my experiences and recount the many ways I was able to get involved. These opportunities ranged from work, academics, athletics, research and various other leadership opportunities.

LGBTQ COMMUNITY I serve as a mentor through the RCSGD’s LGBTQ mentor program. Being someone who identifies within the community, I have made it a point to connect with current students on topics of identity development and support services. I strive towards reminding our students of the importance of self-care, acceptance and discovery. Be willing to make friends and foster the relationships that uplift you. Take advantage of resources such as CAPS. Take care of yourselves first and the rest will surely follow.

OMER BLAES Professor, Department of Physics

“RESEARCH INTERESTS Theoretical astrophysics, particularly the dynamics and thermodynamics of accretion flows onto black holes, neutron stars and white dwarfs. I also love learning physics and teaching at all levels.

UCSB ENVIRONMENT UCSB has been a terrific environment to be a professor due to its outstanding faculty and students. The very high standards and expectations on this campus have helped me maintain an active research program, and students and colleagues have continually stretched me intellectually.

LGBTQ COMMUNITY I am a very strong supporter of access to education, and enabling people to reach their highest aspirations, regardless of who they are. As someone who is gay himself, I have a responsibility and interest in helping people in this community as best as I can. The most important thing you can learn in life is to accept and love yourself for who you are as an individual.

TANIA ISRAEL Professor, Department of Counseling, Clinical & School Psychology

“UCSB ENVIRONMENT UCSB has provided me with an academic home in which I can teach, conduct research and mentor students within LGBTQ communities and/or in applied psychology. My passions include researching interventions to support the mental health and well-being of LGBTQ people and the intersections of gender, sexuality and ethnicity.

LGBTQ COMMUNITY I am an openly bisexual faculty member who does research on LGBTQ issues, and I’ve been actively engaged with Eucalyptus (the campus committee on LGBT concerns) for many years. My motivation is to eliminate barriers and generate support for LGBTQ people so we can all reach our highest potential. I have studied experiences of LGBTQ people in therapy, trained law enforcement on LGBTQ issues and developed online interventions to reduce internalized stigma for LGBTQ people, among other things.

MARIO MUÑOZ Associate Director, Residential Placement & Assignment Services

“UCSB MEANS TO ME... As an alumnus and staff member for more than 20 years, UCSB has been central to my development and success. I was born in Santa Barbara and even attended Isla Vista Elementary School. There was never any question for me that I would attend UCSB, even though no one in my family had ever been to college. It’s a big part of my identity.

LGBTQ COMMUNITY I have extensive interaction with LGBTQ students around housing issues. In particular, I meet personally with trans* students that have university-owned housing contracts to facilitate how to best meet the needs related to their individual context. I also often interact with students concerned with ensuring their housing situation feels safe. I’m also active in Eucalyptus and the Transgender Taskforce.

The RCSGD, located on the third floor of the Student Resource Building, works with students, staff and faculty to ensure that LGBTQ identities, experiences and concerns are represented and addressed at UCSB. The center aims to create a vibrant and engaging environment through social and educational programming, volunteer and leadership opportunities, a comfortable and welcoming social and study space and professional and student staff members for support and advocacy. The RCSGD hopes that all LGBTQ students can thrive at UCSB, feeling safe, affirmed and valued on campus. The establishment of the RCSGD can be credited to the efforts of students, staff and faculty whose presence, requests, demands and activism led to the creation of the center in 1999. [http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/sgd/](http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/sgd/)

**OUTREACH & EDUCATION**

The RCSGD connects individuals to student organizations as well as campus, local and national LGBTQ resources. The center offers quarterly LGBTQ awareness workshops as well as a peer-to-peer training program. Training topics include LGBTQ identities and terminology, transgender identities, queer people of color, religion and intervening as an ally in response to hate or bias incidents and microaggressions. Sexual health kits are also offered.

**MENTORSHIP & LEADERSHIP**

The RCSGD mentorship program connects students to a staff or faculty member to guide them throughout the year in their growth and development. The RCSGD also hosts the annual Rick Berry Emerging Leaders Institute, founded by a UCSB alumnus. Students can also attend local and national LGBTQ conferences and can apply to be a volunteer at the center.

**TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY & RESOURCES**

UCSB is committed to ensuring that the experiences and needs of transgender and gender expansive students are valued and addressed in order to create a safe, affirming and welcoming environment for all. Through the ongoing programming, outreach and education efforts of the RCSGD and its campus partners, UCSB is working towards creating and sustaining a campus culture that meets the needs and celebrates the identities of the transgender student population.

