

UC SANTA BARBARA GRADUATE DIVISION



Building a Supportive Network at UCSB

The cornerstone of the **Graduate Scholars Program** is the “mentoring families,” groups that pair three first-year students with an advanced doctoral student mentor. Those families then meet monthly in the winter and spring quarters. The students also have the opportunity to meet individually - over lunch - with faculty mentors of their choice, giving them the opportunity to experience “layered mentoring.”



Professional Development Events and Resources

Graduate Scholars have direct access to professional development workshops, panels, and an orientation to resources provided by the UCSB Graduate Division, the Graduate Student Resource Center, and other campus groups. Throughout the year, **Scholars** are invited to special networking opportunities, lectures, and performances with the other Scholars from across disciplines or to meet distinguished faculty and alumni from diverse backgrounds.



A Pipeline for Graduate Student Success

UC Santa Barbara is deeply committed to recruiting and supporting a diverse graduate student class and to developing the **scholarship, leadership, and professionalism** of graduate students from all backgrounds. The campus recognizes that many student -especially those who have not been traditionally represented in academia -are unfamiliar with graduate education. The program will acquaint them with academic culture and provide support for their long-term success as scholars and development into career professionals.

THE GRADUATE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The **UC Santa Barbara Graduate Scholars Program** is designed to provide support and tools for success to incoming graduate 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 20 percent female enrollments, veterans, disabled students, or any other students from non-traditional backgrounds.

IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM ON THE GRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AT UCSB



"My experience with **GSP** has been one that fosters familiarity. Coming from a smaller and more diverse institution, I felt like a fish out of water at UCSB. However, **GSP** provided a platform for myself, my 'mentorship siblings' and mentors to communicate about graduate school in its heaviness and its glory. **GSP** felt like a compass. I amazingly got a Swahili language partner out of it as well, when I found out that one of the members of my mentorship family speaks the language. It felt like a piece of home followed me here. Additionally, the talks and events created to foster a connection between faculty members and the students have been beneficial. Academia can be a whirlwind and networking can often slip through your fingers as a priority, but the **GSP** combats that with the opportunities it provides."

-- Timnit Kefela

First-Year Ph.D. Student, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management

"The mentorship component has worked very well for me. I have a very involved and supportive graduate student mentor who is in my program and has made concerted efforts to help me and my fellow mentees with everything we have asked for guidance on. I also enjoyed touching base with our faculty member mentor, who made time to ask about our experiences during this school year and gave us a safe space to explain some of the experiences and stresses we have been going through. I think that the visiting scholar lunches are a great experience to practice networking and to meet new people from other disciplines that I otherwise would not get the opportunity to interact with."

-- Agustina Bertone

Second-Year Ph.D. Student, Counseling, Clinical and School Psychology



HOW TO JOIN THE PROGRAM

Doctoral students who would like to join the program, or who would like additional information, can contact Michele Johnson, Assistant Director for Diversity Initiatives in the Graduate Division, at **(805) 893-4424** or via email michele.johnson@graddiv.ucsb.edu.

www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/admissions/diversity/graduate-scholars-program

GRADUATE SCHOLARS PROGRAM STAFF



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