AT BERKELEY, WE SEE YOU

And Berkeley is at its best when you bring your whole self. The community you came from. The questions you dare to ask. The challenges you’ve conquered to get here. The dreams about how you’ll make a difference.

This guide highlights our one-of-a-kind academic opportunities, supportive programs, inclusive centers and spaces, dedicated staff, and countless student organizations that are here to help you find your voice.

Come get to know us. Because you belong here.
I AM A SCHOLAR

Pursue knowledge beyond the classroom walls. Work on research with renowned faculty who have a passion for teaching. Be challenged by peers who bring a diversity of experience to the table.

Retention rates for first-year students*

97%  
FRESHMAN STUDENTS

94.5%  
TRANSFER STUDENTS

*Retention rate: Percentage of students who return the following year.
Cal NERDS (New Experiences for Research and Diversity in Science): Works with nontraditional STEM students to provide opportunities in leadership development, undergraduate research, tech training, preparation for grad school, career planning, and more.

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP): Academic counseling, mentoring, and a support system for first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students.

Student Learning Center: Academic consultations, tutoring, workshops, study groups, and more. Available to all students.

SUPPORTING YOUR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Academic Centers: Provide a one-stop-shop in residence halls for academic enrichment, services, and resources.

Berkeley Connect: Matches you with a graduate student mentor and connects you with professors, alumni, and students sharing similar interests.

Biology Scholars, Chemistry Scholars, Data Scholars: Advising, mentorship, academic support, and more for underrepresented students in specific fields.

“EOP provided me with academic counselors and mentors who are passionate about seeing their students succeed. They helped me find a sense of belonging during my transition.”

Millie H., MAJORS: Legal Studies and Political Science

Graduation rates

91% FRESHMAN STUDENTS
92% TRANSFER STUDENTS

32% OF THE 2020 ENTERING CLASS ARE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS
32% OF STUDENTS ARE PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS
There are classes, professors, and a history of radical thinking at Berkeley that produce a community of students willing to support and fight for design aimed at social good.

Bryanna B.

MAJOR: Mechanical Engineering

A first-generation college student, she worked on a team that developed a prosthetic hand for a 3-year-old child using human-centered design principles.
“I do everything I can to welcome my students as full human beings, with a wide range of personal histories and backgrounds. Learning from one another with so much rich life experience in the room is thrilling!”

Brandi Wilkins Catanese  
Associate Professor, African American Studies and Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies  
A proud Berkeley alum, expert on African American theater and popular culture.

“Transfer students bring an incredible amount of energy, maturity, and knowledge, and they go on to do amazing things. I was a transfer student and a first-generation college student, and I always tell students that if I can do it, they can do it too.”

Diana Bautista  
Associate Professor, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology  
Conducts research on the sensations of itch, touch, and pain.
I AM SUPPORTED

College is a big transition, and we’re here to help you every step of the way. Succeed academically, stay healthy, and thrive socially with the support of our staff and programs.

CONNECTIONS FOR SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY

Our offices and centers are places where you can start to build your own social network. Dedicated staff and fellow students are there to help you connect with others, find your way through challenges, and find your voice.

**African American Student Development:** Supports African American students and enhances their undergraduate experience. Includes the Fannie Lou Hamer Center, a space for Black students and groups to organize and engage in academic and social activities.

**Asian Pacific American Student Development:** Supports the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and enhances their undergraduate experience. Programs include the Asian Pacific Islander Issues Conference, held at Berkeley since 1990, and the South Asian, Southwest Asian, and North African Initiative.

**Basic Needs Center:** The campus hub supporting food, housing, and economic justice through prevention, intervention, and emergency relief efforts. Services include nutrition and cooking resources, the Berkeley Food Pantry, the Emergency Housing Support program, and more.
Berkeley Hope Scholars: Provides support and community for students who are current and former foster youth, probation youth, or who were orphaned before the age of 18.

Berkeley International Office: Advising, immigration services, advocacy, and programs for international students.

