



Berkeley Connect:

TRANSFORMING UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION AT BERKELEY

Spring 2014: Our launch semester, by the numbers




What are students in Physics thinking about climate change? What drew professors in Ethnic Studies into


academia? How can an interest in the environment dovetail with a career in food?

Questions like these drive **Berkeley Connect**, a mentoring program for undergraduate students at the University of California, Berkeley that seeks to recreate the intimate, nurturing intellectual environment of a small liberal arts college at a large research university. **Berkeley Connect** offers students a chance to build relationships with undergraduate peers, graduate students, professors, and alumni, based on a shared love of ideas and a desire to support one another during and after their time at Berkeley. The program offers a supportive, pressure-free environment where students can reflect — together — on what they are learning, what they want to learn, and where they hope their studies will lead them.


Each department's Berkeley Connect program includes four key components:

- Biweekly interactive **small-group discussions**
- **One-on-one advising** sessions with graduate student mentors
- **Special events**, such as informal lectures, panels, and social gatherings
- **Field trips** engaging students with diverse campus resources

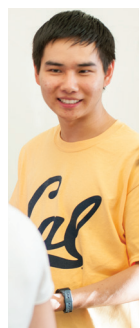
74 
sections of Berkeley Connect

1,100 
students enrolled in Spring 2014

22 
faculty members involved in designing and implementing curriculum

37 
Berkeley Connect fellowships awarded to outstanding graduate students to serve as mentors, leading small-group discussions and providing one-on-one advising

11  
academic departments featuring Berkeley Connect as of Fall 2014: Architecture | English | ESPM | Ethnic Studies and African American Studies | History | Math | Music | Philosophy | Physics | Sociology



Berkeley Connect is not just a class — it's a community where I can talk about my thoughts, concerns, fears, and more. This is a place where I feel like I don't have to be silent, and it's my favorite class this semester. Thank you!

—Berkeley Connect student, Spring 2014





I became more comfortable with engaging my professors. . . It allowed me to view them as people who are approachable. It is easier for me to ask for advice or just talk to them about anything.

—Berkeley Connect student



418 🕒
hours that graduate mentors were available to meet one-on-one with students

30 🐻
Cal alums who spoke at Berkeley Connect career panels, sharing how their Berkeley majors played a role in building a professional life after college

Dozens 👥
additional faculty who participated in panel discussions and informal lectures

2 ⌚
hours of weekly discussion activity accompanying participation in Berkeley Connect

1 🎓
semester credit earned for Berkeley Connect participation

Student feedback

92% 👍

of students said that the program had a positive influence on their experience of being an undergraduate student at Berkeley and they would recommend the program to a friend

Fun facts

Hundreds 🍰

of cupcakes consumed during Berkeley Connect study breaks

2,000 📄

Berkeley Connect buttons distributed on campus to spread the word

6⁷-6 🎮

figure used to examine the proof of Fermat's Little Theorem with Berkeley Connect in Math students

Adding it all up: \$40 million

Our goal is to double the size of Berkeley Connect, bringing the program to 10 more departments on campus and serving twice as many students. Gifts to Berkeley Connect are an investment in Berkeley students.

Thank you for your support!

