

UC SANTA BARBARA



Communities

Find your home at UCSB.
admissions.ucsb.edu/communities

Introduction

The Communities Guide provides introductory information on programs and student organizations that uplift students of many backgrounds. Visit the website for more detailed information about each community.



Scan to visit the UCSB Communities website!

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Living Learning Communities



The Living Learning Communities (LLCs) are cultural, identity, and academic themed housing communities meant to provide unique and engaging community experiences. LLCs provide access to educational and social events, as well as opportunities to meet students of similar interests and background.



UCSB offers about a dozen active living learning communities for new and continuing students. If you would like to live in an LLC, indicate your preference on your housing application by your deadline.

LLCs being offered may be subject to change. Find additional details at housing.ucsb.edu/living-learning-communities.



- APIDA Scholars (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American) Hall
- Black Scholars Hall
- Chicanx/Latinx Scholars Hall
- Native Scholars Hall



- College of Creative Studies Community
- Scholars Community
- Student Engagement and Enrichment in Data Science
- Women in STEM



- Lavender Living Hall
- Rainbow House
- SAGE (Sex and Gender Expansive)

- First-Generation Scholars Hall
- First-Year Residential Experience Hall
- Gauchos for Recovery

Mentorship & Growth



The Education Abroad Program (EAP) enables students to study abroad during their time at UCSB. Annually, UCSB EAP sends 1,500+ students abroad and welcomes approximately 300 reciprocal exchange students from partner universities. eap.ucsb.edu

Students thrive where they feel belonging, connectedness, and self security. Health and well-being is embedded in the UCSB campus culture. wellness.ucsb.edu

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) is committed to providing timely, culturally appropriate, and effective mental health services to the diverse UCSB student body. caps.sa.ucsb.edu

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) services all students, while focusing on income-eligible and first-generation undergraduates. EOP provides social/cultural programming, counseling and advising, campus support referrals, and prepares students for their career post-graduation. eop.sa.ucsb.edu



The ONDAS Student Center promotes the success and retention of first-generation students, first-year transition, and underrepresented experiences. Undergrads are provided peer and faculty mentorship. ondas.ucsb.edu

Campus, Advocacy, Resources, and Education (CARE) is UCSB's advocacy and education office for interpersonal violence. CARE offers free and confidential services for the UCSB community. care.ucsb.edu

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

Student Engagement & Leadership (SEAL, formerly OSL) promotes student /civic engagement and leadership development through programs among campus organizations, fraternities, sororities, and more. seal.sa.ucsb.edu



Resource Centers



The following cultural resource centers are located at the Student Resource Building:

- African diasporic Cultural Resource Center
- American Indian and Indigenous Cultural Resource Center
- Asian Resource Center
- Chicana/Latina Cultural Resource Center
- Middle Eastern, North African, South Asian Resource Center



The Disabled Students Program (DSP) is responsible for coordinating academic services for students with disabilities. dsp.sa.ucsb.edu



Office of Black Student Development is a space dedicated to advancing the holistic support of UCSB's Black student community. obsd.sa.ucsb.edu



The Resource Center for Sexual, and Gender Diveristy (RCSGD) facilitates the intersectional inclusion and representation of LGBTQIA+ students, staff, faculty, and alumni. RCSGD promotes the celebration, development, scholarship, and success of the LGBTQIA+ community. rcsgd.sa.ucsb.edu

Connect with peer advisors to access additional resources in food, housing, finance, wellbeing, and technology. basicneeds.ucsb.edu

Undocumented Student Services (USS) is committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment for undocumented/Dream scholars. The university maintains the confidentiality of students and develops campus processes to address student concerns, provide free legal aid, and more. uss.sa.ucsb.edu



El Centro is a space for Chicana students and allies to express their identities and experiences. El Centro is near the UCSB Library.

