UCSF leads the nation in research and graduate-level education in the health sciences. The interdisciplinary structure of our top-ranked programs drives broad collaboration across all disciplines, accelerating and intensifying research. Our award-winning faculty, including five Nobel laureates, deliver engaging courses and provide personalized mentorship for every student.

UCSF is a key contributor to the San Francisco Bay Area’s well-deserved reputation as a hub of innovation, technology, and progressive influence. Our faculty, students, and postdocs can take advantage of year-round opportunities to learn from and engage with leaders and groundbreakers in the scientific community.

The UCSF Graduate Division offers 14 outstanding PhD programs in the basic/biomedical sciences together with five social/population science PhD programs that provide important context for the science and practice of medicine.

Find out more about all of our programs at [graduate.ucsf.edu](http://graduate.ucsf.edu)
Having a supportive network, staying healthy, and having interests outside of your research are crucial to your success as a student — and for your well-being as a person. At UCSF, the Graduate Division works closely with the following offices and others to help you achieve this balance and succeed.

Before you choose where to spend the next few years of your life, look into how the campus and program will support you and get assurance that your hard-earned degree will lead to a personally satisfying career.

What’s the first thing you should do in graduate school?

**build your community**

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- Campus Life Services / Housing
- Financial Aid
- First Generation Support Services
- International Students & Scholars Office
- Learning Resource Services
- LGBT Resource Center
- Multicultural Resource Center
- Office of Career & Professional Development
- Office of Diversity & Outreach
- Student Disability Services
- Student Health & Counseling Services
- Student Life
- Veteran Support Services
Associated Students of the Graduate Division – The ASGD is the officially recognized student government of graduate students at UC San Francisco. ASGD functions to create a sense of community among graduate students; to represent the needs of the diverse body of graduate students and to advocate for their rights and interests; and to promote career and professional development for graduate students.

Carry the One Radio – Founded and run by UCSF graduate students and postdocs, Carry the One creates short, accessible podcast interviews with scientists, in order to bridge the gap between the scientific community and the public. Get involved and nurture your inner talk show host!

Disability Advocacy and Support is an open group for all UCSF students with disabilities and chronic illnesses, as well as their allies. The group provides a space for students with disabilities to share their stories, confronts ableism, and works to increase awareness of disability in the UCSF community. DAS holds two confidential support group meetings each month.

First Gen Activities – First Generation Support Services, part of the Student Life office at UCSF, offers year-round programming for students who were among the first in their families to attend college and connects students with other “first gens” in the campus community. Every first gen event is a celebration!

The Fog at Bay – Created by UCSF graduate students, the Fog at Bay is an extraordinary podcast series, featuring two people having an honest conversation about their common experience of otherness. In this intimate format, topics explored so far have included women in science, diversity, and student mental health.

Graduate Queer Alliance promotes awareness and educates the scientific community about LGBT issues. Members mentor high school and undergraduate LGBT groups about careers in science. The GQA is proud to contribute to the Bay Area’s reputation as a focal point for both LGBT activism and scientific innovation.

SACNAS – Part of the national Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science, the UCSF SACNAS chapter hosts a variety of seminars, as well as social and networking activities. Chapter members also provide peer support and mentor students at local high schools and colleges.

The Science and Health Education Partnership connects UCSF volunteers with local public school teachers and students through classroom-based partnerships, career days, and high school internships. SEP also manages the blockbuster Bay Area Science Festival, which reaches over 70,000 people every year!

The Science Policy Group is dedicated to educating students and postdocs about science policy issues and takes concrete actions to support science advocacy. The Science Policy Group co-hosts numerous events with the Graduate Division throughout the year.

Scientists 4 Diversity (S4D) – Founded by graduate students, S4D works to foster a supportive community for the professional development of traditionally underrepresented individuals in scientific research. S4D advocates for mentorship, provides outreach, and promotes discussion around issues that impact an increasingly diverse cohort of current and aspiring scientists.

