UC SANTA BARBARA
Communities

African diasporic | American Indian and Indigenous | Asian | Chicanx/Latinx | Middle Eastern, North African, South Asian | Foster Youth | LGBTQIA+ | Military
The UC Santa Barbara community is academically vibrant and culturally diverse. The Communities Guide provides introductory information on programs and student organizations that uplift our students of many backgrounds. Visit the Communities website for more detailed information about each community. We hope this introductory guide sheds light on life as a UC Santa Barbara student.

Welcome to UC Santa Barbara’s Diverse Communities

Henry T. Yang
Chancellor

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. I would like to invite you to get further acquainted with our vibrant campus life. The Communities guide provides information on a wonderful variety of student clubs, programs, organizations, cultural events, activities, and campus services. This is a special time for you as you think about your future, and we are excited that you are considering our campus as the next step in your education!
UCSB is committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment for undocumented students. The university maintains the confidentiality of students and develops campus processes to address student concerns, provide mentorship, financial assistance, and free legal aid.

Mentorship & Growth

Dream Scholars/Undocumented Student Services (USS)
UCSB is committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment for undocumented students. The university maintains the confidentiality of students and develops campus processes to address student concerns, provide mentorship, financial assistance, and free legal aid.

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
EOP services all students while focusing on income eligible and first-generation undergraduates. EOP provides mentorship, social and cultural programming, one-on-one counseling and advising, campus support referrals, and academic programs to prepare students for their career post-graduation.

MultiCultural Center (MCC)
The UCSB MultiCultural Center presents lectures, films, discussions, readings, art exhibitions, and performances to increase cultural awareness.

ONDAS Student Center
ONDAS promotes the success and retention of first-generation students with an emphasis on the first-year transition and underrepresented experiences. Undergraduates are provided peer and faculty mentorship.

Academic Programs

Department of Black Studies | blackstudies.ucsb.edu
Center for Black Studies Research | cbsr.ucsb.edu

In 1968, twelve Black UCSB students took over North Hall's second floor to demand the creation of a program that reflects the rich history of the African diaspora. The Department of Black Studies opened a year later in 1969. Today, the North Hall murals commemorate the historic takeover.
American Indian and Indigenous Student Resources

American Indian and Indigenous Cultural Resource Center (AIICRC)

The AIICRC strives to assist in the holistic development of American Indian & Indigenous (AI&I) students by hosting and supporting programming that focuses on academic excellence, cultural awareness, leadership development, social involvement, and proactive civic engagement. In turn, the AIICRC aids in the overall retention and graduation rates of our AI&I students at UCSB. The AIICRC is a space for students, staff, faculty, and community members to develop an understanding of and appreciation for their Indigenous identities.

Academic Programs
American Indian and Indigenous Studies Minor | religion.ucsb.edu
Native American Religions M.A./Ph.D. | religion.ucsb.edu

Asian Student Resources

Asian Resource Center (ARC)
The ARC promotes education and awareness of the diverse ethnicities within the Asian community. The center also provides a supportive environment to develop an appreciation for one’s identity.

East Asia Center (EAC)
Separate from the ARC, the East Asia Center organizes lectures and events on the culture, history, politics, and societies of China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. The center’s listserv keeps students updated on events, available fellowships, and grants.

Academic Programs
Asian American Studies, B.A. | asamst.ucsb.edu
East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies | eastasian.ucsb.edu

Asian Student Orgs
UCSB has over 500+ campus organizations. For a complete list, visit seal.sa.ucsb.edu.

› Chinese Cultural Exchange Association
› Hong Kong Student Association
› Japanese Student Association
› Kapitalang Pilipino
› Korean American Student Association
› Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers
› Pacific Islander Student Association
› Taiwanese Student Association
› Vietnamese Student Association

The UCSB campus is located on the traditional and unceded land of the Chumash peoples. It is important that staff, students, and faculty understand the significance in recognizing the traditional custodians of the land and to respect the history and culture of the Chumash and all Indigenous people.

The Native Scholars House is a Living-Learning Community designed to provide support, resources, and community to uplift and empower Native and Indigenous students navigating university life. Learn more: housing.ucsb.edu/living-learning-communities

Graduates celebrate with their families at the Kapitalang Pilipino senior sendoff.

