

# Berkeley 4.0

## Re-imagining the Undergraduate Experience at a Public Research University

Berkeley has designed a new set of initiatives to prepare students for a future in which *what they know* is less important than *how they think, learn and discover on their own*.

These initiatives represent a comprehensive reworking of what constitutes excellence in undergraduate education at a research university. Three crucial concepts anchor Berkeley's vision for the future: mentoring, teaching and learning, and academic support. The following innovative programs establish Berkeley as a leading voice in our national conversation about higher education:

### **MENTORING**

#### **SPOTLIGHT: Berkeley Connect**

News conference presenter: Maura Nolan

Undergraduates at Berkeley increasingly wish for a more intimate and supportive academic experience, one in which they can be part of an intellectual community of faculty, graduate students, their fellow undergraduates and alumni. Berkeley Connect satisfies needs that can't be met in the classroom by providing one-on-one advising with graduate mentors; small group discussions on topics related to a student's major; visits to Berkeley resources, such as the Bancroft Library and Berkeley Art Museum; panel discussions on career opportunities and graduate school; and social events in which professors, graduate students and undergraduates can talk informally about intellectual issues.

The program, which will be in 10 new departments in 2013-14, was piloted in the English Department with outstanding results: In April 2012, more than 90 percent of students said the program helped them as English majors, and 90 percent said their participation helped them as Berkeley students in general.

Berkeley Connect dramatically increases interaction between students and their professors. Not only do the graduate mentors encourage students to visit their professors' office hours, but they also help students make the most of those visits by suggesting topics of discussion and questions to ask. The program frequently hosts informal lectures by professors, in which students learn more about how professors think and what motivates their research; afterward, students have the chance to ask questions and chat with faculty members, and many follow up by visiting the speakers during office hours.



In addition to acting as mentors for undergraduates, the graduate fellows are mentored by the Berkeley Connect faculty team. Fellows have regular staff meetings to discuss their professional development as teachers with experienced faculty members; they also participate in writing workshops to reach their research goals for the year. The results have been remarkable: during the first year of the program in the English Department, all five of the graduate fellows on the market for jobs as professors got tenure track jobs.

NOTE: Watch a video about Berkeley Connect at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uC5N3dyooMU>

### **SMART (Student Mentoring and Research Teams)**

News conference presenter: Catherine Koshland

As a research institution, Berkeley aims to make a research experience possible for every undergraduate student. One innovative program, SMART, supported by the Graduate Division, matches up advanced graduate students and their faculty advisors with undergraduates to work on research of mutual interest. Both undergraduates and graduate students receive research stipends for their work, which can range from working with anti-reflection coatings to measuring the cosmic microwave background radiation following the Big Bang to analyzing the popular media representation of German technological advances during World War II.

Assessment data from the first year of SMART – the program was piloted in the history and physics departments and now moves to sociology, chemistry and public health – indicate very high student satisfaction and program effectiveness.

NOTE: For more information, see <http://grad.berkeley.edu/smart/>

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

#### **Course Threads and Big Ideas**

News conference presenter: Catherine Koshland (Big Ideas)

As part of a fundamental re-examination of the breadth, or general, requirement, courses required of all Berkeley undergraduates, the popular Course Threads program is being expanded, and the College of Letters and Science is introducing a new set of Big Ideas courses.



The Course Threads Program allows undergraduates to explore intellectual themes that connect courses across departments and disciplines. Without creating new majors or minors, the program instead highlights connections between existing courses, helping students see the value in educational breadth while also pursuing more in-depth and well-rounded knowledge on one particular topic. Thread topics currently include human rights, sciences and society, cultural forms in transit and human-centered design.

Broad-themed Big Ideas courses are co-taught by professors from divergent disciplines to bring greater meaning, coherence and intellectual grounding to students' core requirements and areas of interest. Examples are a spring 2014 class on how Buddhism and neuroscience view the nature of consciousness, and another on prisons that is being taught by law, architecture and ethnic studies professors.