Synapse, UCSF’s student-run news website, provides a place outside the cacophony of social media for students to address what’s important to them. Students who work at Synapse gain a variety of career-bolstering skills, including storytelling, writing clearly and precisely, and meeting tight deadlines.

Women in Life Sciences is dedicated to supporting women graduate students, postdocs, faculty, and staff at UCSF through networking, mentoring, and career-building activities.
You see your disability as a strength. So do we.

Your perspective as a person with a disability enriches our programs and the student experience for all. UCSF provides support services that ensure that every individual can equitably participate in their degree program and fully access all campus activities. Student Disability Services (SDS) coordinates many lines of support, which may include assistance during the admission process if needed. Visit sds.ucsf.edu for more information.

Once admitted to UCSF, be sure to reach out to the SDS office early on with requests for any needed accommodations or to find out more about the specific services available to you.

“My injury has radically changed every aspect of my life. It forced me to grow up quickly, to realize the brevity and frailty of life. It ignited my desire to defy barriers that come from living with something that most people consider a disadvantage. I am not defined by my struggle, but instead refined as a product of what I endured.”

Raziel Rizzo
DPT student, Physical Therapy
(ISCI survivor)

See an interview with Rizzo and other inspiring UCSF community members who have disabilities at tiny.ucsf.edu/strength.
Bioengineering

The UCSF-UC Berkeley Joint PhD Program in Bioengineering combines the outstanding resources and faculty in biomedical sciences at UCSF with the excellence in engineering, physical, and life sciences at UC Berkeley. Students in this highly interdisciplinary program learn to bring the methods of cutting-edge engineering to bear on some of the most pressing problems in biology and medicine.

Bioengineering is a young, but rapidly evolving discipline. The UCSF-UCB Bioengineering program offers students unparalleled opportunities to do basic and applied bioengineering research in a wide variety of related fields, reflecting the strengths and breadth of program faculty across the two campuses and in multiple departments.

sub-disciplines

- biomaterials
- biomechanics
- biomedical imaging and instrumentation
- BioMEMS and nanotechnology
- computational biology, bioinformatics, genomics
- drug delivery systems and pharmacogenomics
- neural systems engineering and vision science
- systems and synthetic biology
- tissue engineering and regenerative medicine

See further information about the Bioengineering program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at graduate.ucsf.edu/bioe.

Biological & Medical Informatics

The Biological and Medical Informatics (BMI) program equips PhD students with the skills and knowledge in applied mathematics, informatics, statistics, computer science, physics, chemistry, and biology needed to study biological composition, structure, function, and evolution at the molecular, cellular, and systems levels. Students are involved with gathering, storing, analyzing, predicting, and disseminating complex information. The field is essential, for without quantitative analysis of the massive and growing amounts of biological data generated by various systems, biology and -omics data cannot be interpreted or exploited.

UCSF researchers pioneered many bioinformatics areas including data visualization, systems biology, protein structure prediction, and drug design. With faculty interests that include genetics, genomics, evolution, protein structure, systems biology, host-pathogen interactions, drug design, and cellular biology, students are presented with a wide range of areas to explore and integrate. The BMI faculty include members of the National Academy of Sciences, Howard Hughes Investigators, Searle Scholars, and National Institutes of Health New Innovator Awardees.

sub-disciplines

- bioinformatics and computational biology
- genetics and genomics
- complex biological systems

See further information about the Biological and Medical Informatics program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at graduate.ucsf.edu/bmi.
The Biophysics program spans research at the interface of physics, chemistry, and biology. It is aimed at students who want to explore the physical properties, structures, and interrelationships of living things by using physics and chemistry to quantify biological processes at the molecular, cellular, and systems levels.

