

I AM BERKELEY

COMMUNITY AND
RESOURCE GUIDE



Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA





**AT BERKELEY,
WE SEE
YOU**



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.**



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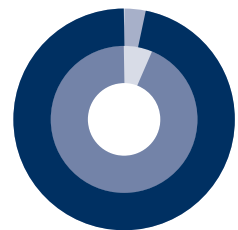
I AM A SCHOLAR

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 wealth of knowledge and experience to the table.

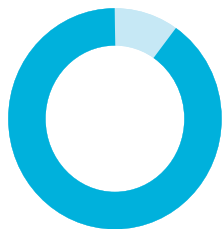
Retention rates*

97%
FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

94.5%
TRANSFER STUDENTS



*Retention rate: Percentage of students who return the following year.



More than **90%**

GRADUATION RATE FOR BERKELEY 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.

berkeleyconnect.berkeley.edu

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

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.

calnerds.berkeley.edu

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP):

Academic counseling, mentoring, and a support system for first-generation, low-income and underrepresented students.

eop.berkeley.edu

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

slc.berkeley.edu/home

31.4%

OF THE 2023 FIRST-YEAR ENTERING CLASS ARE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

43.8%

OF THE 2023 ENTERING TRANSFER CLASS ARE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

“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

“
**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 think the different support systems here on campus, my group of friends, and the different clubs that I’ve been involved in has really made me feel like I can do this. I can do whatever I set my mind out to do.”

Bianca T.

MAJOR: Ethnic Studies



“You find your community here and that really helps you become the person you are striving to be in your life.”

Ethan C.

MAJOR: Political Science & Ethnic Studies





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 AM SEEN

Be your true, authentic self at Berkeley. We want you to be who you are and who you aspire to be. The opportunities, support and community are ready for the taking.

“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 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





I AM PART OF A COMMUNITY

Discover your community. No matter who you are and where you came from, you can find your community and home at Berkeley.

bridges MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER

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 & Asian American Recruitment & Retention Center

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)

reslife.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 Climbing Club, 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



Black Wednesday:

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



Cal Band:

The Straw Hat Band is a subgroup of the Cal marching band which performs throughout the year at various campus and community events.



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



UNITY Drag Show:

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



Pilipinx Culture Night:

A student-run production celebrating Pilipinx culture. A tradition for 45+ years.



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



Vietnamese Student Association:

Produces VSA Culture Night, an annual student production that's been a tradition for 40+ years.

“Looking back on my undergraduate life, I could not imagine myself anywhere else than here. I have grown into being a leader with my community supporting me every step of the way.”

Vanessa T.

MAJOR: Legal Studies



“As a transfer student, knowing I have very little time here, I really did want to integrate myself into these communities where I could feel like I belong and I was lucky enough to find those communities and that has meant a lot to me.”

Andres S.

Transfer Student
MAJOR: Linguistics



“I decided to apply to Berkeley because it’s one of the top schools for astronomy and physics. I attended the Golden Bear Welcome event for transfer students that’s when I decided I really wanted to go here because I got to see the campus, the environment was beautiful and I really wanted to be a student here.”

Serli H.

Transfer student
MAJOR: Astrophysics



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.

asuc.org

LEAD (Leadership, Engagement, Advising, and Development) Center:

The campus hub for student involvement and leadership development.

lead.berkeley.edu

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

publicservice.berkeley.edu

1969

The Department of Ethnic Studies, one of the first in the country, is established after Berkeley students protest a Eurocentric focus on education.

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

Where student voices make a difference

FREE
SPEECH



1989

After years of student and faculty protest, Berkeley adopted the requirement that all undergraduates take an American Cultures course highlighting the diversity of the American experience.

1999

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

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.

2009

Students at Berkeley and across the state protest tuition hikes.

1996

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

*This timeline is a representation of the student movements on campus since the Free Speech Movement of 1964, but does not include all demonstrations of activism by Berkeley students.



“
[As an out-of-state student] I take advantage of a lot of resources on campus that helped me transition. I love my RA (resident assistant) and I really took advantage of the academic resources here...meeting the people I have has been really great.”

Aryan S.

MAJOR: Integrated Biology & Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures Double Major





“I come from a beautiful, majority Hispanic and Latino community with many immigrant families. I applied to UC Berkeley because I wanted to attend an institution that was going to equip me with the skills necessary to make an impact in my interested specialty, neuroscience, back home.”

Destiny C.

MAJOR: Molecular and Cell Biology

“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





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Undergraduate Admissions