

First -Year Aggie Connections List

Fall 2016



First -Year Aggie Connections
Student Academic Success Center
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Aggie 101 Connections

[Fast Track to Success: A Guide to University Resources](#)

Are you a new UCD student curious about finding your place here at UC Davis and connecting with campus resources that can help you succeed? This Aggie Connection can help you discover campus resources while learning valuable critical reading skills to increase your vocabulary, which will benefit you at UC Davis and beyond. For example, we will learn about the UC Davis Principles of Community, accessing advising and mental health services, conducting library research, and getting involved on campus. You will also get the chance to visit these resources and reflect on how you may use them in the future. This class will empower you to have conversations about UC Davis and how it serves its students.

[Navigating Aggie Pathways](#)

Join a group of peers to build community and find support as you embark on your journey through this large research university. Learn how to engage in the campus social and cultural community and identify key resources to utilize on your path to graduation. This small cohort will provide you connections with peers and staff to help you navigate your first year at UC Davis.

Academic Connections

[Civil Engineering Transfers](#)

This Connection is intended to bring together newly admitted Civil Engineering transfer students and staff and faculty from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Group meeting topics will include transfer student experiences (including the transition to UC Davis), exploration of the Civil Engineering curriculum, discussion of the engineering profession, and post-graduate opportunities.

[College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences First Year Students: It's more than just the Farm](#)

This Connection aims to bring first-year students together in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to learn more about the college and the opportunities that exist for students. In addition, topics will include the transition to college and how to get the most of your experience. Learn how to do college while having fun along the way!

Electrical and Computer Engineering First - Years

The first year of the Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE) curriculum takes place in large lecture style courses where you wouldn't know who's who among engineering students at UC Davis. This connection will give first-year ECE students the opportunity to interact with fellow majors in a small community setting from the beginning of their time at UCD. We will focus on the transition from High School to college and students will gain a greater understanding for the University environment and all the opportunities available to them at UCD.

The College of Letters & Sciences: First Year Experience

This one quarter orientation course provides a comprehensive introduction to university life. This course is designed to help students establish the strong foundation necessary for a highly successful career at UC Davis. Topics include transition to academic and campus life, academic expectations and developing skills to meet them, introduction to campus resources, evaluating information and applying it, social and professional development, discovering your passion, choosing a major, and academic planning.

International Transfer Transition

This Connection is intended to bring together newly admitted International transfer students in the College of Letters & Science. You will meet with faculty members from across the college as well as your International Academic Counselors in the College. We will explore campus resources such as the Internship and Career Center, discuss the transition to UC Davis, and also connect with the campus community.

The College of Letters & Sciences: Liberating the Liberal Arts

This seminar will focus on the meanings and the value of a Liberal Arts education to their lives as students and also to their future career paths. It is also designed to provide students with information to help them more successfully navigate the university, gain a better sense of which major(s) they might wish to pursue, and provide opportunities for small group social interaction and community building activities.

Nutrition Majors and Minors

This Connection is for students majoring and/or minoring in Nutrition. Students in this Connection will fill out a questionnaire to determine the groups' interest and questions regarding Nutrition as a major or minor. Based on the responses, topics and speakers will be chosen addressing the most common questions, concerns or interests.

World Languages

The World Languages Connection will explore language development and career opportunities for language majors and minors and will include discussions surrounding campus and Davis community resources.

Art, Music, and Culture Connections

[Aggies for the Arts](#)

Aggies for the Arts will introduce new UC Davis students to on-campus venues for the performing and visual arts, including the Mondavi Center and two buildings slated to open in Fall 2016: the Shrem Manetti Art Museum and the Department of Music's Ann E. Pitzer Center. Participants will attend a concert together, take a tour of the Mondavi Center, and be introduced to special opportunities such as the Mondavi Center's free ticket offer for first-year students.

[Jam Session](#)

This Connection is open to all students who love and appreciate music. During our weekly meetings, students are encouraged to share their musical talents while jamming with their peers. We'll also explore the music of local artists, giving students a chance to connect with others on campus that share similar musical interests. Students will have the option to attend a concert at the Mondavi Center. Open to both musicians and non-musicians.

[Creative Writing Cohort](#)

The Creative Writing Cohort is open to anyone interested in the creative writing process (including fiction, poetry/spoken word, and non-fiction). Join this community for weekly sessions to keep you inspired with relaxed free-writes and a safe place to workshop your drafts. In addition to practicing and refining your work, you'll be connected with writing resources on campus and in the local community.

