

UCSB 2025-2027 Cohort UC LEADS Program Application

A UC Santa Barbara Graduate Division Academic Research Consortium (ARC) Member Program

Thank you for your interest in being chosen to join the UCSB UC LEADS 2025-2027 Scholar Cohort. Please make sure you have reviewed the UC LEADS program's [UCSB](#) and [UCOP](#) websites. UC LEADS is a two-year pipeline undergraduate research program with the goal of participants applying to doctoral programs, preferably at a University of California campus. Students applying to join the 2025-2027 UC LEADS Scholar cohort should have a target graduation date of Spring 2027, and not earlier than Winter 2027, with special exception. If you have any questions, please [email Karen van Gool](#), the UCSB UC LEADS Coordinator.

An ideal UC LEADS Scholar candidate:

- **Expresses a commitment to and a strong potential for success in future pursuit of a Ph.D.**
- Experienced educational barriers to their academic progress, or who express a commitment to address the barriers that prevent participation of students from underrepresented groups in graduate academic programs
- Experienced situations or conditions that impacted their advancement or ability to advance in a STEM field (e.g. the absence of a role model in the STEM field, absence of a family member who received a four-year college degree or graduation from high school with poor financial or curricular support)
- Demonstrates leadership potential to address the issues of underrepresentation of domestic minorities in the STEM fields
- Possesses the potential to gain the personal and multicultural competency skills necessary to address the needs of a diverse community through science and technology

Awardee Eligibility:

This program is only open to U.S. citizens or permanent residents, or to students who hold AB540 status or believe they are eligible under this program. Student awardees must express a clear commitment to earning a doctoral degree and must stay within an Engineering, Science, or Mathematics major at UCSB throughout the entire duration of the award. Each quarter they must maintain a minimum 3.0 quarter and cumulative GPA and complete a minimum of 12 units. Awardees experience and *commit* to two (2) approximately eight-week summer research programs, the first at UCSB, and the second *at another UC campus*. Awardees are required to attend periodic on- and off-campus events and/or workshops scheduled in support of UC

LEADS Scholars. In their second year, Scholars are required to register for the year-long seminar course *Science for the Common Good*, when offered. Awardees are also required to attend and present at the annual Koret UC LEADS Symposium in each of the two years. Awardees are expected to display professionalism and remain responsive to program staff throughout the entirety of the program.

A completed application includes:

1. [Complete this google form](#)
2. [Statement of Interest \(SOI\)](#):

Write

a concise essay concerning your interest in UC LEADS at UCSB and graduate education in general. This essay should address (but is not limited to) the key components listed below. Please feel free to expand upon these components and share any additional information that you feel is relevant to your unique personal or educational history. Your statement should not exceed 1,000 typed words (single-spaced, 12 point font).

- Describe your research area of interest and, if applicable, prior and current research experience.
 - Discuss why you are interested in participating in an undergraduate research program and what you feel you can gain from the experience.
 - Discuss why you are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree and your future career objectives.
 - Describe your educational background and achievements, providing information on barriers (educational, social, financial, and/or cultural) you may have personally faced and how you overcame them.
3. [Resume/CV](#): Include a resume/CV with your application. Include any work or laboratory experience that you feel is relevant to your application.
 4. [Unofficial Transcripts](#): Include a copy of your unofficial transcripts for all post secondary institutions you have attended.
 5. [One Letter of Recommendation](#): You will request a recommender to complete this [UC LEADS Recommender Form](#), and they will be able to submit their letter using this form. Additional information and directions are provided below. You may have more than one recommender, but MUST have at least one.

Directions for submitting your documents:

You will submit your documents in Section 8 of the application. *As documents are required, you will need to have them available to upload in order to complete and submit this application.* The filenames must include your first and last names and clearly identify each document (example: karen_vangool-SOI.pdf).

** Indicates required question*

1. Email *

PERSONAL INFORMATION

2. Last Name: *

3. First Name: *

4. Gender Identity: *

Mark only one oval.

- Woman or female
- Man or male
- Nonbinary
- Different identity
- Decline to state

5. Pronouns:

6. Mobile Phone Number: *

7. Date of Birth: *

Example: January 7, 2019

8. U.S. Resident Status (U.S. citizens, U.S. Permanent Residents, and AB540 status * students are eligible to apply):

Mark only one oval.