**TRANSGENDER RESOURCES**

- **S.A.S.S (Society for Accessible and Safe Spaces)**: Closed support and social space for transgender students.
- **Santa Barbara Transgender Advocacy Network**: Providing local resources, community, support and advocacy: [www.sbtan.org](http://www.sbtan.org).
- **Trans* Task Force**: Students, faculty and staff dedicated to implementing initiatives to support and affirm the transgender community.
- **MultiCultural Center (MCC)**: The MCC offers a weekly open social group and support system for transgender students.
- **Office of the Registrar**: UCSB students can input their preferred name without legal documentation for class rosters.
- **Student Health**: The Sierra Clinic offers a transgender healthcare specialist to assist students in all of their medical needs.
- Gender Inclusive restrooms are available throughout campus, and all newly constructed buildings will have multiple per building.
VIBRANT UNIVERSITY LIFE

LGBTQ STUDIES AT UCSB

The Department of Feminist Studies is proud to offer a minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Studies. The minor provides a comprehensive and interdisciplinary examination of the lives, experiences, identities and representations of LGBTQ individuals; their families and communities; their cultures and subcultures; their histories, institutions, languages and literatures; their economics and politics; and their complex relations to the culture and experience of a heterosexual majority. The minor emphasizes the intersection of sexuality and gender with race, class, ethnicity and nation. www.femst.ucsb.edu/undergrad/degree#lgbtq

UCSB HOUSING

Residential & Community Living is committed to ensuring that LGBTQ students feel safe, welcome and comfortable on campus. For any student wishing to find a LGBTQ roommate, our Assignment Services department offers an online matching system by request so all students feel confident about their living situation before they arrive and year by year.

THE RAINBOW HOUSE IN MANZANITA VILLAGE

La Cumbre House in Manzanita Village, The Rainbow House, has been a supportive environment for LGBTQ students since 2005. On move-in day, students can expect a neutral environment to protect the privacy of individuals that are not “out” to family or friends moving them in. The Rainbow House connects students to LGBTQ organizations, hosts related social and educational events and has a mentoring program for student support.

GENDER-INCLUSIVE HOUSING

The primary purpose of Gender-Inclusive Housing is to provide support to students who need or request accommodations due to gender identity and expression. Assignment Services will not ask for more information than is required to meet students’ housing needs, and disclosed private information is confidential.

ETHNIC & GENDER STUDIES LIBRARY

The UCSB Ethnic and Gender Studies Library (EGSL) is a group of six distinct collections housed together in the UCSB Library. Students and researchers describe it as a welcoming, culturally-invigorating space that they consider a home away from home. www.library.ucsb.edu/ethnic-gender-studies-library

ANDELSON COLLECTION

The Andelson Collection in the EGSL supports the teaching curriculum and research interests of faculty and students in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender studies in all disciplines. The collection is named in honor of Sheldon Andelson who was the first openly gay member of the University of California Board of Regents.

30 LGBTQ events are hosted by RCSGD each year on average

900 students, faculty and staff attend Safe Zone workshops yearly
OUTSTANDING SUPPORT SERVICES

› UCSB Career Services is an Out for Work LGBTQ Certified SILVER Career Center offering events, drop-in appointments and LGBTQ resources. http://career.sa.ucsb.edu/

› UCSB Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships offers LGBTQ scholarship resources, a FAFSA dependency override and emergency loans, grants and funds for LGBTQ students in need based on lack of family support or other personal concerns. www.finaid.ucsb.edu

› Education Abroad Program offers a database of LGBTQ resources abroad and orientations to address safety concerns and community offerings by country. https://eap.ucsb.edu

› The MultiCultural Center (MCC) hosts quarterly LGBTQ film screenings and discussions and provides an environment supportive of students’ identities. http://mcc.sa.ucsb.edu

› The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) supports income eligible and first-generation students through academic programs, counseling and advising. EOP also hosts LGBTQ welcome events in their Cultural Resource Centers. http://eop.sa.ucsb.edu

› Student Health provides a transgender healthcare specialist, staff trained on LGBTQ identities and the latest sexual health prescriptions and HIV/STI tests. http://studenthealth.sa.ucsb.edu

› Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers a weekly support group for LGBTQ students entitled “True Selves” and LGBTQ-specialized psychologists. http://caps.sa.ucsb.edu

› The Alcohol and Drug Program offers the Group for LGBTQ Opportunities for Wellness (GLOW) to teach strategies for finding balance. http://alcohol.sa.ucsb.edu

› Health and Wellness provides ongoing events and workshops on gender, sexuality and overall well-being where students can safely explore their identities. http://wellness.sa.ucsb.edu

› CARE offers confidential support and resources for LGBTQ survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, providing additional education for the campus. http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/Care

› The University of California Police Department (UCPD) has staff members specializing in responding to LGBTQ hate or bias incidents. www.police.ucsb.edu

› Community Service Officers (CSOs) are available 24/7 to serve as escorts throughout campus and Isla Vista. www.police.ucsb.edu/cso/safety-escorts

› Judicial Affairs at UCSB provides anonymous online reporting for any hate or bias crimes. http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu

› The Office of Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment/Title IX supports LGBTQ students who are experiencing harassment based on sex, gender identity and gender expression.