Members of the Chinese Student Association play games during their Casino Night event.

Students get together to honor Indigenous Peoples’ Day.
Chicanx/Latinx Student Resources

Chicanx/Latinx Cultural Resource Center (CLCRC) & El Centro

The CLCRC provides a culturally enriched environment where students, faculty, and staff can learn about a diverse culture. The objective of the CLCRC is to educate and unify the UCSB and Chicanx/Latinx community through the mediums of art, language, people, food, and traditions. At the CLCRC and El Centro Arnulfo Casillas, the UCSB community can develop an understanding and appreciation of Chicanx/Latinx cultural heritage and history.

Visit the Chicanx/Latinx Communities site!

In 2015, UCSB achieved status as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSG).

More than a quarter of undergraduates identify as Chicanx/Latinx.

Middle Eastern, North African, South Asian Student Resources

Middle Eastern, North African, South Asian Resource Center (MENASARC)

The MENASARC promotes the cultural awareness and academic success of students of Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) heritage. The center also serves as an organizing hub for our MENASA student communities and serves as a dedicated space to organize events and programming for the campus at large.

Visit the MENASARC EOP site!

UCSB’s Department of Music.

The UCSB Middle East Ensemble is a performance ensemble in UCSB’s Department of Music. The Ensemble has performed widely throughout California and in Tucson, Arizona, Washington D.C., and Albion and Dearborn, Michigan.

The CMES faculty and students have produced award-winning scholarship across the disciplines of History, Religious Studies, Anthropology, Film and Media Studies, Global Studies, History of Art and Architecture, Music, Political Science, Communication, and Sociology.

UCSB hosts a variety of celebrations and events throughout the year to celebrate Chicanx/Latinx culture on campus including Bienvenida, the Resource Center Fall Welcome, Día de los Muertos, Celebración de la Familia, Chicanx/Latinx Graduation, and more.

The Chicanx/Latinx Scholars floor is a Living-Learning Community for those identifying or interested in exploring Chicanx/Latinx identities and cultures. Learn more here.

The Center for Middle East Studies offers funding for travel to students from various disciplines in Middle Eastern studies.

MENASA Student Orgs

UCSB has over 500+ campus organizations. For a complete list, visit seal.sa.ucsb.edu.

› Agni
› Dhadkan
› Chabad at UCSB
› Indus (South Asia Student Association)
› Lebanese Social Club
› Muslim Student Association
› Persian Student Group
› Rajaan at UCSB (Acapella Team)
› Santa Barbara Hillel
› Sikh Student Association
› Taara

Academic Programs

Department of Chicana/o Studies | chicst.ucsb.edu
Department of Latin American & Iberian Studies | spanlang.ucsb.edu
Department of Spanish & Portuguese | www.lais.ucsb.edu
Chicanx Studies Institute | csi.ucsb.edu
Linguistic - Spanish Emphasis, B.A. | linguistics.ucsb.edu

Hablamos Espanol: The Office of Admissions has several Spanish-speaking staff ready to answer admission questions from students or parents in Spanish. Call us at (805) 893-2881.

Middle Eastern Studies, B.A. | religion.ucsb.edu
Iranian Studies, Minor | religion.ucsb.edu
Jewish Studies, Minor | religion.ucsb.edu
Center for Middle East Studies (CMES) | cmes.ucsb.edu
Center for Sikh and Punjab Studies | punjab.global.ucsb.edu

CMES seeks to present a holistic picture of Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian Islamic worlds. It is a hub for research that is grounded in material conditions and interrogates theoretical questions and stakes.

The Middle East Studies Major is an interdisciplinary major where students explore the myriad peoples, societies, languages, and cultures of the Near East and the East.

The UCSB History Department has a selection of courses specializing in the Middle East field.

The MENASARC promotes the cultural awareness and academic success of students of Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) heritage. The center also serves as an organizing hub for our MENASA student communities and serves as a dedicated space to organize events and programming for the campus at large.

Visit the MENASARC EOP site!
The Guardian Scholars Program at UCSB currently supports approximately 180 students. The program helps to ensure that incoming students have a smooth transition into the UCSB community and are provided with a network of services to enhance their educational experience. The program provides academic advising, leadership opportunities, campus resource referral, mentoring, student advocacy, career guidance, social support and much more! sa.ucsb.edu/guardianscholars

The Guardian Scholars Program is the belief that services or programs for foster youth should be defined by the youth themselves.