- U.S. Citizen
- U.S. Permanent Resident
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipient/AB540 Status
- Other: _____

9. UCSB Email Address: *

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA COLLECTION

This information is requested to comply with UC LEADS program data reporting.

10. Ethnicity (select all that apply): *

Check all that apply.

- American Indian/Alaska Native
- African American/Black
- Mexican/Mexican-American/Chicana/o
- Other Hispanic/Latino (includes Cuban, Puerto Rican, Central and South American)
- Chinese/Chinese-American
- East Indian/Pakistani
- Filipino/Filipino-American
- Japanese/Japanese-American
- Korean/Korean-American
- Pacific Islander (includes Micronesian, Polynesian, other Pacific Islanders)
- Vietnamese/Vietnamese-American
- Other Asian (not including Middle Eastern)
- White/Caucasian
- Decline to State
- Other: _____

11. What language(s) did you grow up speaking at home (Check all that apply)? *

Check all that apply.

- English only
- Spanish only
- Asian language group only
- Other non-English language only
- English and Spanish
- English and Asian language group
- Other bilingual
- Other: _____

12. Parent/Guardian 1's Highest Education Level *

Mark only one oval.

- Did not graduate high school
- High school graduate
- Some college, but no bachelor's degree
- Associate's degree graduate
- 4-year degree graduate
- Began, but did not complete, a Master's degree
- Master's degree
- Began, but did not complete, a Professional degree
- Professional degree
- Began, but did not complete, a Doctoral degree
- Doctoral degree
- Unknown
- Decline to state

13. Parent/Guardian 2's Highest Education Level *

Mark only one oval.

- Did not graduate high school
- High school graduate
- Some college, but no bachelor's degree
- Associate's degree graduate
- 4-year degree graduate
- Began, but did not complete, a Master's degree
- Master's degree
- Began, but did not complete, a Professional degree
- Professional degree
- Began, but did not complete, a Doctoral degree
- Doctoral degree
- Unknown
- Decline to state

14. Please select "Yes" if any of the following apply to you (current or former): *

- Recipient of or eligible for the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) program (or equivalent)
- Recipient of or eligible for Cal FRESH/SNAP
- Recipient of or eligible for Medical/Medicaid
- Recipient of or eligible for Pell Grant
- Recipient of or eligible for CalGrant
- Recipient of or eligible for CA Dream Act
- Foster youth
- Residing in public housing
- Participated in or eligible for the Migrant Education Program

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Decline to state
- Unknown

YOUR EDUCATION HISTORY

Please answer the following questions regarding your education history to date.

15. Expected Graduate Date (mm/yyyy): *

16. Major 1: *

17. Major 2:

18. Minor:

19. Current Cumulative GPA: *

20. Number of Units Completed: *

21. Are you a community college transfer student? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

22. If yes, name of Community College:

23. Date Transferred (mm/yyyy):

24. Cumulative CC GPA:

25. Do you plan to apply to a graduate program? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, a doctoral level degree program
- Yes, a master level degree program
- Yes, a professional level degree program
- Maybe
- No
- Other: _____

26. When do you anticipate applying for a graduate program (mm/yyyy)?

27. What is proposed field of graduate study?

28. Please share your top 3 desired universities for graduate school:

29. Please check off any/all of the following programs in which you have participated: *

Check all that apply.

- Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID)
- California Alliance for Minority Participation (CAMP)
- Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP)
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA)
- McNair
- Puente
- None of the above
- Other: _____

30. How did you hear about UC LEADS? (please check all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- Faculty Advisor/Mentor
- Peer(s)
- Program Director
- Academic Advisor
- UCSB Career Services
- Email Communication
- Social Media (Web, Instagram, Facebook)
- Other: _____

RESEARCH BACKGROUND & GOALS

Please answer the following questions regarding current or prior research experience. Please note that prior research experience is not required.

