

Freshmen Year: Get settled

Welcome to college! This year is all about getting used to campus and all the support you have available. There are a lot of resources, so be sure to find what works for you. Dedicate some time to yourself to think about what you value and what you want to accomplish during your time at UC Davis. Here are some things to think about exploring during your first year:

Career

- Visit the [Internship and Career Center](#) (ICC) to learn about career preparation workshops, Aggie Job Link, and career counseling services
- Participate in a [Career Discover Group](#) (CDG - available to those in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences only)

Academics

- Start your preparatory science coursework and General Education classes
- Take fun classes to explore your major (GEL 16: The Oceans or EVE 12: Life in the Sea)
- Enroll in a [Freshman Seminar](#)
- Attend office hours
- Attend study skills and time management workshops at the [Student Academic Success Center](#) (SASC)
- Figure out the right workload for you so you can create successful schedules
- Complete your first-year mandatory advising requirement with the College of Letters & Science or College of Biological Sciences
- See your [major advisor](#) to create a four-year academic plan

Extracurricular

- Familiarize yourself with campus
- Consider participating in a [First-Year Aggie Connection](#) (FYAC)
- Participate in the College of Biological Sciences cohort program
- Join the [Marine Science Club](#)
- Visit the [Center for Student Involvement](#) (CSI) or [Center for Leadership Learning](#) (CLL) to learn how to get involved in student organizations and leadership opportunities
- Learn about [wellness services](#) and [mental health resources](#) on campus
- Visit the Internship and Career Center to learn how to get involved in [community service](#)
- Apply for a [part-time job](#) for the next academic year

Events

- Attend the Marine and Coastal Science Fall Meet & Greet & Eat
- Attend the Bodega Marine Lab field trip in Spring

Pro-tip: Make sure to find a good study spot. And look for second year housing early in Winter Quarter – housing in Davis fills up quickly!

My first-year goals:

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Sophomore Year: Explore

It takes everyone a different amount of time to get used to how college works, but once you feel like you've learned some of the resources and support systems that exist, it's time to start pursuing some of those and getting more involved. Consider some of these things this year:

Career

- Attend Internship and Career Center workshops on how to write a resume, how to interview, and how to find internships and jobs
- Create a resume
- Visit your major advisor or [faculty advisors](#) to find out more about getting an internship
- Are you interested in teaching? Consider taking a [CalTeach/Math and Science Teaching](#) (CalTeach/MAST) course

Academics

- Work on completing your preparatory science coursework along with General Education classes
- Complete your second-year mandatory advising requirement with your major advisor (College of Letters & Sciences)
- See [My Degree](#) for a GE check
- Adjust your Academic Plan with your Major Advisor
- Explore what undergraduate research is like by talking to your advisors, professors, and the [Undergraduate Research Center](#) (URC)
- Consider if you would like to study abroad, then visit [UC Davis Study Abroad](#), the [UC Davis Washington Program](#), and [UC Center Sacramento](#)
- Talk to your major advisor and faculty advisors about graduate school
- Visit [Pre-Graduate Advising](#) at the Student Academic Success Center
- Visit [Health Professions Advising](#) (HPA)

Extracurricular

- Continue your involvement on campus by participating in clubs and student organizations.
- Find a summer experience that will help you explore your interests and begin to gain transferable skills

Events

- Attend the Marine and Coastal Science Fall Meet & Greet & Eat
- Attend the lunchtime event "Conversation with your Faculty Advisors" in Spring

Pro-tip: Planning ahead can help you fit in all the extra-curricular experiences you may be interested in!

My second-year goals:

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Junior Year: Get involved

By your third year, you'll want to work on creating your unique path at UC Davis. This is the time to get more involved in the opportunities you think will best support your long-term goals. Use these academic and co-curricular experiences to clarify some of your values, and help shape the person you want to be when you graduate:

Career

- Meet with an [ICC Career Counselor](#) to explore your interests and skills
- Update your resume with each new experience
- Create a LinkedIn account and use it to network
- Complete an internship

Academics

- Transition into taking Upper Division coursework for your major
- Get to know your professors
- Think about if a [minor](#) is right for you. See the advisor for that minor to fit it into your academic plan.
- Approach faculty members about research opportunities
- Complete research at the [Bodega Marine Lab](#)
- Learn what a Senior Thesis is like. If you want to pursue one, set that up with a faculty member this year.
- Research graduate or professional schools and prepare to apply

Extracurricular

- Take on a leadership role in a class, project, or club
- Volunteer for campus or community service
- Work at a part-time job to build transferable skills and a professional network

Events

- Attend the Marine and Coastal Science Fall Meet & Greet & Eat
- Attend the lunchtime career seminar on "What to do with a Marine and Coastal Science Major"

Pro-tip: Getting to know your professors is valuable for doing well in your classes, getting good advice about careers, and getting strong letters of recommendation

My third-year goals:

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Senior Year: Almost there!

All the opportunities you've created for yourself over the past few years have shaped you into the person you are today. Continue to develop skills, recognize your strengths, and set long-term goals for yourself with some of these resources during your senior year:

Career

- Attend an [ICC Career Fair](#)
- Apply to jobs for after graduation

Academics

- Take discipline-specific courses, or classes to help you get into grad school. Also consider practical courses outside of your major like writing, communication, computer programming, personal finance, etc.
- Complete your fourth-year mandatory advising requirement with your major advisor, then complete your "campus engagement" requirement (College of Letters & Sciences)
- Check [My Degree](#) for any remaining degree requirements
- Make any last adjustments to your academic plan
- Complete a senior thesis
- Consider presenting your research at the [Undergraduate Research Conference](#) in Spring
- Research and apply to graduate or professional schools
- File for [Graduation](#) and [Commencement](#)

Extracurricular

- Prepare for the transition from your undergraduate career to graduate school or the professional world

Events

- Attend the Marine and Coastal Science Fall Meet & Greet & Eat

Pro-tip: Graduate school applications are often due in the Fall or early Winter, and you can start applying to careers in the Winter or Spring before you've actually graduated!

My fourth-year goals:

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