Berkeley Underground Scholars: Recruitment, support, and advocacy for formerly incarcerated and justice-impacted students.

Cal Veteran Services Center: Programs and services promoting the academic and personal success of student veterans.

Chicanx Latinx Student Development: Supports Chicanx Latinx students and enhances their undergraduate experience. Events include the bilingual Familia Orientation, a Día de los Muertos celebration, the Latinos and the Environment conference, and a Chicanx/Latinx graduation.

Disabled Students’ Program: With nearly 40 staff members serving 2,700 students, the DSP works with units across campus to provide services and academic accommodations for students with disabilities.

Gender Equity Resource Center (GenEq): Resources, services, education, and leadership programs relating to gender and sexuality. Its Queer Cal Pals program matches incoming LGBTQ+ students with a current student “buddy” to provide support.

Multicultural Community Center: A student-led, student-won multipurpose community center where students can study, meet, and take part in various events and programs.

Native American Student Development: Supports Native American students and enhances their undergraduate experience. Events include a community powwow (annually for 40 years and counting) and Native Graduation.

Re-Entry Student Program: Resources and community for the 1,800+ undergraduate students aged 25 and older who are returning to higher education.

Student Parent Center: Holistic support for undergraduate and graduate students who are engaged scholars as well as devoted parents.

Transfer Student Center: Programs, mentoring, advising, classes, workshops, and community for students transferring from another college.

Undocumented Student Program: Academic counseling, legal support, financial aid resources, and extensive campus referral network for undocumented students.

University Health Services: Comprehensive medical, mental health, insurance, and health promotion services for Berkeley students. Named a “Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality” by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

“We are dedicated to fostering community, a sense of belonging, and political engagement for Chicanx Latinx students.”

Evelyn Rojo, Assistant Director, Chicanx Latinx Student Development
“I want undocumented students to know they are not alone. They have a village of staff, peers, and community to support them through the highs and lows.”

Liliana Iglesias
Program Director,
Undocumented Student Program

“Our office is the connection point. We want to support students holistically — meaning support academically, help with financial aid, and making sure you’re healthy and that you get the most out of your time here.”

Phenocia Bauerle
Director, Native American Student Development
As an LGBTQ+ student, you’ll feel included and respected here. We have a history as one of the most welcoming campuses in the nation for LGBTQ+ students.

Billy Curtis
Director, Gender Equity Resource Center
I AM PART OF A COMMUNITY

We can’t wait to meet you! No matter who you are and where you came from, you can find your community and home at Berkeley.

bridges
A student-run organization dedicated to recruiting and retaining students of color. Its seven centers offer welcoming communities and events, opportunities to help recruit students, and avenues for mobilization and advocacy.
› Black Recruitment and Retention Center
› Indigenous and Native Coalition Recruitment and Retention Center
› Middle Eastern and North African Recruitment and Retention Center
› Mixed @ Berkeley Recruitment and Retention Center
› Pilipinx Academic Student Services
› Raíces Recruitment and Retention Center
› REACH! Asian and Pacific Islander Recruitment and Retention Center
bridges.berkeley.edu

RESIDENTIAL THEME PROGRAMS
Close-knit living and learning communities of students sharing a common thematic and academic interest.
› African American Theme Program
› Asian Pacific American Theme House
› Casa Magdalena Mora (Chicanx Latinx theme program)
› Global Environment Theme House
› Native American Theme Program
› Unity House Theme Program (LGBTQ+ theme program)
› Empowering Women in STEAM (WISE)
housing.berkeley.edu/theme

STUDENT CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS
Get involved. Join one of 1,200 student clubs and organizations on campus. From the B-Side music magazine to the Cal Quidditch Team, from the Latinx Pre-Law Society to Virtual Reality at Berkeley, Berkeley has it all. Connect through our biannual student activity fair or visit: callink.berkeley.edu
Vietnamese Student Association: Produces VSA Culture Night, an annual student production that’s been a tradition for 40+ years.