About Guardian Scholars

The Guardian Scholars Program is a year-round, comprehensive program that supports students who have been foster youth. The program is designed to provide academic, social, and emotional support to help students succeed academically and personally. The program is available to all students who have been foster youth and meet certain eligibility criteria. The program provides academic advising, mentoring, career guidance, financial assistance, and other supports to help students achieve their educational goals.

Program Partners

Basic Needs Resources

Basic Needs Advocates help students secure food, housing, financial support, technology resources, and other basic needs.

Associated Students Food Bank

The Food Bank provides a pantry when personal supplies and necessities are scarce.

University Housing

Guardian Scholars are given priority in housing placements and have the support of a dedicated liaison who assists with special requests and unique needs.

Since the inception of the Guardian Scholars Program in 2009, there have been many supporters and champions throughout the Santa Barbara community who assist students in different ways and areas. The Guardian Scholars Program would like to acknowledge the following foundations and groups:

The Makarechian Foundation • The Hilton Foundation • The Center for Living Peace • The Tawbes Group • Quast Family Foundation • The John Burton Foundation • UCSB Transportation Alternatives Program • Rotary Club • Echoes of Hope Foundation

A foundation of the UCSB Guardian Scholars Program is the belief that services or programs for foster youth should be defined by the youth themselves.

Departmental Liaisons

Below are contacts in multiple departments who serve as the liaisons to the program and students.

Office of Admissions | (805) 893-2881

Basic Needs Resources | (805) 893-2786

Campus Learning Assistance Services | (805) 893-4757

Student Health | (805) 893-2167

Counseling and Psychological Services | (805) 893-4411

Housing, Dining and Auxiliary Enterprises | (805) 893-7391

Student Engagement & Leadership | (805) 893-4364

Office of Financial Aid | (805) 893-3760

College of Letters and Science | (805) 893-2948

Career Services | (805) 893-4412

Visit the Guardian Scholars site!

10 LGBTQIA+ Student Resources

The Resource Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity (RCSGD) serves as UCSB’s LGBTQIA+ center. The center is located on the 3rd floor of the Student Resource Building. In collaboration with students, staff, and faculty, the center works to ensure that LGBTQIA+ identities, experiences, and concerns are represented and addressed at UCSB. rsgd.sa.ucsb.edu

The RCSGD provides:

› Community building events
› Queer Trans Identities and Experience Seminars (QTIES)
› Resource creation and referral
› Advocacy and one-on-one support

Academic Programs

LGBTQ Studies Minor | femst.ucsb.edu/undergrad/degree#lgbtq

RCSGD Events

› Recurring closed identity discussion spaces
› Coming Out Monologue
› Trans Week of Visibility
› Lavender Graduation

Rainbow House in Manzanita Village and Lavender Living in Santa Ynez Apartments are communities that connect LGBTQIA+ students to organizations and resources, provide mentorship, and deepen their network through social and educational events. Learn more: housing.ucsb.edu/living-learning-communities

Rubin & Associates

The RCSGD celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2019

For a complete list of UCSB’s LGBTQIA+ Student Organizations, visit rsgd.sa.ucsb.edu/get-involved/student-organizations.

› Queer and Trans Community
› cSTEM (Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math)
› Black Queer
› UndocuQueer & UndocuTrans Support Group

Visit the RCSGD site!
Military Community Resources

Veterans and Military Services (VMS)

VMS promotes a positive educational experience for military-related students, supports their transition through academia, and facilitates access to resources to enable degree completion. veterans.sa.ucsb.edu

Student Veterans of America (SVA) Chapter

The SVA connects student veterans to a community of chapter leaders on a national scale. The SVA is committed to providing an educational experience going beyond the classroom by empowering students through academic, professional, and personal development. facebook.com/studentvets

Veterans Resource Center (VRC)

Students have 24/7 access to the VRC to study, relax, connect with services, and meet military-related peers. veterans.sa.ucsb.edu/VMRC

Army ROTC Surfrider Battalion

UCSB Army ROTC provides leadership training and unique opportunities by combining leadership and management theory with hands-on experience. milsci.ucsb.edu

85% of undergraduate military-related students are transfer students.

The average age of military-related students at UCSB is 31.