Undergraduate Research
PEERS students are encouraged to engage in undergraduate research. PEERS provides assistance in identifying appropriate faculty mentors and assists in obtaining financial support for research during the academic year and summer.

While PEERS will require you to work hard, the benefits you gain will make the program a worthwhile and rewarding experience. Let us help make your years at UCLA challenging, satisfying, and fun.

How do I Apply?
You are eligible to apply to PEERS if you have a strong interest in a career in science or mathematics. Special consideration is given to applicants whose personal backgrounds may impact their retention and graduation from UCLA.

If you have experienced any social or environmental barriers that might affect your academic experience or performance, including a low family income or being the first generation of your family to attend a university, please include this information in your application.

To apply online go to: www.eeb.ucla.edu/PEERS
Applications are due by May 17, 2010.

For questions: contact PEERS at PEERS@lifesci.ucla.edu or (310) 206-2182.
The UCLA Program for Excellence in Education and Research in the Sciences or PEERS is an intensive program promoting academic excellence and professional development for students interested in careers in the sciences, engineering or mathematics. The primary objective of the program is to increase the number of students who develop a strong foundation in the sciences and make research and/or teaching a part of their life's work.

PEERS’ goal is to provide a complete program for Life and Physical Science students. The aim is to bond students into a community and prepare them to graduate from UCLA with an excellent understanding of their chosen field. PEERS provides students with informal contact with graduate students and faculty, meaningful research experiences, and the confidence to enter competitive graduate or professional programs.

We encourage you to apply!

PEERS is a collaborative effort of the Departments of Mathematics, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Physics & Astronomy, the Division of Life Sciences, the Academic Advancement Program (AAP), the College of Letters & Science and the Undergraduate Research Center/Center for Academic and Research Excellence (URC/CARE).

EXCEL Workshops

EXCEL (Excellence through Collaboration for Efficient Learners) workshops are an integral part of the success of the PEERS program. EXCEL workshops meet once or twice per week for 1.5 hours (total of 3 h/week). Advanced graduate students serve as facilitators to lead EXCEL workshops in various Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, and Life Science courses. These 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 as an undergraduate and in your future studies.

Counseling

Participants meet with their PEERS counselor at least once every quarter. These meetings are to help students plan their courses, learn better study habits, give feedback about the program, and answer any questions students may have. You will be assigned a specific counselor that you will be in contact with throughout the two years of the program.

Peer Mentoring

The URC/CARE Mentor Program is designed to aid first-year students in their academic, emotional and social adjustment to university life. PEERS students are encouraged to participate. Students receive advice on balancing academics and extracurricular activities, study techniques and course requirements. Additionally, the program introduces students to the benefits of undergraduate research and encourages students to pursue graduate studies in science. Mentors are upper-classmen currently participating in research. Any first year student can request to be served by an upper class mentor through the URC/CARE Mentor Program.

Career/Research Exploration

PEERS students also 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 giving you guidance and assistance towards becoming a part of a faculty member's research team.