PEERS Leadership, Coordinators & Counselors

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For more information and updates, check our website: http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/progpeers.htm
The Undergraduate Research Center-Sciences offers programs to aid students in achieving academic and research success.

**Programs to get you started in Research**

**Student Research Program**
Earn research credit by enrolling in SRP (Honors 99) during the academic year or summer. [http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/researchintro.htm](http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/researchintro.htm)

**Biomedical Science Enrichment Program (BISEP)**
A 6-week summer program for freshmen. Students receive lab training, attend scientific writing workshops and participate in journal article reviews. [http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/bisep.htm](http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/bisep.htm)

**CARE Fellows/Scholars**
The CARE Fellows & Scholars Programs provide financial support ($875-$1,500 per quarter) for working 10 hours per week in a research lab. Applications are available every quarter. [http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/care.htm](http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/care.htm)

**Undergraduate Research Fellows Program**
Apply in the fall for the $2,000 URFP award in the winter and spring quarters [http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/urfp.htm](http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/urfp.htm)

PEERS alumni present their research at the 18th Annual Science Poster Day. Clockwise: Rana Besada, Ely Contreras, Taylor Brown and Brittany Miles.

PEERS students participating in BISEP in 2007.
Dear PEERS Freshmen,

I would like to welcome you to PEERS. By joining PEERS you have taken an important step towards maximizing your success as a UCLA Science major. Your undergraduate years will be exciting and dynamic, and we are here to assist and guide you so that you fulfill your potential and achieve your personal goals.

At PEERS, we focus on several key aims for our students:
- Ensuring academic success;
- Promoting deep understanding and learning;
- Encouraging active participation in the UCLA scientific community;
- Providing exposure to a broad range of exciting, cutting edge research;
- Facilitating significant research as an undergraduate.

By participating in PEERS and taking advantage of the opportunity it represents, PEERS students are exceptionally successful as science majors. Specifically, PEERS students:
- Earn higher grades in their core Math, Physics and Chemistry courses;
- Maintain higher overall grade point averages;
- Engage more in undergraduate research;
- Graduate faster;

Welcome aboard and best wishes for an exciting and productive year.

Dr. Paul Barber
Director, PEERS

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who do I contact if I can't attend a PEERS special event or if the event already passed and I didn't attend?
A: Contact the PEERS program coordinator, Anthony Tróchez, with the reason you cannot attend. We need to track your participation.

Q: I need help choosing a major.
A: Visit the department counselor in the major you are considering or talk to your PEERS Academic Counselor.

Q: I know my major, but don't know what classes I am required to take.
A: Visit the counselor in your respective department. S/he can help you plan your 4 years at UCLA.

Q: What's a good General Education course to take?
A: Meet with your PEERS Academic Counselor to keep track of your progress with GE requirements and discuss recommended courses.

Q: Who can I talk to if I'm having trouble managing my classes, PEERS responsibilities and life in general?
A: The PEERS program coordinator is here to make sure students have a direct contact to express concerns.

Q: Who can tell me more about research opportunities?
A: Visit the URC-Sciences office in 2121 Life Sciences or email Dr. Tama Hasson (thasson@college.ucla.edu)
**Requirement Checklist**

**First Year Students**

**Summer 2015**
- Attend summer orientation and meet with PEERS staff
- Enroll in introductory math/science courses
- Enroll in two collaborative learning workshops
- Enroll in the freshman seminar, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 97X

**Fall 2015**
- Attend PEERS welcome reception (Wednesday of Zero Week)
- Take the chemistry diagnostic exam
- Take the freshman seminar, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 97X
- Take introductory math/science courses
- Take two collaborative learning workshops
- Attend PEERS special events
- Meet with your PEERS counselor
- Complete evaluations

**Winter 2016**
- Take introductory math/science courses
- Take two collaborative learning workshops
- Attend PEERS special events
- Meet with your PEERS counselor and departmental counselor
- Complete evaluations

**Spring 2016**
- Take introductory math/science courses
- Take two collaborative learning workshops
- Apply to BISEP if you want to try research in the summer
- Attend PEERS special events and end-of-the year event
- Meet with your PEERS counselor
- Complete evaluations

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**Benefits of PEERS**

**Counseling**

PEERS students must meet with both their departmental counselor and their special PEERS academic counselor. Regular meetings with your counselors will help you plan courses, learn about major and general education requirements, and help troubleshoot any potential problems. Students who meet with their counselors make steady academic progress and learn to successfully cope with academic and personal concerns.

