

# GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Anthropology - Applied Economics & Finance -  
Economics - Education - Environmental Studies -  
Latin American & Latino Studies - Politics -  
Psychology - Sociology

## Anthropology Ph.D.

<https://lantbro.ucsc.edu/graduate/>  
(831) 459-3588

UC Santa Cruz offers robust PhD tracks in cultural anthropology, archaeological anthropology, and biological anthropology. Graduates have continued their careers in academia, social work, teaching, law, design and technology, policy, medicine, public health, cultural resource management, and journalism.

Our focus on “emerging worlds” is especially well suited for drawing together diverse scholars and specialists in challenging and enriching conversations. We explore how recombination of traditional subfields can elucidate specific anthropological problems. The Ph.D. normally requires three years of coursework, one to two years of research (fieldwork), and one year of dissertation write-up.

The Ph.D. program in cultural anthropology explores the everyday lives, beliefs, activities, and movements of people, objects, and ideas in diverse societies. Our faculty examine such topics as race and ethnicity, medicine, health, science, gender, sexuality, environment, religion, law, popular culture, politics, economics, and institutions.

The Ph.D. program in anthropological archaeology focuses on the pre-colonial and early post-colonial history of Africa, Mesoamerica, the Caribbean, and western North America. We explore theories of power, production and exchange, human ecology, gender, ethnicity, and technological practice through rigorous laboratory and field research methods.

The Ph.D. program in biological anthropology has a methodological emphasis in innovative approaches to human and non-human primate ecology and diversity founded on our expertise in genomics and isotope biochemistry.

## Applied Economics & Finance M.S.

<https://economics.ucsc.edu/academics/graduate-program/>  
(831) 459-2219

The M.S. program in applied economics and finance is designed for students who wish to supplement their undergraduate work in economics with analytical graduate training that prepares them for careers in business, international and domestic banking, consulting firms, government, and nonprofit organizations. The program combines theory with meaningful applications that students are likely to face in their professional careers. The program is more practical than a typical M.A. program and provides more training in economics and statistics than most MBA programs.

Past graduates of Applied Economics & Finance have gone on to successful careers in the private and public sectors with placements at a diverse range of companies and institutions, including ADM Associates, Inc., Anderson Tax, SoFi, Cisco Systems, Seagate Technology, Google, Sony Computer Entertainment, Plantronics, Wells Fargo, Securities and Exchange Commission, all of the big four accounting firms, McKesson Corp., Pepsi Corp., Visa, Square Trade, the California Franchise Tax Board, Guardian News (UK), Blue Cross, the World Bank, Stanford University, and the Bank of Japan. Other graduates have gone on to earn Ph.D.s in economics.

## Economics Ph.D.

<https://economics.ucsc.edu/academics/graduate-program/index.html>  
(831) 459-2219

The Ph.D. program in economics provides students with training in modern microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics, combined with specialized training in the fields of international finance and international trade and options to pursue specializations in economic development, monetary economics, applied microeconomics, experimental economics and other areas.

The core emphasis of the program is on international trade and finance, and the program offers more intensive course work in these areas, as well as greater faculty depth in various aspects of international economics, than do traditional Ph.D. programs in economics that offer international economics as a single subfield. However, the department is also home to a large number of internationally recognized faculty whose work is outside of international and who regularly supervise Ph.D. students.

Graduates of the program have conducted research on a wide variety of topics; examples include monetary economics, experimental economics, environmental economics, and economic growth and development as well as international economics. To see a list of Ph.D. alumni placement visit <https://economics.ucsc.edu/academics/graduate-program/PhD/placement.html>.

## Education M.A.

<https://education.ucsc.edu/academics/mac-info/mac-prospective-students/>  
(831) 459-2200

The overarching goal of the UCSC Master's Degree and Teaching Credential Program is to develop teachers who are change agents and social justice advocates dedicated to fostering equitable and effective schooling and life opportunities for all students.

Over the course of one calendar year, Education MA/Credential students will:

- Earn a Master of Arts in Education
- Complete the requirements for a California SB2042 Preliminary Teaching Credential (Multiple Subject Credential and Single Subject Credentials available).

## Education Ph.D.

<https://education.ucsc.edu/academics/phd-info/>  
(831) 459-4509

The goal of the Ph.D. in education is to support graduate students in becoming creative scholars who engage in research focused on the educational needs of students from linguistic and cultural groups that have historically not fared well in our nation's public schools. To achieve this goal, this program provides students with grounding in interdisciplinary theory, research methods, and applications. The courses and research experiences are closely related to practice in K-12 classrooms and/or to the social contexts of schooling for low-income, racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse communities.

Courses and research apprenticeships in the program provide tools and perspectives from anthropology, linguistics, philosophy, psychology, sociology, the learning sciences, and cultural historical activity theory. The program integrates theory and practice to examine learning and teaching within the multiple contexts of classroom, school, family, and community.

Graduates of this program will be qualified to teach and to conduct research in tenure-track positions in a variety of university and college settings, including research intensive and regional universities. Graduates may also work in non-university based institutions that focus on teacher professional development, curriculum development, and related areas of educational research and development; in addition, graduates may work in governmental agencies, or policy and advocacy organizations.

Each student develops an integrated program of study under the direction of her or his Faculty Academic Advisor. This program of study includes advanced coursework, seminars, research apprenticeships, teaching assistantships, and independent study organized to develop deep expertise in a focal area of research. The program embraces an apprenticeship model so that students develop expertise through active participation in research. The Education Department faculty pursues collaborative research and working relationships with faculty in other departments, and when appropriate, students take courses and serve as teaching assistants in other departments as well.