[The Culinary – Cultural Connection](#)

Dim Sum, Falafel, Pierogi. Come to the table to discuss your favorite foods and the connection between food and culture. Together we will read the Campus Community Book Project, *Stuffed and Starved* by Raj Patel, enjoy culinary delights and explore social justice issues surrounding the world's food.

[Fantastic Parks and Where to Find Them](#)

The theme for this Connection is National Parks of the United States. We will learn about their history, general geography, and ecology, as well as what is required to visit them and their attractions.

[Global Aggies](#)

The Global Aggies Connection strives for a balance of domestic and international students. Students passionate or curious about traveling the world, going on adventures, or learning about other cultures could enjoy this connection. Group sessions would consist of some connection and team bonding between domestic and international students, learning about cross-cultural communication and other cultures; it will also explore how to get an international experience while at UC Davis through exploring study and volunteering abroad options, other opportunities to travel, and resources on campus to connect students with those of other cultures or those that wish to explore, adventure and travel both in California and overseas.

[Hip – Hop.edu: Exploring the Connection Between Hip Hop and College](#)

Research shows that involvement with Hip Hop can contribute to success inside and outside the classroom. Through conversations, activities, and events, we will explore Hip Hop culture and how to integrate it into the college experience. If you have a love for performing, watching, listening to, and/or learning about Hip Hop culture, this Aggie Connection is for you!

[Reading for Pleasure: A book group](#)

Think about the last time you read a book that you were NOT required to read for a class. Did you enjoy reading? Did the book change your thinking? Can you even remember the last time you read a book that you were excited to read? This Connection is designed to foster reading for pleasure, which is often forgotten when students are absorbed with reading academic texts. Besides being enjoyable, reading and discussing novels can help you become a better critical thinker and writer. We will read two fictional books about college, one that is actually set in the city of Davis, CA. While reading these novels, we will engage in stress-free book group discussions as well as explore UC Davis resources as they connect to the books' themes.

[Shakespeare in Davis](#)

This Connection is for students and fans of Shakespeare! We'll have a Shakespeare movie night, we'll visit the 1632 Shakespeare Folio in UCD's Special Collections, and we might even see the Davis Shakespeare Ensemble's October production of Romeo and Juliet. Whether you're just getting started with the bard or already know Hamlet by heart, this Connection welcomes you to get to know UCD and the town of Davis through a Shakespearean lens!

[Through the Looking Glass](#)

Art! Plants! Animals! People! Explore a selection of campus collections and museums. Sample the undergraduate volunteer, internship, and research opportunities right here at UC Davis. Fall in love with things you never knew you could. Experience how the past informs our understanding of the present and helps us plan for the future. *Each week this Connection will travel to a different on-campus museum.*

[UCD, New Game+](#)

UCD, New Game : New Game Plus is a term in games which describes restarting the campaign from the beginning after you have already completed it. Except with all the experience, gear, and abilities earned throughout the previous playthrough. Likewise, this Connection will explore your first year experience on campus by drawing on the experience of those who have already played. Pwn Newbs! Win like a Bawse!

Personal/Professional Development

[#Flawless](#)

How to Take the Research University by Storm like Beyoncé Took the World: Are you a fan of Beyoncé? Or are you maybe not a fan but want to take over the college world like Beyoncé has done with the music world? Then this is the connection for you! Along with the core curriculum, this connection will provide you with extra insight and tools to help you navigate the new, fun, exciting, and challenging aspects of the large research institution. Find your inner UC Davis Beyoncé and learn to navigate college like the #flawless person you are!

[Aggie Adventures](#)

Connect with the great outdoors, on campus! Learn more about how outdoor spaces and educational opportunities can benefit you as a student. Connect with other students who share your passion for the outdoors as you start your UC Davis adventure.

[Aggies in Motion](#)

Exercise is an effective way to release stress and improve one's overall health. The goal of this FYAC is to connect students who enjoy running or jogging outdoors. In our meetings, students will have the opportunity to discuss critical and practical issues about life at UC Davis. Then we will explore some of the many beautiful areas in and around campus. Each meeting we may try a new walking path or trail, and students can jog or run at their own pace. At the end of each outing, snacks and drinks will be provided so people can hang out and socialize a bit. No previous running experience is necessary, just a love of nature and a desire to move!

