

## 2016-2017 Progress Report

The Berkeley Connect program has a seven-year track record of proven success supporting the university’s core missions of teaching and research. Berkeley Connect helps students succeed academically and improves their undergraduate experience—and it supports graduate students. As the program matures, the body of data documenting its impact continues to grow. We now know that Berkeley Connect has a positive effect on the academic success of under-represented, first-generation, and transfer students. We know that Berkeley Connect fellowships allow advanced graduate students to make substantial progress towards degree completion, while also benefiting from faculty mentoring and professional development activities. Berkeley Connect fosters a sense of belonging and the confidence needed for academic/professional success. These values are essential to maintaining our diversity and to meeting our commitments to excellence in undergraduate teaching and graduate student research.



### “The Berkeley Connect Effect”: New Data

The data show that participation in Berkeley Connect improves academic performance.

**Transfer students:** Over 40% of Berkeley Connect participants are transfer students. An analysis by Equity & Inclusion compared all transfer students who participated in Berkeley Connect (or the Chernin Program pilot) between 2010 and 2015 with the entire transfer population for the same period. Significantly *fewer* Berkeley Connect participants have a **first-term GPA below 3.0**, and *more* Berkeley Connect participants have a **GPA of 3.5 or higher**:

GPA	All Transfers	BC Transfers
GPA 2.0 to 2.9	22%	16% (-6%)
GPA 3.0 to 3.4	32%	33% (+1%)
GPA 3.5 to 4.0	40%	46% (+6%)

**Under-represented students:** The percentage of URM students in Berkeley Connect (both transfer and non-transfer) is consistently higher than the percentage in the total undergraduate population. URM first-year students who participated in Berkeley Connect, compared to all URM first-years, demonstrate higher academic success across the board:

Performance Measure	All URM First-Years	BC URM First-Years
1 <sup>st</sup> Term GPA	3.03	3.11
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Probation Rate	10%	9% (-1%)
1-Year Retention Rate	95%	98% (+3%)
3-Year Retention Rate	89%	96% (+7%)
4-Year Graduation Rate	56%	60% (+4%)

These results are even more remarkable given that a higher percentage of URM Berkeley Connect participants, compared to all URM students, are first-generation college students (+3%), from the lowest ranked high schools (+4%), and from the lowest parental income bracket (+2%).

### *Berkeley Connect by the numbers in 2016-2017*

#### **IMPACT ON UNDERGRADUATES**

**148** sections offered in **13** departments in **4** colleges

**2,468** enrollments

**4,936** one-on-one meetings between students and mentors

**96%** of participants would recommend the program to a friend

**94%** report increased awareness of available educational resources

**93%** report deepened knowledge of academic discipline

**92%** met others who share their academic interests

**91%** increased their sense of belonging at Berkeley

**91%** increased their confidence that they can succeed at Berkeley

#### **IMPACT ON GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**34** graduate students awarded full fellowships

**2** graduate students awarded half-year fellowships

**2** recent PhD recipients awarded fellowships

#### **BUDGET**

**\$2.09M** operating budget

**68%** graduate student support

**13%** faculty support

**12%** central program administration

**7%** meals for undergraduates

*Exploring Career Options:* In Spring 2017 Berkeley Connect launched a partnership with the San Francisco firm Vocate to offer free internship-search services to all Berkeley Connect students. Over **300** students took up the offer; they were provided with personalized leads on over **2,500** employers and opportunities that matched their interests.

Major gifts are needed to ensure the stability and growth of Berkeley Connect. While it can be challenging to raise funds for a relatively new program that is not familiar to alums, we find that once alums learn more about Berkeley Connect, almost all of them respond: “I wish there was something like that when I was at Cal!” We look forward to building on this receptivity, and the tremendous success of the program, in order to make Berkeley Connect a permanent hallmark of undergraduate education at Berkeley.