Additional Communities



The Women's Center is the primary organization on campus dedicated to providing education on women's issues, feminism, healthy masculinities, and gender and social equity.
womenscenter.sa.ucsb.edu



The Guardian Scholars Program supports the academic and personal success of students who were part of the foster care/child welfare systems. Services include academic support, advocacy, career guidance, peer networking, basic needs assistance, and more. admissions.ucsb.edu/communities/foster-youth



Veterans & Military Services 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



As the first in your family to earn a bachelor's degree, we support you as you engage with your education and community at UCSB.
firstgen.ucsb.edu

The Gaucho Underground Scholars provide supports, assistance, and guidance to formerly incarcerated and system-impacted students, who are striving towards community and academic reintegration.
undergroundscholars.ucsb.edu

The Non-Traditional Student Resource Center can assist student parents, re-entering students, or non-traditionally aged students with the resources provided in the website. nontrad.sa.ucsb.edu

We encourage you to explore more on the UCSB Admissions page!
admissions.ucsb.edu/communities



Fun Facts



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.

In 2015, UCSB achieved status as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) by the U.S. Dept. of Education. Over 26% of students identify as Asian/Pacific Islander.

In 2015, UCSB achieved status as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). Nearly 28% of students identify as Chicanx/Latinx.

Founded in 2016, the Transfer Student Center is a space dedicated for UCSB transfer students to make connections and receive support.
transfercenter.ucsb.edu.



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 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.

Established in 1970, the Chicana/o Studies Department was the first unit in the entire UC system. Student activism strengthened the Department over time, leading to the creation of the world's first doctoral program in Chicana/o Studies in 2003.



Hablamos Español:

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.



Academic Departments & Research Centers

The following are a list of departments and programs you can explore to learn more about different cultures, languages, and experiences:

American Indian & Indian Studies Program
aiis.ucsb.edu

American Indian & Indian Studies minor

Department of Asian American Studies
asamst.ucsb.edu

Asian American Studies, B.A., minor

Department of Black Studies
blackstudies.ucsb.edu

Black Studies, B.A., minor

Department of Chicana/o Studies
chicst.ucsb.edu

Chicana/o Studies, B.A., minor

Department of Latin American & Iberian Studies
lais.ucsb.edu

Latin American & Iberian Studies, B.A., minor

Department of Spanish & Portuguese
spanport.ucsb.edu

Spanish, B.A., minor

Portuguese, B.A., minor

East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies
eastasian.ucsb.edu

Asian Studies, B.A.

Chinese, B.A.

Japanese, B.A.

Department of Religious Studies
religion.ucsb.edu

Iranian Studies, minor

Jewish Studies, minor

Middle East Studies, B.A

You can learn new languages and practice your skills at UCSB!

Arabic
Chinese
Hebrew
Japanese

Korean
Persian
Portuguese
Spanish

Sanskrit
Spanish



Get involved and participate in research!

Center for Black Studies Research | cbsr.ucsb.edu

Center for Middle East Studies (CMES) | cmes.ucsb.edu

Center for Portuguese Studies | portcenter.ucsb.edu

Center for Sikh and Punjab Studies | punjab.global.ucsb.edu

Center for Taiwan Studies | taiwancenter.eastasian.ucsb.edu

Chicano Studies Institute | csi.ucsb.edu

East Asia Center | eac.ucsb.edu

Get Involved: Student Orgs

Getting involved in student organizations is one of the best ways to build community, explore your interests, and make the most of your UCSB experience. Whether you're looking for cultural connection, professional growth, creative outlets, or social support, there's a student org for you. This page highlights just a few of the many ways you can get connected and make your mark on campus.



Advocacy/Service

Decolonizing Our Lives Project
El Congreso
Making Adventures Possible for all Students



Social/Recreational

Iaorana Te Otea
Indus
Chinese Outdoor Adventure Association
Raices de mi Tierra
Seol'd Out!



Cultural/Identity-Based

Arab Student Union
Black Student Union
Brazilian Student Association
Chabad
Hermanas Unidas, Hermanos Unidos
Kapatirang Pilipino
Keshet
La Familia de Colores
Muslim Student Association
Nigerian Student Association
Nikkei Student Union
South Asian Student Association



Professional/Academic

American Indian Science and Engineering Society
Armenian Pre-Health Society
Black Womens' Health Collaborative
Los Ingenieros
National Pan Hellenic Council
Native American and Indigenous Literary Society
oSTEM



Our campus is vibrant and energetic! Look through the Shoreline and SEAL website to find a student organization that fits your needs!