[Exploring Health Professions](#)

For those interested in a career in health careers outside of medicine and vet med, this seminar will provide an overview of what it takes to be successful academically at UC Davis, as well as explore important topics related to a health career path. Participants will be required to read a book over the quarter and come to class prepared to discuss. In addition, we will bring in professionals from a variety of backgrounds as speakers to expose students to different career paths.

[Feeling Good and Doing Good: Thriving in College](#)

This Connection will focus on moving students towards ownership of our feelings, our development, and our education. At first, we will look at physical and emotional wellness, and how to overcome normal feelings of impostor syndrome, depression and isolation, and how to take advantage of campus resources. In a second phase, we will explore some of the unwritten rules of college, and how those might clash with our personal backgrounds. In the third part, we will explore the types of meaningful co-curricular activities that take full advantage of the richness of this campus, enlarge our sense of belonging and growth, towards a fulfilling life path.

[Finding Balance](#)

Balance is critical not only for a successful undergraduate experience but for life in general. However, in a busy and stressful environment balance can be hard to find and/or maintain. It can also be challenging to find balance across multiple domains in one's life. Specifically, as an incoming UC Davis student it is important to find daily balance. Are you allocating time for class, homework, eating, sleeping, social life as well as mental and physical exercise? It is also important to consider choosing coursework not only for the quarter, but also over the course of the year or even an entire career. It is important to take advantage of the UCD curriculum. It is also important to manage pre-requisites and GE class. A good strategy can reduce the changes that you get over-whelmed with any one-quarter and have your GPA take a hit. Life away from the classroom needs to be balanced as well. There are clubs (professional, social, religious), volunteering, lab work, exercise, family, friends.... Is it possible to do too much? Too little? I also think it is critical to consider mentorship. A mentor can be a friend, a family member, a professor, or a colleague. How does one balance these voices and their opinions? One of the most important, and often overlooked, is a balanced perspective. It is complicated and challenging being an undergraduate. How does one take all of their experiences, positive and negative, in stride and balance the mental challenge? As I find that I am constantly making choices and adjusting my lifestyle to maintain or optimize balance, I cannot think of a more important topic to discuss with a group of incoming UC Davis undergraduate students.

First Year Recreation

The First Year Recreation Connection is all about connecting with advisers, exploring career paths, learning about student employment, and connecting with the campus community, all while competing in an intramural sport, learning to climb on the rock wall, taking a group exercise class or tapping into your creative side at the Craft Center. Come learn about many of the resources available to you as a UC Davis student while having fun and recreating with Campus Recreation Professionals.

Future Grad Students

The Future Grad Students Connection will address how students can best prepare for and apply to graduate school, and will explore and discuss relevant campus resources. Open to students of all disciplines interested in a Master's and Ph.D.

How to Adult

The "How to Adult" Connection was inspired by conversations the facilitator had with her friends after she graduated college. These friends found that the "quarter life crisis" is a time when students are developing new identities and learning important skills. In this Connection, the facilitator hopes to cover material that she wishes she had been taught, such as introductions to handling money, looking for housing in Davis, as well as skills for living away from home for the first time, health & wellness, job searching, and more.

Launching your Leadership Journey

Classes, homework, clubs, friends, internships, research, oh my!! Your first year at UC Davis is an exciting one, but can quickly become very overwhelming. Learning how to navigate campus resources and activities is a must, but quite often, the importance of developing leadership skills is overlooked. This fun and engaging 7-week connection is designed to help you recognize your current leadership strengths, identify the skills you should consider developing, and discover where on campus you can exercise your leadership capacity. First-year students from all majors and degrees of leadership experience are welcomed!

Make your Mark at UC Davis

This Connection will help students connect to campus and develop a sense of belonging through co-curricular activities. We will show students the variety of student organizations they can join and highlight the benefits of being involved. Additionally, we will provide them with a space to develop their leadership style and identity. This will help set the foundation for their future at UC Davis by giving them the tools to grow into leaders and engaged members of the UC Davis community.

This Connection is facilitated by staff members that work at The Center for Student Involvement (CSI). CSI connects undergraduate and graduate students with involvement opportunities, which promote personal and professional growth and cultivate leadership skills that prepare them to be engaged members of the campus community and global citizens upon graduation. CSI programs and initiatives foster a sense of belonging and connection to UC Davis, as well as support the experiential learning, academic success, and persistence of our students.

