



School of Social Ecology

Undergraduate Areas of Study

Majors

- Criminology, Law and Society, B.A.
- Psychology and Social Behavior, B.A.
- Social Ecology, B.A.
- Urban Studies, B.A.

Minors

- Criminology, Law and Society
- Environmental Design
- Psychology and Social Behavior
- Urban and Regional Planning
- Urban Studies

Note: Advising for majors, including advising for Public Health Policy and Public Health Sciences, provided by the School of Social Ecology Office of Student Services.

School Overview

No matter where one looks today, it is clear that our society is confronted with great opportunities but also with very complex problems. Health care, crime, environmental deregulation, family violence, limited or inadequate child care, poverty, unaffordable housing, urban sprawl, government that at times seems unresponsive and inefficient, conflict that is as local as street gangs and as global as ethnic strife in far-away nations — these and other problems seem so complex that citizens wonder where they can turn for answers. Universities, with their faculty expertise, can be valuable partners in the search for solutions to these problems, and yet the problems are so complex that no single academic department can provide the answers. The School of Social Ecology offers a multi-disciplinary perspective on these issues.

The school's faculty members have won numerous prestigious awards and are committed to high-quality research and teaching, while at the same time making a strong commitment to community outreach and engagement for the betterment of society. This distinctive feature of the school has brought it international acclaim as an innovative leader in combining multiple disciplines in the conduct of research on complex problems.

Undergraduate Areas of Study

Criminology, Law and Society

The criminology, law and society curriculum focuses on types of criminal behavior and methods for controlling those behaviors, and the interactions between social processes and legal systems. Course options include topics related to law and legal issues, criminological theory, criminal justice, policy, legal philosophy, and forms of crime. Field study placements are available in public defender's offices, private legal firms, juvenile shelters, police departments, and probation and parole agencies.

Faculty research interests include policing; gang behavior; miscarriage of justice; immigration law; prisoner re-entry issues; corrections and public policy; juvenile justice; access to justice; statistical evidence in the courtroom; and white collar, organized, and hate crimes.

Psychology and Social Behavior

The psychology and social behavior curriculum focuses on human behavior in social contexts, and variations in social environments (i.e., the family, school, and the workplace) that affect human behavior over the life span. Course topics include social, developmental, health, clinical, environmental, and cross-cultural psychology. Field study placements are available in mental health and social services agencies, hospitals, schools, community centers, and public and private agencies.

Faculty research interests include the study of human development and adaptation across the life span and in diverse sociocultural contexts; psychosocial and behavioral factors that promote health, prevent disease, and optimize medical treatments; and the application of psychological science to important social problems, such as violence, unemployment, and substance abuse.

Planning, Policy, and Design

Cities are the key to both the causes of current global crises and their solutions. The field of urban studies explores the causes, prevalence, and consequences of urban challenges and considers the theory and practice of solving such challenges. Its scope ranges from intimate (the individual ramifications of neighborhood design, for example) to international (the politics and economics of cross-boundary natural resource conflicts).

Courses are offered from four clusters: urban and community development, urban and environmental sustainability, urban and environmental design, and urban governance.

Faculty members hold doctorates in the fields of urban and regional planning, public affairs, sociology, architecture, political science, law, design and behavior studies, economics, environmental science, organizational studies, and social psychology, as well as practice credentials from the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Social Ecology

The major in social ecology is a cross-disciplinary program. Courses may be taken from all departments within the School of Social Ecology (excluding Public Health), providing an interdisciplinary and diverse educational background. Field study placements may be in any of the four departmental areas.

Special Programs and Opportunities

Field Study

In addition to classroom experience, students in the School of Social Ecology learn to apply their skills and gain practical training in their own area of interest by fulfilling the school's field study requirement. Through the field study program, students may select an academic internship with attorneys, city planners, environmental specialists, hospital administrators, teachers, counselors, or social workers, for example. Students may choose from more than 250 possible placement sites including large public agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the Orange County Health Care Agency, and many city administrative agencies, as well as many smaller private companies and nonprofit agencies. Field study students supervise and support abused children in foster homes, conduct transportation studies, participate in police ride-alongs, assist attorneys and private investigators in case preparation, and work as classroom aides. As a student in social ecology, you'll have the opportunity to gain pre-professional experience and develop your resume along with your academic and research skills.

Research Opportunities

High-achieving students have the opportunity to work directly with faculty on research projects. Such experience greatly enriches a student's education, and provides preparation for advanced studies and for subsequent careers as researchers and scholars, or as informed citizens who understand scientific research, how it is conducted, and its value to society. Whenever possible, faculty include undergraduate students as integral members of research teams, with assignments appropriate to the student's level of knowledge and skill.

Social Ecology Honors Program

The Social Ecology Honors Program provides the opportunity for selected students to pursue a year of advanced independent study culminating with the completion of a written thesis, and a colloquium presentation of results to peers and faculty. The focus of the program is to foster the development of a student's analytical and research skills through the pursuit of research under faculty mentorship.

Excellence in Research in Psychology and Social Behavior: Provides opportunities for excellent students to pursue advanced study in research methodology and statistics, work closely with faculty, gain research experience, and prepare for graduate school.

Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award in Honor of Gilbert Geis: Scholarship awarded annually to a criminology, law and society major.

Strauss Scholarship: Awarded to an outstanding junior student who is interested in a career in public service.

Mohan Narasimhan Memorial Scholarship: Awarded annually to an outstanding junior student in criminology, law and society who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement.

The Social Ecology House

The Social Ecology House in the Arroyo Vista community provides on-campus residential living revolving around the School of Social Ecology. It offers the opportunity to interact with faculty and students, and to participate in campus life activities.

Career Opportunities

Social ecology graduates bring a distinctive and cross-disciplinary perspective to the job market and have entered the following fields, some of which require advanced education:

- Environmental /Resource Management and Planning
- Clinical/Counseling Psychology
- Public Health
- Health and Safety
- Conservation and Natural Resources
- Environmental Health
- Law
- Medicine
- Urban Planning
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Administration

- Criminology
- Probation/Parole
- Corrections
- Law Enforcement
- Private Investigation
- Human Resources
- Health Services
- Program Evaluation and Research
- Mental Health

Additional Information

School of Social Ecology

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Admissions and Relations with Schools

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General Campus Information

Telephone: (949) 824-5011
www.uci.edu

UCI General Catalogue

UCI Bookstore
Telephone: (949) 824-2665
www.book.uci.edu
www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue (PDF Version)

Accommodations: Upon request, this publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities. Contact the UCI Disability Services Center; telephone (949) 824-7494, TDD 824-6272. The campus and all buildings are accessible by wheelchair.

Campus Safety: Pursuant to the Federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, UCI annually makes available to the public statistics on reported occurrences of criminal activity on and off campus and at UCI Medical Center at www.police.uci.edu/awareness/jca.html.

Nondiscrimination Policy: The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. For more information, call (949) 824-5594.