31. Are you currently in a UCSB research lab? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

32. If Yes, Current Faculty Advisor Name:

33. If Yes, Current Faculty Advisor Email Address:

34. Should you be selected into UC LEADS is it your preference to continue with your current faculty advisor and their related lab/group? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Maybe

I do not have a current research advisor

35. Primary area of interest for research:

36. Do you have prior experience in a formal undergraduate research program? You may provide information for up to 2 prior programs. *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

37. If yes, Program #1 Name:

38. If yes, Program #1 Dates of Participation (mm/yyyy - mm/yyyy):

39. If yes, Program #1 Institution/Company:

40. If yes, Program #1 Faculty/Supervisor Name:

41. If yes, Program #2 Name:

42. If yes, Program #2 Dates of Participation (mm/yyyy - mm/yyyy):

43. If yes, Program #2 Institution/Company:

44. If yes, Program #2 Faculty/Supervisor Name:

UC LEADS FACULTY MENTOR INFORMATION

Please list two faculty members with whom you wish to conduct research. If accepted in to the program, it is the responsibility of the Scholar to identify and secure a faculty mentor. Information about UCSB faculty members can be found at their respective department websites (<http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/departments>).

45. Have you already identified and confirmed a faculty mentor if you were to join UC LEADS? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

46. If yes, Faculty Member's Last Name:

47. If yes, Faculty Member's First Name:

48. If yes, Faculty Member's Email Address:

49. If yes, Faculty Member's Academic Department:

50. If No, list two (2) faculty members with whom you wish to conduct research. Include their departments.

RECOMMENDER INFORMATION

Your application requires one letter of recommendation from a faculty member who knows you well enough to speak about your qualifications.

Complete the following information and ask your recommender to complete this questionnaire (required): <https://forms.gle/5kyqZJNtkAnBNHLYA> (send the link to them), as well as to write a letter in support of your application. Your recommender may provide their letter via this form or email it to **Karen van Gool** at summerprogram@graddiv.ucsb.edu

51. Recommender's First and Last Names: *

52. Recommender's Title (e.g., Professor): *

53. Recommender's Email Address: *

54. Recommender's Campus/Company/Affiliation: *

APPLICATION DOCUMENT SUBMISSION

Please upload your required documents via this section.

- 1) Statement of Interest
- 2) Resume/CV
- 3) Unofficial transcripts for all post-secondary institutions you have attended

The filenames must include your first and last names and clearly identify each document (example: karen_vangool-SOI.pdf). Should you encounter difficulty uploading your documents, please email summerprogram@graddiv.ucsb.edu.

55. Please upload your Statement of Interest: *

Write a concise essay concerning your interest in UC LEADS at UCSB and graduate education in general. This essay should address (but is not limited to) the key components listed below. Please feel free to expand upon these components and share any additional information that you feel is relevant to your unique personal or educational history. Your statement should not exceed 1,000 typed words (single-spaced, 12 point font).

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-Discuss why you are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree and your future career objectives.

-Describe your educational background and achievements, providing information on barriers (educational, social, financial, and/or cultural) you may have personally faced and how you overcame them.

Files submitted:

56. Please upload your resume/CV: *
- Include any work or laboratory experience that you feel is relevant to your application.

Files submitted:

57. Please upload your unofficial transcripts: *
- Include a copy of your unofficial transcripts for all post secondary institutions you have attended.

Files submitted:

SIGNATURE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By adding my name below, and if I accept an offer of a UC LEADS award, I agree:

- 1) To stay within an Engineering, Science, or Mathematics major at UCSB throughout the entire duration of the award.
- 2) Each quarter I will maintain a 3.0 major and cumulative GPA and complete a minimum of 12 units.
- 3) I will commit to two (2) approximately 8-week summer research programs, the first at UCSB, and the second at another UC campus.
- 4) I will attend periodic on- and off-campus events and/or workshops scheduled in support of UC LEADS Scholars, when stated as required.
- 5) I will register for and participate in the *Science for the Common Good* seminar course in year two, when offered.
- 6) I commit to attending and presenting at the annual Koret UC LEADS Symposium in each of the two years.
- 7) I commit to completing all required agreements, paperwork, and meeting requests by published deadlines and/or in a timely fashion.
- 8) Finally, I acknowledge that I am applying to the UC LEADS program because it is my goal to apply for and attend a Doctoral program in the year following the completion of my undergraduate degree at UC Santa Barbara.

58. Please sign your name as an agreement to the above statements.

Google Forms