Making the Most of Your Davis Experience

Discover the recreational and cultural offerings at UC Davis by going on "field trips" to the Mondavi Center, Outdoor Adventures, The Craft Center, Equestrian Center and other on campus locations to tour the facility and learn about the unique and exciting programs available on our beautiful campus.

Nature RX

The student experience can be demanding, and learning how to balance it all can be tricky. Fortunately, finding relief can sometimes be as easy as walking out the door and into nature. Multiple studies have shown that spending time in nature improves health and well-being and reduces stress and anxiety. This Connection aims to introduce you to some of the living landscapes of UC Davis, from the Arboretum and Stebbins Cold Canyon to the Student Farm and Putah Creek Riparian Reserve, to learn what makes them unique and to enjoy their inherent beauty. Through walks, bike rides, painting adventures, and guided tours we'll discover the wonder of the natural world around us.

Pre – Law Connection

Last year approximately 54,500 students applied to attend one or more ABA-accredited law schools, seeking a career that can be intellectually stimulating, financially lucrative, and personally fulfilling as attorneys help create a more just world for all people. This Aggie Connection will help incoming first-year and transfer students explore academic and career pathways related to practicing law in the United States and help them make the most of their time as UC Davis undergraduate students.

Pre – Medical Connection

For those interested in a career in medicine, this seminar will provide an overview of what it takes to be successful academically at UC Davis, as well as explore important topics related to a medical path. Participants will be required to read a book over the quarter and come to class prepared to discuss. In addition, we will bring in physicians from a variety of backgrounds as speakers to expose students to different career paths.

Pre – Vet Connection

For those interested in a career in veterinary medicine, this seminar will provide an overview of what it takes to be successful academically at UC Davis, as well as explore important topics related to a veterinary path. Participants will be required to read a book over the quarter and come to class prepared to discuss. In addition, we will bring in vets from a variety of backgrounds as speakers to expose students to different career paths.

Start Thinking Like a Teacher

Are you thinking about a career in teaching? In our meetings we will explore how thinking like a teacher shapes how you view the classroom and what you get out of your own education. Participants will be expected to make at least one classroom observation of your choice and be prepared to discuss it with the group. Additional expectations include watching selected short videos/TED talks about education and educators and participating in discussions.

Student Engagement Opportunities

Research shows that students who are engaged in co-curricular activities earn higher GPAs and complete more class credit hours than their peers. Student engagement can take the form of student clubs, research experience, Greek life, athletics, cultural activities, or many other options. This connection will focus on student leadership, research, and engagement opportunities as a freshman and beyond, and how to protect your academic success as an active student.

You 'n U

You 'n U is a Connection that encourages students to explore Davis and UC Davis. We will focus on 3 main ideas: Academics (majors, minors, colleges, schedule balancing, FAQ, Internship opportunities, student resources, career options, and building study groups). Free Time (clubs and University programs, Davis day/night life, off/on campus activities). Self-care (Student Health and Counseling Services, ARC, Motivational ideas and discussions, and volunteer opportunities). We will have 3 guest speakers for each of the topics (Academics, Free time, and Self-care).

Social Justice Connections

Diversity Matters

UC Davis is committed to the notion that diversity and educational excellence go hand in hand. Numerous studies have concluded that students thrive in diverse, non-discriminatory, respectful and inclusive campus environments. But how do we get there? Students joining this Connection will participate in discussions exploring what diversity and inclusion might look like at UC Davis, and how they can play a leadership role going forward. Sponsored by the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative, a multi-year effort to develop and support a diverse community of scholars, this Aggie Connection will provide students with an opportunity to participate directly in a campus-wide discussion and to develop a deeper understanding of diversity, inclusion, and climate issues that will benefit them in college, for achieving future career goals, and as a global citizen.

Social Justice Advocates

Social Justice Advocates is a Connection for new students interested in Social Justice advocacy. UC Davis has multiple opportunities for student activism and the Social Justice Advocates Connection will center the various themes through a social justice lens.

Social Justice

Are you interested in promoting justice and equality in your community? In this Connection we will discuss and learn about local and global social justice issues, such as combating poverty, fighting for workers' rights, and promoting environmental and reproductive justice, among other empowerment projects. Students will have the opportunity to shape the Connection around their collective social justice interests by selecting which issues will be the focus for the quarter. The goal of this FYAC is to connect students passionate about social justice with other activists in their new Davis community. Each meeting representatives from on-campus and local social justice organizations will come and present on their work in the community and share ways students can get involved.