Big Game Rally: Annual rally held the night before the legendary football game with rival Stanford. Features the largest bonfire west of the Mississippi.

Pilipinx Culture Night: A student-run production celebrating Pilipinx culture. A tradition for 50+ years.

Black Wednesday: Most Wednesdays at noon, Black students, faculty, and staff gather at Sproul Plaza to socialize and build community.

UNITY Drag Show: Annual drag show for students and by students, hosted by the Unity House Theme Program. A tradition for 12+ years.

Powwow: An annual tradition for 40+ years, bringing together the campus’s Native and Indigenous community as well as the larger Native community.

Mariachi Luz de Oro de Berkeley: A student group that performs traditional and modern mariachi music.

Vietnamese Student Association: Produces VSA Culture Night, an annual student production that’s been a tradition for 40+ years.
I found my community by living in the Afro Floor [African American Theme Program], surrounding myself with folks that look like me and who are interested in the same things that I am interested in.

Blessing J.
MAJOR: Public Health
“I was able to find my community at Berkeley through the EOP center. I was also able to build community with the Queer Student Union, where I met other LGBTQ+ students.”

Julio R.
Transfer student
MAJOR: Social Welfare
MINOR: Gender and Women’s Studies

“When I think of what has helped me grow the most, it has definitely been the people I have had the good fortune to work with and learn from.”

Drew W.
MAJOR: Theater and Performing Arts
Wrote his first play about his experience as a Native American actor in a class with playwright and professor Philip Kan Gotanda.
I AM A LEADER

Join a community that turns knowledge into action. Students here have a track record for making change on campus and beyond.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD AND SERVE

**ASUC:** The Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) is one of the nation’s largest and most autonomous student government organizations.

**LEAD (Leadership, Engagement, Advising, and Development) Center:** The campus hub for student involvement and leadership development.

**Public Service Center:** Connects students with service and leadership opportunities.

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1969

The national Free Speech Movement is born in Berkeley when students protest rules prohibiting political activities on campus.

1972

Feminist organizing leads to the launch of the campus women’s center, which has since evolved to become the Gender Equity Resource Center.

1964

The Department of Ethnic Studies, one of the first in the country, is established after Berkeley students protest a Eurocentric focus on education.
1985
Berkeley students opposing apartheid protested and rallied for the UC Board of Regents to divest all holdings in South Africa. The Regents later divested.

1989
Berkeley students opposing apartheid protested and rallied for the UC Board of Regents to divest all holdings in South Africa. The Regents later divested.

1996
Students formed the bridges Multicultural Resource Center in order to recruit and retain underrepresented students of color in higher education.

1999
A student strike protesting cuts to Ethnic Studies led to the creation of the student-run Multicultural Community Center.

2009
Students at Berkeley and across the state protest tuition hikes.

2017
Opening of the Fannie Lou Hamer Black Resource Center after student-led efforts.

2018
With funding provided by a student referendum, Berkeley opens a universal locker room to better serve those with disabilities and members of all gender identities.
“I found my home in the ASUC and the Muslim Students Association — pretty cool considering I’d previously never been involved in student government or a religious student organization! It’s never too late to try out new things!”

Saneeha S.
Transfer student
MAJOR: Media Studies
“I would not be the public health professional that I am now if not for my experiences on campus pushing for inclusive health services for Black students at the Tang Center as well through the life-changing service opportunities I received through the Public Service Center.”

Brittney Enin, ’18
Health Education Specialist, San Francisco Department of Public Health
MAJOR: Public Health
MINOR: African American Studies

“Being a first-generation college student, I was nervous about having a rough transition into college. However, at Berkeley I was able to find a community that reaffirmed who I was, what I wanted to be, and thoroughly supported me every step of the way.”

Johnny N.
MAJORS: Sociology and Business
Sign up for your personalized Discover Berkeley email experience:

admissions.berkeley.edu/signup

Learn more about Berkeley or join us for a virtual session:

admissions.berkeley.edu

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@CalAdmissions