**Special Events**

Each quarter there will be a number of PEERS events. These events are intended to help develop friendships outside of the classroom, form support groups, create a sense of community among PEERS scholars, and expose students to current exciting research topics. Greater investment in the program by attending special events helps students get to know each other, learn about important opportunities and network with professors.

**Career and Research Exploration**

PEERS students participate in career awareness activities. Speakers from varying science fields and industries introduce career opportunities available with a mathematics or science degree. Special programs will introduce you to research opportunities in science, mathematics and engineering providing guidance and assistance in becoming a part of a faculty member’s research team.

**Block Scheduling**

You will enroll in the same lectures and EXCEL workshops as other PEERS students. PEERS staff assist students in enrolling in their math and chemistry classes during their first year at UCLA.
Benefits of PEERS

EXCEL Workshops
EXCEL (Excellence through Collaboration for Efficient Learners) workshops are an integral part of the success of PEERS. EXCEL workshops meet twice per week for 1.5 hours (total of 3 hours/week). Advanced graduate students and PhD’s serve as facilitators to lead EXCEL workshops in introductory mathematics, chemistry, and physics. Facilitators design worksheets to deepen your understanding of the course material and to develop your problem-solving skills. Through the collaborative learning techniques used in these workshops, you will acquire strong study skills and develop support groups that will facilitate your success. EXCEL workshops are one-unit pass/no pass courses; attending 80-90% of sessions is necessary to earn a “pass” grade.

Seminars (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 97X)
PEERS students will take a seminar each fall quarter. The freshman seminar is designed to help students transition to the university environment. Topics covered include improving time management, study skills, test-taking strategies, and how to succeed at the university. The sophomore seminar is focused on exploring majors, career paths in the sciences, searching for a research mentor and lab, applying to work research labs, obtaining funding for research, and summer programs. Seminars are one-unit pass/no pass courses; attending 80-90% of sessions is necessary to earn a “pass” grade.

Enrollment in the Academic Advancement Program
All PEERS students are automatically enrolled in the Academic Advancement Program. Through AAP, PEERS students have access to professional academic advising, peer learning (tutoring) and a host of other opportunities to promote academic excellence.

Requirement Checklist

Second Year

Summer 2016
- Participate in a summer research program such as BISEP (optional)

Fall 2016
- Attend PEERS welcome reception
- Take the sophomore seminar, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 97X
- Take math/science courses
- Take one or two collaborative learning workshops
- Attend PEERS special events
- Complete evaluations

Winter 2017
- Take math/science courses
- Take one or two collaborative learning workshops
- Attend PEERS special events
- Meet with your departmental counselor
- Complete evaluations
- Apply for MARC or UC LEADS if you want to be part of a two-year research program

Spring 2017
- Take math/science courses
- Take one or two collaborative learning workshops
- Attend special events & end-of-the year reception
- Complete evaluations
- Graduate from PEERS!
Suggested Course Sequence

Below is the typical course sequence for PEERS students. Each quarter, take two introductory courses in math (includes LS30A/B), chemistry, and/or physics. PEERS will offer EXCEL workshops according to this schedule.

If you do not take courses in the sequence below, you will not be able to take a workshop associated with that course.

### First Year Students

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Note: If attending the College Summer Institute, do not take Chemistry 14A/20A. If you do so, you will be out of sequence with other PEERS students.

**Students majoring in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Marine Biology or Biology are being counseled to take Life Sciences 1 (Evolution, Ecology & Biodiversity) instead of Chem 14A.

What does it mean to be in PEERS?

PEERS is a program which will stretch you considerably during your first two years at UCLA. It is both very demanding and very rewarding. We insist that PEERS students maintain 80-90% participation in our workshops (three hours per week per workshop), seminars (1 hour per week in fall), and special events (approximately 2 per quarter). This level of participation is enforced as only those that attend the workshops and seminars can reap the benefits of PEERS. For those who stick with PEERS it is very rewarding: improved grades; an understanding of the scope of science and scientific research; new friendships; and access to opportunities to participate in research yourself.

Research Opportunities

PEERS students are strongly encouraged to engage in undergraduate research. PEERS staff assists students in identifying appropriate faculty mentors and obtaining financial support for research during the academic year and summer. PEERS students are very successful. Following PEERS, many alumni participate in prestigious undergraduate research programs, such as Minority Access to Research Careers, UC LEADS, CARE and MSD Scholars. PEERS alumni are now in graduate and professional schools across the country.

PEERS alumna Jennifer Ngo (2011 cohort) was awarded the 2015 Charles Buchanan Best Poster Award at Science Poster Day.