Waging War, Waging Peace

This seminar will provide an overview of conflict and cooperation in international relations. Drawing upon past and contemporary conflicts, the seminar will encourage students to critically reflect on issues of global politics, political violence and peacemaking. The seminar is highly interactive and students will have the opportunity to simulate a Model United Nations debate and peace negotiations using real world case studies. Students will also be asked to conduct independent research on a conflict of their choice (following guided "building block" research steps)

What's Love Got to Do With It?

What's Love Got to Do with It? Self-love and social justice are interdependent. Self-love and social justice enables individuals to critically think about and address ubiquitous issues of oppression, discrimination and marginalization in almost every area of their lives. The focus of this seminar will explore how to navigate a large research university and be a successful student academically and personally, with a focus on self-love, self-acceptance and social justice via the use of social media, articles, self-reflection, small and large group discussions.

Student Community Connections

[Academic Success Strategies for Reentry Students](#)

Academic Success Strategies for Reentry Students is a 2-unit PASS/NO PASS class. This seminar is designed specifically for our non-traditional students and is meant to help you transition and connect to the UC Davis campus and community. The transition from community college to a research university can seem daunting. This seminar is designed to help you manage that transition.

[Black Girls Rock](#)

Black Girls Rock will be a Connection that will provide women who identify with the African Diaspora, with academic, social, personal, and spiritual support. Facilitators will guide the students through transitional topics with creativity and thoughtfulness. Students will leave the connection prepared to be strong role models in the community and be prepared to succeed both academically and socially.

[Central Valley Aggies](#)

Looking for a connection to Aggies from the Central Valley? This Connection will focus on developing community within UC Davis for students from the Central Valley.

[College Hacks for Undocumented Transfer Students](#)

Congratulations! You are officially a UC Davis College Student, with all the rights and privileges that it entails! However, adjusting to college life can be particularly challenging for AB540 and Undocumented Students. While there may be some bumps along the way, this connection will provide AB540 and Undocumented Students the necessary campus knowledge and skills to successfully navigate that transition. Our ultimate goal is for participants in this connection to find a sense of pride in their identity and emerge as confident and successful Undocumented Scholars ready to thrive and add value to our Community at large. Start College on the right foot! We look forward to sharing our campus knowledge with you. Facilitated by Daniela De La Cruz, Undocumented UC Davis Alumna from the College of Letters and Science and Cum Laude in Economics and Communication. Class of 2015

[Cultural Exchange](#)

International & domestic students...want to become acquainted with some of the rich experiences our international students bring to this campus? Want to get to hear the perspectives of our domestic students? This FYAC's goal is to build a bridge of cultural learning while we get to know what it means to be an Aggie.

[Don't be THAT Transfer Student!](#)

Don't be THAT transfer student! is geared toward transfer students who have their eyes on the prize. They know what it means to be successful and don't want to be tripped up in their transition to UC Davis. This course is for students who want to maximize their time while at UC Davis, develop success strategies to achieve educational and career goals, and avoid being THAT transfer student who spends valuable time letting life happen to them instead of owning their education and future.

Europeans in Davis

Connect with other freshmen and transfers arriving at UC Davis from European countries. Together we will discuss the many cultural differences of life and college in the US, and more specifically, California. Facilitators will help you navigate campus, utilize helpful resources and familiarize yourselves with all that Davis and the surrounding regions have to offer. This is a great opportunity to connect with peers who are coming from a similar background and are facing similar challenges.

First Generation Students

This Connection is intended for first generation college students. A goal of this group is to introduce you to campus resources as well as develop your leadership skills.

Fraternity and Sorority Life 101

Using Fraternities and Sororities to Connect with UC Davis. What can fraternities and sororities bring to your UC Davis experience? For those in the process of joining or looking to see if the sorority and fraternity experience is right for you this class is for you.

KULA: LGBTQIA

KULA/KOO'LA/Nouns a group coming together of its own free will, an intentional community, a family to celebrate and share our lived experiences as college students who identify within the LGBTQIA community.

Take the 5 or Take 5

Take the 5 or Take 5? SoCal transitions to NorCal, NorCal transitions living with SoCal students. What is "Hella?" and have all SoCal students been to Disneyland? Whether Southern Cal or Northern Cal, everyone is experiencing a culture shift and learning how to navigate this new environment. Let's see how those same navigational skills can help you be successful at this large research university.