› The Office of the Ombuds is a safe, confidential and impartial place to express concerns and seek guidance on campus issues. http://www.ombuds.ucsb.edu

COMMUNITY EVENTS

QUARTERLY EVENTS
Queer and Trans People of Color Potluck
Graduate and international student mixers
Film screenings
OUT Talks with noted LGBTQ researchers
identiTEAs, discussions on intersectional identity
HIV testing with Pacific Pride Foundation, local LGBTQ center
Safe Zone training
Workshops for Greek life and Athletics

ANNUAL EVENTS
Noted LGBTQ speakers
LGBTQ Student Orientation
Lavender Graduation
Queer and trans organizations social
Pride Awards
Fashion and drag shows
Coming Out Monologues
Pride Week
Spring Insight family orientation
UCSB and the environment surrounding the campus.

**LGBTQ COMMUNITY** The LGBTQ community at UCSB is very diverse. We have a lot of cultural and social organizations that target specific intersections of the LGBTQ population. It provides a great balance of education, community and politics.

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**KASHIRA AYERS**
Communication & Feminist Studies

**WHY UCSB?** I had the opportunity to come to UCSB as a junior in high school as part of the Black Student Union’s Outreach Program. I fell in love with the Black community at UCSB and the environment surrounding the campus.

**LGBTQ COMMUNITY** The LGBTQ community is huge and strong. We all have unique stories and experiences and learn from one another. As a transgender identified, queer person, I want to make it easier for not only myself, but also all LGBTQ community members to exist in different spaces safely and comfortably.

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**TRISTIAN ORDAZ**
Feminist Studies & Chican@ Studies

**WHY UCSB?** What drew my interest was the sunny weather and gorgeous views of the mountains and beach. As a queer Chicanx, my goals are to create positive changes for marginalized sexual and gender identities, which I have worked towards at UCSB.

**LGBTQ COMMUNITY** I love the sense of community that LGBTQ identified folks have built. It not only helps us cope with our struggles but provides empowerment through the care for one another.

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**MICK CASTRO**
Sociology & Asian Studies

**WHY UCSB?** The people I’ve met at UCSB from classes, residence life, work and organizations are bright, beautiful and amazing and make me love being here. The classes I take are fun and engaging too with some truly great professors!

**HOW ARE YOU INVOLVED AT UCSB?** I work at both the MultiCultural Center and the RCSGD. Both centers not only offer a study space/lounge area for Queer and Students of Color, but also offer weekly education programming. I am Co-chair of La Familia de Colores, the only Queer, Xican@/Latin@ organization at UCSB. I also studied abroad in Lima, Peru the fall of my senior year.

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**ARIANA RODRIGUEZ**
Literature

**WHY UCSB?** I chose UCSB because of the College of Creative Studies. The department felt like a cross between a liberal arts college with the benefits of a public university – the best of both worlds!

**LGBTQ COMMUNITY** I think our queer community is huge and strong. We all have unique stories and experiences and learn from one another.

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**CONNECT WITH UCSB ADMISSIONS**

- [UCSBadmissions](https://www.admissions.ucsb.edu)
- [UCSantaBarbara](https://www.ucsb.edu)
- [UCSB4Me](https://www.ucsb4me.com)
- [www.youvisit.com/tour/ucsb](https://www.youvisit.com)
- [www.admissions.ucsb.edu/mailing-list](https://www.admissions.ucsb.edu/mailing-list)

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**VISIT UCSB OR CONNECT VIRTUALLY**

For information on scheduling a campus tour, visit the Office of Admissions website at [www.admissions.ucsb.edu/visit-ucsb/tours](https://www.admissions.ucsb.edu/visit-ucsb/tours). Can’t visit in person? Stay connected to UCSB with virtual college fairs, online advising opportunities and webinars. To learn more, visit [www.admissions.ucsb.edu/visit-ucsb/webinars](https://www.admissions.ucsb.edu/visit-ucsb/webinars).

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**SPRING INSIGHT OPEN HOUSE**

Visit UCSB for Spring Insight, an open house for admitted students, future applicants and their families held annually in April. Meet with campus clubs and organizations, take a tour, attend lectures and hear about all the exciting opportunities available to UCSB students. Learn more at [www.admissions.ucsb.edu/visit-ucsb/open-house](https://www.admissions.ucsb.edu/visit-ucsb/open-house).