THE DIVISION OF GRADUATE STUDIES

<https://gradadmissions.ucsc.edu>



UC SANTA CRUZ



## Environmental Studies Ph.D.

<https://envs.ucsc.edu/graduate/>  
(831) 459-4136

Established in 1994, the Doctoral program in the Department of Environmental Studies at UCSC emphasizes close faculty-student interactions, department-wide intellectual exchange, and cross-discipline innovation. The goal of our Ph.D. program is to develop exceptional individuals with strong foundations in their own fields, and the ability to work with those in other relevant specialties.

The program draws from two main areas: ecology and social science. These are historically independent fields and UCSC's Environmental Studies program is one of the first to link them.

Graduates of the Environmental Studies Doctoral Program at UC Santa Cruz are expected to be informed in conservation biology, global change ecology, agroecology, environmental policy, and political economy of the environment. Our students have deep intellectual strength in their area of specialty, and make substantial contributions toward the understanding of an environmental problem.

## Latin American and Latino Studies Ph.D.

<https://lals.ucsc.edu/graduate/>  
(831) 459-4450

The Ph.D. program in Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) at UCSC offers an innovative transnational and interdisciplinary approach to the study of the peoples, societies, and institutions of the Americas. Students participate in innovative cross-border research, bridge theory and practice, and engage in dialogue between the social sciences and humanities/cultural studies. This is the first doctoral program in Latin American and Latino Studies in the world.

Doctoral students specialize in one of the following thematic clusters as well as a focus area of their own design.

1) Transnationalisms, Migrations, and Displacement. Courses in this area focus on cross-border demographic, cultural, social, economic, and political flows linking Latin American and Latina/o communities.

2) Intersectionality, Identities, and Inequalities. This theme highlights the interconnected dimensions of identity categories and the social structures that rely on and reproduce those categories and inequalities.

3) Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change. Courses in this area explore how communities come together to influence political, cultural, economic, and social structures and institutions, with a focus on grassroots activism, political/civic engagement, and social change projects.

4) Culture, Power, and Knowledge. This theme analyzes contested symbols, meanings, aesthetics, and representations, interrogating relations of power, definitions of culture, markers of difference, and the construction of knowledge claims. It connects theoretical approaches to broader social, political, historical, and contemporary transformations.

## Politics Ph.D.

<https://politics.ucsc.edu/graduate/program-information>  
(831) 459-4450

Our graduate students study politics through historical, philosophical, cultural, conceptual and other critical perspectives — in addition to the scientific approaches that are customary in the U.S. discipline of political science. The department emphasizes the study of politics in diverse contexts and puts the substance of politics front and center.

The program encourages interdisciplinary approaches to the study of politics, drawing on the wealth of research and teaching on politics, policy and power relations across the social sciences at UCSC. Our students often take seminars from faculty in other departments and programs, including those who are formally Affiliated Graduate Faculty. Graduate students also have the opportunity to develop research topics and work with advisors in other fields beyond the Social Sciences, including the Arts, Humanities, Physical and Biological Sciences and Engineering.

The core graduate curriculum and qualifying examination process are structured around four interrelated themes central to political inquiry. Each of these areas of emphasis focuses, in a different way, on the relations among material life, institutional authority, collective mobilization, and political vision at all levels of politics. We have designed the program to benefit students from diverse backgrounds, and we especially encourage applications from under-represented minority students.

Please read more about the politics program curriculum and our areas of special strength at the website noted above.

## Psychology Ph.D.

<https://psychology.ucsc.edu/graduate/>  
[psyga@ucsc.edu](mailto:psyga@ucsc.edu)

Our Ph.D. program has earned national distinction in cognitive, developmental, and social psychology. Each research area has its own unique educational purpose and philosophy.

Every student is primarily associated with one of three research areas and participates in the courses and research forums sponsored by the faculty in that area: Cognitive Psychology; Developmental Psychology; Social Psychology.

Students may also work with the faculty in other areas when their interests cross traditional boundaries.

For those interested in applying to our graduate program, we recommend that you read the research interests of faculty members to determine which one(s) are conducting research in the areas you are interested in. If you see a potential match with your own research interests, please contact that faculty member directly to explore possibilities.

## Sociology Ph.D.

<https://sociology.ucsc.edu/graduate/>  
[socyga@ucsc.edu](mailto:socyga@ucsc.edu)

The Sociology Department at UCSC is intellectually innovative, both in its interdisciplinary nature and in its commitment to inquiry that is engaged with the world beyond the university. The Ph.D. program leads to both academic and non-academic careers. The program is designed to educate students in sociological theory and methods and in the discipline's major substantive areas, while simultaneously exposing students to other arenas of intellectual inquiry that will aid them as they pursue their research questions and interests. After completing a group of required courses, students work closely with individual faculty members to design their course of study. The program leads to a Ph.D. in Sociology.

There are two parts to the core curriculum. The first part of the curriculum is a basic grounding in sociological theory and methods. The second part of the curriculum is exposure to research in three areas of concentration. These areas are: (1) Political Economies and Political Ecologies, (2) New Studies of Inequality, and (3) Culture, Knowledge, Power. In addition, students are trained in multiple methods in preparation for conducting their own research.

Students are not required to choose among the three areas to the exclusion of the others as we recognize the overlap and important cross-fertilization of these themes. Most faculty research cuts across these thematics and faculty identify with multiple areas of interest. Moreover, a broader thematic concern with World-Building, Political Imaginaries, Alternative Futures weaves through each of these areas directing attention to processes and practices of social change and social reproduction, the making and unmaking of political collectivities, the affective dimensions of political life, and utopian/dystopian thought and practice.

Read more about the sociology program's faculty expertise and other opportunities for graduate students at the website noted above.