Third – Culture Kids/ International School Alums

Have you grown up attending international schools, or lived overseas for much of your life? Do you answer the question "Where are you from" with "everywhere," "nowhere," or "it's complicated?" This Aggie Connection is for third-culture kids beginning their college life here at UC Davis. Spending a significant part of your developmental years outside your parents' culture can make finding your way in college challenging in ways unique to TCKs — even if you're an expert at being the "new kid." This Aggie Connection will help TCKs from all countries to discover your new home together. Led by an alumna of the International School of Kuala Lumpur (ISKL).

On – Campus Program Connections

African American and African Living Learning Community

This Connection is for students in the African American and African Living Learning Community. Students from all cultures who are interested in exploring the African Diaspora are encouraged to join this living-learning community. The community is connected to the African American and African Studies Department.

Aggie Explorers Living Learning Community

Introduction to the wide variety of majors offered in the College of Letters & Science. The class is specially designed for students who have not yet declared a major and those who would like to explore their options. Students will use self-assessments and learn about other tools to explore majors that are a good fit. Faculty representatives from the three divisions of the College of Letters & Science (Humanities, Arts & Cultural Studies; Social Sciences; and Math & Physical Sciences) will share their insights with students. Students will have the opportunity to get to know other first-year students and connect with academic advisors and faculty members from across campus. Students will receive personalized academic planning based on their interests to help guide their undergraduate path at UC Davis.

Asian Pacific American Theme House Living Learning Community

This Connection is for students in the Asian Pacific American Theme House (APATH). Students from all cultures who are interested in exploring Asian American cultures are encouraged to join this living-learning community.

The BUSP Mindset (Biology Undergraduate Scholars Program)

The Biology Undergraduate Scholars Program (BUSP) is an intensive enrichment program for undergraduates who have a strong interest in undergraduate research in biology. BUSP, sponsored by the College of Biological Sciences, enriches your undergraduate experience by providing exciting and challenging opportunities to learn about and participate in the biological sciences. BUSP students enroll in a specially designed, rigorous academic program during their first two years of college, can possibly work in a biology research laboratory during their sophomore year, and meet regularly with skilled advisers who offer academic guidance and personal support. Students in BUSP also have a lot of fun together!

Casa Cuahutemoc Living Learning Community

This is a seminar to connect and inform Casista students about campus resources and activities. Students will be introduced to supportive Chicana/o and Latina/o staff and faculty from different departments and centers. Students will learn about adjusting to UC Davis and learning how to study at a UC campus. Students will be provided with counseling support and be introduced to CAN counselor.

Career Discovery Group

Career Discovery Groups (CDG) are designed to help you begin your career planning right away. Choose an area of emphasis and discover related careers or choose exploratory and explore an array of careers with fellow students. The CDG program gives you a special seminar, a mentor and a cluster of classes that will introduce you to potential career paths and get you started toward meeting university graduation requirements. There are only 20 students per CDG, so you'll have a group of friends who share your interests and quest for discovery from day one! CDG seminars will show you how to effectively utilize campus resources to position yourself for success, help you discover your passion and introduce you to a variety of career options through meetings with working professionals, all while fulfilling general education requirements. A graduate student mentor will support you in your transition to the UC Davis campus, help you network with professionals and alumni at special events and guide you through a year of career seminars to help you define your interests. Your mentor will be matched to you according to one of the following areas of emphasis: animal sciences/wildlife, ecology/environment, food science/nutrition, sustainable agriculture, exploratory.

[College of Biological Sciences Cohort Program](#)

The College of Biological Science's Cohort Program is an opportunity for first-year students to develop community and orient themselves within the College of Biological Sciences as soon as they arrive at UC Davis. The program aims to allow students the opportunity to engage more closely with faculty; to introduce the students to the full range of research and majors in CBS; to create a greater sense of community and place for students within the college; to encourage students to use the advising resources within and outside the college.

[Engineering Living Learning Community](#)

This Connection is for students in the Engineering living learning community. The Engineering living-learning community is an excellent program for those pursuing an Engineering major and for those who might consider it in the future. Students participating in this community will participate in a range of programs, activities, and events related to the theme of engineering.

[Guardian Scholars Program](#)

First-year freshman and transfer students enrolled in the Guardian Scholars Program will be able to meet on a weekly basis to learn about campus resources, successful transition strategies, and how to bring yourself and your experiences to create a foundation for success.

