

# Belonging at Berkeley — connecting students with community

UC Berkeley's possibilities are vast, and it can be hard for freshman and incoming transfer students to find their niche. Berkeley Connect was created to improve students' sense of belonging and confidence that they can succeed. Through mentoring from graduate students and opportunities to meet like-minded peers, as well as professors and alumni, Berkeley Connect sets undergraduates up for success.

## WHO WE ARE

Berkeley Connect is a faculty-directed mentoring and fellowship program based in academic departments and colleges across campus. The program provides undergraduate students with mentors who give them personalized attention; helps them create community with peers who share their interests; encourages them to build relationships with their professors; and increases their awareness of the campus resources and career paths that are available to them.

This innovative mentoring model allows Berkeley Connect to serve thousands of students each year. Fifty percent of its participants are transfer students, and 28 percent are African American, Native American, Latinx and other historically underrepresented minorities. The data shows that participation in Berkeley Connect improves students' grades and retention rates, and helps ensure timely graduations.



## QUICK FACTS

100

Berkeley Connect Fellows  
can mentor

8,000

undergraduates a year

96%

of participants would  
recommend the program  
to a friend

91%

of participants say the  
program increased their  
sense of belonging

## WHAT WE DO

Facilitating a sense of belonging is critical to our Student Experience and Diversity effort, and Berkeley Connect is vital to achieving this goal. In each department, a faculty member mentors graduate students, who in turn mentor undergraduates. Each graduate student awarded a Berkeley Connect fellowship mentors 40 undergraduates a semester, both one-on-one and in small group settings.

Currently, we offer Berkeley Connect in the following departments: African American Studies, Architecture, Computational Biology, English, ESPM (a cluster of five majors in Environmental Science, Policy and Management), Ethnic Studies, History, Math, Music, Philosophy, Physics, Sociology, and Social Welfare. The program is open to all undergraduates, regardless of major.

The Berkeley Connect mentoring model has a proven track record of success. Over 90 percent of participating students report that Berkeley Connect improves their sense of belonging and confidence they can succeed. Students who know that they truly belong can make the most out of their education at one of the world's greatest public research universities.

## HOW YOU CAN LIGHT THE WAY

We aim to make Berkeley Connect a signature component of a student's first year at Berkeley. With your help, we'll expand Berkeley Connect in current departments and add new ones including the largest majors on campus: biology, computer science, and economics. Undergraduate students in these competitive majors — particularly first-generation college students — have a critical need for the community- and confidence-building available through Berkeley Connect.

When you support one Berkeley Connect Graduate Fellow, you have a direct hand in improving the Berkeley experience for up to 80 undergraduates a year. Graduate Fellows receive tuition and fee remission and a stipend.

\$1,450,000

### BERKELEY CONNECT FELLOWSHIP

Establish an endowment for one Berkeley Connect Fellow and enhance the Berkeley experience for 80 undergraduates annually.

\$200,000

### BERKELEY CONNECT FELLOWSHIP — FOUR YEARS

Sustain one Berkeley Connect fellow annually for four years, and provide mentoring for 80 undergraduates during each year of support.

\$50,000

### BERKELEY CONNECT FELLOWSHIP — ONE YEAR

Sustain one Berkeley Connect Fellow for one year and ensure mentoring for 80 undergraduates.



### STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND DIVERSITY

University Development and Alumni Relations  
University of California, Berkeley  
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*The Student Experience and Diversity (SED) philanthropy program helps to ensure that Berkeley is a place where students from all backgrounds can thrive. We create scholarships, address food and housing security, and support an array of community-based and experiential learning opportunities.*