

UC SANTA BARBARA

Graduate Scholars Program



Navigating the Academy

The UC Santa Barbara Graduate Scholars Program (GSP) is designed to help first- and second-year doctoral students navigate and thrive in the academy. The program provides support and tools for success to domestic doctoral students from populations that are historically underrepresented in the academy.

They include underrepresented minorities, first-generation college students, students who identify as LGBTQ, females in departments with less than 25 percent female enrollment, graduate students who are parents, veterans, students with disabilities, or any other students from non-traditional backgrounds.



Mentorship

The foundation of the Graduate Scholars Program are the “mentoring families,” groups that match three first-year students (Scholars) with an advanced doctoral student mentor. The families meet monthly throughout the Scholars’ first year.

Professional development & resources

Graduate Scholars have direct access to academic and professional development activities throughout the year. These workshops, panels, and resources provide opportunities to meet and learn from distinguished faculty, UCSB alumni, and Graduate Division staff. Themes focus on writing, funding, navigating graduate school, and time management.



Building a supportive network

Graduate Scholars are invited to quarterly network development events, which allow them to further extend their network of Scholars, advanced doctoral student mentors, and faculty from across disciplines. The Graduate Scholars Program also supports student-led affinity groups that bring together students with shared identities for academic and social engagement.

Affinity Groups

We encourage you to further expand your networks by engaging with graduate student affinity groups.

- American Indian Graduate Student Alliance
- Asian and Pacific Islander Graduate Student Association
- Black Graduate Student Association
- Graduate Student Association
- Graduate Students for Diversity in Science
- Queer and Trans Graduate Student Association
- Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)
- Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE)

Impact on the graduate school experience



Terence Leach
Doctoral Student
Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology

“At a big university like UCSB, being a graduate student can feel pretty lonely at times, especially when you experience the inevitable setbacks associated with graduate school. Having been a part of the GSP for the past two years has made it less lonely. Participating in a mentoring family provided access to graduate students going through the same rollercoaster of emotions as me. This support network, in addition to the other resources provided by the GSP, has made graduate school feel more manageable and gave me the sense that I am not in this thing alone.”



Sam del Castillo
Doctoral Student
Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology

“The Graduate Scholars Programs afforded me the opportunity to create connections with other minority and first-generation graduate students from different disciplines, whom I would not have otherwise been able to meet. GSP allowed me to network with supporting faculty members and establish mentorship relationships.”

Program staff



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For more information

Visit our Graduate Scholars Program page to learn more about the Graduate Scholars Program and how to join:
www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/admissions/diversity/graduate-scholars-program