[Linda Frances Alexander Scholars](#)

This Aggie Connection is designed for first-year students (freshman and Transfers) who are participants in the Linda Frances Alexander Scholars (LFA) program. Through lecture, discussions and group activities, students will develop skills to help ease the transition to UC Davis. The class will emphasize strategic ways to achieve academic success including personal responsibility and accountability and the culture and expectations of a research university.

[LEADR](#)

The Leadership in Engineering Advancement Diversity and Retention (LEADR) program's mission is to recruit, retain and graduate a diverse population of students from the College of Engineering. Participants must be engineering students who meet one or more of the following criteria: first generation and/or Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) students are from historically underrepresented groups in engineering, participated in the Special Transitional Enrichment Program (STEP), and past participation in the MESA Engineering pre-college, community college programs.

[Music, Arts, Performance Living Learning Community](#)

This Connection is for students in the Music, Arts and Performance living-learning community. The Music, Arts, and Performance living-learning community brings together students who have an interest or skill in the arts, such as music, theater, dance, visual art, design, and techno-cultural studies. Community members tend to share a spirit of creativity and collaboration while forming informal musical groups organizing efforts to showcase residents' talents.

[Rainbow Quonnection Living Learning Community](#)

This Connection is for students looking to bond with LGBTQIA community at UC Davis through living-learning community. It is meant to explore your intersecting identities, and connect with affirming resources and supports for your time at UC Davis! This Connection is formed on the basis of a co-curricular theme of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and Two Spirit communities and a common interest in creating an affirming space for historically marginalized communities. We will explore weekly topics from a lens that acknowledges how our multiple identities impact our experiences in the world.

TRiO Scholars Program

The TRiO Scholars Program, also known as Student Support Services (SSS), is a federally-funded effort to improve the retention and graduation rates of first-generation and income-qualified students and students with disabilities at UC Davis. Housed within the Student Academic Success Center, the TRiO Scholars Program offers its approximately 160 participants academic, social, personal, and career advising and support from entry into UC Davis until graduation. Participants are recruited by invitation only.

Wellness Living Learning Community

The Balancing Act: It's your first year but do you know how to put yourself first? Together we'll discuss strategies for self-care, balancing time in and out of class, and learning how to engage in social, cultural and academic activities in a healthy, balanced manner.

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Connections

Apps to Ace the Class

Are you worried that you will not be able to handle the academic rigor of your university level college courses? You are not alone. The transition to the university is a challenge for several reasons two main ones being: the rigor of the academic coursework and the apparent abundance of time students need to manage. And, while there is no magic potion that will make all the challenges disappear there are many tools that can help you thrive at UC Davis. Through this interactive Connection, students will use technology to their advantage and explore different apps to build effective skills for time management, critical reading, study strategies and note-taking.

Claim YOUR Wealth

Are you worried that you will not be able to handle the academic rigor of your university level college courses? You are not alone. The transition to the university is a challenge for several reasons two main ones being: the rigor of the academic coursework and the apparent abundance of time students need to manage. And, while there is no magic potion that will make all the challenges disappear there are many tools that can help you thrive at UC Davis. Through this interactive Connection, students will use technology to their advantage and explore different apps to build effective skills for time management, critical reading, study strategies and note-taking.

F.A.S.T. (Former Athletes for Successful Transition)

F.A.S.T. (Former Athletes for Successful Transition) will be for EOP students with extensive experience in athletics prior to UC Davis but no longer pursuing it at the college level. This FYAC will help them identify the positive attributes of their athletic experience and use it to help them successfully transition to the university. We will also discuss their experience as an EOP student and it's importance to the university.

First of Many

Getting accepted into UC Davis is one of the many goals a first-generation college student will accomplish. In the EOP freshmen seminar we want to help students celebrate their first-generation identity and thrive at UC Davis. Through lectures, group discussion and activities students will learn how to navigate a research institution, gain valuable study strategies and build a community of support.

Special Transitional Enrichment Program (STEP) Connections

Discover your Strengths

STEP students that participate in this Connection will use Clifton Strengths Quest to identify strategies to use their top five strengths to achieve academic, career and personal success. Students will also participate in discussions with other students with same and different strengths to learn how best work with their different strengths.

Student Leadership Challenge

STEP students that participate in this Connection will use Kouzes and Posner's Student Leadership Challenge to explore the five practices for exemplary leaders. The leadership challenge will help students identify their leadership strengths as well as ways to further develop their skills.