SEAL, Student Engagement
& Leadership



Shoreline, UCSB's official
community engagement
platform



Student Voices



Suraya | Class of 2026 | Major: Art (College of Creative Studies)

I am thankful to have explored the wide range of opportunities at UCSB. The UCSB community has positively impacted my experience as a transfer student by allowing me to bond, collaborate, and grow through meeting new people. I hosted my own radio show through KCSB, worked in the Resident Halls, and guided first-years in the College of Creative Studies through Orientation, given my experiences as an Art student in CCS. Becoming a Student Research Assistant, meeting other artists, and involvement with EOP as a Promise Scholar are opportunities I am also grateful for. Next, I will to expand my art knowledge by attending the Penland School of Craft in North Carolina for the summer. I look forward to creating more meaningful experiences!

Zino | Class of 2026 | Majors: Sociology, Political Science

The Black community here at UCSB has reinforced my commitment to achieving excellence not only for myself, but for those who come after me. I draw my strength and inspiration from my peers who continue to pour into me day after day, and hope to continue to build generational pathways for Black students to not only follow in my footsteps, but surpass them! Some of the student organizations that have contributed to my success today include the Nigerian Student Association, the Black Student Union, and the Mu Kappa Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., all of which I've served or am currently serving as President.



Jessica | Class of 2026 | Major: Biopsychology

Getting involved in campus life helped me branch out and meet people from all kinds of backgrounds. What started from attending events from social clubs like Hot Girl Hustle to professional ones like the Pre-PA Organization turned into real friendships and meaningful connections across campus. Through the people I met, I discovered opportunities I wouldn't have found on my own—like joining research projects outside my department, volunteering with the Isla Vista community, and job opportunities.

One experience that's meant a lot to me is with the Mustard Seed Project, where the club cooks weekly meals and distributes them to unhoused individuals in the IV community.. I started as a member, and this fall I'll be serving as secretary.



Jeffery | Class of 2026 | Major: Statistics & Applied Probability

What I appreciate most about the UCSB community is our shared love for this beautiful place we get to live and learn in. It's refreshing to be around people who are driven to get the most out of their education, while also enjoying their time here. Studying here helped me build a healthier sense of school-life balance — where I could push myself academically and still take time to enjoy the moment. There's really nothing like it.



Hear from Alumni



Gurinder | Class of 2021 | Major: Political Science

UCSB gave me the chance to engage with people from all walks of life, pushing me to think more critically and compassionately. My experience through LEAD deepened my commitment to serving people who haven't had the easiest path forward.

Those same values led me to become a public defender, where I continue fighting—not just for access to the law, but for dignity and excellent representation. My UCSB community didn't just shape my academic journey—they gave me the purpose, confidence, and direction I carry with me every day!

Sarah | Class of 2024 | Major: Communication

The UC Santa Barbara community is one that has left a handprint on my heart forever — serving as an EOP peer mentor and a transfer intern for the Office of Admissions not only allowed me to support fellow students, but also helped me grow as a leader, advocate, and learner within a vibrant, inclusive environment. Along the way, I made friendships and memories that are truly timeless — moments filled with laughter, support, and a sense of belonging that I'll carry with me always.

After graduation, I had the opportunity to participate in the Disney College Program, where I continued to expand my skills in teamwork, guest service, and professional development in a dynamic and magical setting.



Christian | Class of 2023 | Major: History of Public Policy & Law

UCSB has provided me tremendous opportunities to grow my social circle through my involvements. After finding belonging in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., it's led me to find my passion in leadership development through the Student Engagement and Leadership department. There, I focused on advising my peers who led cultural-based groups including the Black Student Union, Nigerian Student Association, East African Student Association, etc.

As I grew in my career, I learned how to be an advocate between students and a university. This is how I found my current graduate program in Equity, Education, and Social Justice at California State University Long Beach.



UCSB Office of Admissions

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admissions.ucsb.edu | admissions@ucsb.edu | (805) 893-2881

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Campus Events & Visits: admissions.ucsb.edu/events

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