

Academic Advising at UCSC - First-Year

As you begin to research the academic programs and advising resources available at UC Santa Cruz, you will find that there are two major sources of advising—college and department advisors—whose goal is to provide you with the necessary tools to clarify your educational goals and devise a path to achieving them at UCSC. Both colleges and departments have advisors that will assist you in 1) understanding the full range of academic programs and requirements, 2) in choosing a major area of study and 3) in selecting appropriate courses. Early contact with both advisors is recognized as a key to academic success.

All undergraduate students, whether you live on campus or not, are affiliated with one of ten residential colleges at UC Santa Cruz. The college provides academic support, organized activities, and events that enhance the intellectual and social life of its students. College Academic Advisors (sometimes called Academic Preceptors) work with students through individual and group advising as well as publications and online resources. As a new student, you will receive information from your College Advisors before orientation, and many of you will also hear from your Department Advisors.



College advising staff members are knowledgeable about academic and administrative procedures, petitions, degree requirements and deadlines. They are available for individual discussions about your academic plans. They foster a welcoming environment for you to complete a successful transition to the university from the time you register to UCSC and until graduation.

This text is associated with Academic Advising at UCSC - First-Year video.

Advising throughout your first year prepares you to 1) identify academic programs of interest 2) devise an academic plan and 3) understand grading and graduation progress requirements. College Advisors can help you identify issues affecting your academic performance, help you organize your options, devise a plan to succeed or refer you to additional support services.

Department or Major Advisors have in-depth knowledge about the UCSC major and minor programs. They can advise you on methods to take advantage of opportunities, such as Education Abroad, and provide information on internships, research, and teaching assistant positions that either satisfy major requirements or complement your major course work. They can also recommend professors whose academic interests are similar to yours and who can serve as a mentor in your field. Professors are an excellent source of information and motivation when it comes to considering possibilities such as graduate school and research opportunities.



You can view information about majors on the department websites, which will also give you contact information and office hours. If you are planning to major in the sciences, engineering, mathematics, or art, it is crucial that you understand how to get started in your first year courses. Seek advising if you have questions.

Additionally, UCSC offers advising and academic support through Career Success, the Educational Opportunity Program, and a number of other offices. Be sure to become familiar with the Student Portal at my.ucsc.edu. Advisors can address any questions or concerns you may have regarding your individual academic plan. Seeking both college AND department advising during your first year is critical to ensure your success at UC Santa Cruz!