NOTE: For more on Course Threads and Big Ideas courses, see:

<http://coursethreads.berkeley.edu/>  
<http://bigideascourses.berkeley.edu/>

### **Teaching Excellence Workshops**

In an effort to make teaching excellence the norm at Berkeley, the College of Letters and Science and the new Center for Teaching and Learning have begun a mandatory series of Teaching Excellence Workshops for all new faculty members arriving on campus. Topics include the joy and art of teaching Berkeley students, campus resources that support teaching excellence, good course design, instructional technologies and online education. More rigorous peer evaluation of teaching is taking place in several large departments, with input from faculty, teaching assistants and alumni. At promotion time, the campus also is increasing the level of expectations for teaching excellence by faculty members.

### **Undergraduate Teaching Collegium**

Faculty members who hold endowed chairs as part of Berkeley's Undergraduate Teaching Collegium, along with a number of recent winners of the campus-wide Distinguished Teaching Award, now meet and work as a group to think about, examine and improve the overall quality of teaching on campus. The collegium is Berkeley's most visible entity committed to enhancing the quality of the undergraduate experience by constantly modeling and encouraging creative and effective teaching.

## **Berkeley Study Abroad**

News conference presenter: Catherine Koshland

The campus is bolstering its education abroad opportunities and working to remove barriers such as financial need so that all Berkeley students have the chance to study overseas and become better global citizens. The number of students participating in Berkeley Study Abroad has grown from 1038 in 2009–10 to 1364 in 2012–13. The scholarship funds have more than doubled in just one year, from \$435,000 in 2011–12 to \$1,113,000 in 2012–13. There currently are more than 40 countries and 200 programs in Berkeley Study Abroad.

NOTE: Visit <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/>

## **Academic Honor Code**

The deans of the College of Letters and Science, the Academic Senate and Berkeley's Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) organization have developed the following academic honor code for the campus: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." From signing statements on exams, to placards in the classrooms and residence halls, to discussions at student orientation week, this new student-driven initiative will remind everyone on campus of the values of Berkeley as a university and a community.

NOTE: Read a UC Berkeley NewsCenter story about the honor code at <http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/2013/03/18/honor-code-2/>

## **Harnessing Technology for Teaching**

As new teaching and learning techniques are developed, Berkeley faculty will be using them to improve on-campus educational offerings. Current emphasis is on creating and delivering a series of workshops for faculty on course design, educational technologies and related topics; gearing up for offering state-of-the-art instructional studio facilities to all teachers on campus; upgrading campus learning facilities, including classrooms, libraries and other collaborative spaces; and deploying CalCentral, a new online academic commons for faculty and students.



To coordinate efforts in using online technology at Berkeley – in “flipped” or “blended” courses with both traditional and online aspects, online master’s degree programs and MOOCs (massive open online courses) – the campus has created the Berkeley Resource Center for Online Education (BRCOE).

NOTE: The BRCOE website is <http://online.berkeley.edu/news/new-brcoe-website>

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

### **Advising Council**

News conference presenter: Catherine Koshland

Strong academic advising helps students develop into independent, focused learners who take full advantage of their educational opportunities. With more than 700 student advisors at Berkeley, an unprecedented effort is underway to coordinate and align undergraduate and graduate advisors across both academic and academic support units to enhance the educational experience for all our students. The new Advising Council brings together advisors, faculty, staff and students to develop a common vision for campus advising, create advising tools and professional development programs, assess the effectiveness of advising programs, and build for campus advisors a strong professional community.

### **CalCentral**

News conference presenter: Anne De Luca

This new online portal at <http://studentcentral.berkeley.edu/> provides a unified and personalized single sign-on experience for students to email, calendars, shared documents and class collaboration spaces, as well as to links to key campus services and resources. It also is where students can get timely alerts about their registration status, financial aid, class enrollments and class assignments.