Early access to emerging technologies allows students in the UCSF Biophysics graduate program to explore biology in entirely new ways — before these technologies are generally available to other scientists. As important, the Biophysics faculty has achieved high recognition both nationally and internationally for its accomplishments. More than 10 members of the faculty are members of the National Academy of Sciences. UCSF faculty members pioneered applications of electron microscopy, crystallography, NMR, and image reconstruction techniques. The UCSF Biophysics graduate program ranks among the top in the U.S., according to a report by the National Research Council.

sub-disciplines

biophysical approaches to cell biology
complex biological systems
computational and theoretical biophysics
protein engineering and synthetic biology
membrane biophysics
proteomics and genomics
structural biology

See further information about the Biophysics program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at graduate.ucsf.edu/biophysics.

Biomedical Sciences

The Biomedical Sciences (BMS) program is an interdisciplinary graduate research program that equips students with the training and research tools to dissect disease-related biology, from single cells to tissue and organ systems. Students in the BMS program must acquire a level of competence in molecular biology, genetics, and cell biology comparable to that expected of students in traditional programs focused in these areas. At the same time, the program incorporates the rigorous and molecular study of core developmental, physiological, and pathological features of human biology and disease.

The BMS curriculum results in a new generation of interdisciplinary biomedical scientists who are able to forge collaborations that break down traditional research boundaries.

thematic areas

cancer biology and cell signaling
developmental and stem cell biology
human genetics
immunology
neurobiology
tissue/organ biology and endocrinology
vascular and cardiac biology
virology and microbial pathogenesis

See further information about the Biomedical Sciences program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at graduate.ucsf.edu/bms.

Biomedical Sciences

At UCSF, I have found the most supportive fellow graduate students and mentors. I truly feel I belong to an amazing community — there for me no matter what happens, even if we are not in the same program or lab.

Ramiro Patino
PhD student, Biomedical Sciences

Having peers with such incredibly diverse scientific backgrounds creates a truly unique environment here at UCSF. Seeing the many different approaches to answering biological questions pushes us all to think more creatively.

Nadja Kern
PhD student, Biophysics

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sub-disciplines

biophysical approaches to cell biology
complex biological systems
computational and theoretical biophysics
protein engineering and synthetic biology
membrane biophysics
proteomics and genomics
structural biology

See further information about the Biophysics program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at graduate.ucsf.edu/biophysics.
Chemistry & Chemical Biology

The Chemistry and Chemical Biology Graduate program (CCB) prepares scientists to address problems at the intersection of chemistry and biology. The program gives students a foundation in chemistry for understanding complex biological processes at an atomic level and provides training in the sciences related to chemical biology — integrating both with respect to atomic, molecular, and cellular levels of structure. This interdisciplinary study of molecules in living systems in the setting of a health science campus helps to integrate the traditional disciplines of chemistry and biology.

The CCB program at UCSF ranks among the top such programs in the nation according to a 2010 report by the National Research Council. The program is set within the interdisciplinary educational environment for which UCSF is so well known, and it is physically located on UCSF’s contemporary Mission Bay research campus. The program has strong connections with other UC campuses and the biotech industry in the region, further increasing students’ research opportunities.

sub-disciplines

biological chemistry and synthetic biology
chemical synthesis and natural products
computational chemistry and biology
drug discovery and design
macromolecular structure and function
protein and cellular engineering

See further information about the Chemistry and Chemical Biology program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at [graduate.ucsf.edu/ccb](http://graduate.ucsf.edu/ccb).

Developmental & Stem Cell Biology

The Developmental and Stem Cell Biology (DSCB) PhD program builds upon the outstanding strengths of basic and translational research at UCSF. It provides training in four overlapping and interrelated thematic areas: stem cells and cell differentiation, organogenesis and tissue regeneration, pattern formation and morphogenesis, and evolutionary developmental biology. The DSCB Program offers an integrated and multidisciplinary educational opportunity for graduate students pursuing careers in these rapidly expanding fields.

The DSCB program includes faculty members from various clinical and basic science departments with a wide range of interests. Most program faculty have ongoing laboratory projects that span multiple thematic areas.

The DSCB program coordinates its activities with a variety of cross-campus entities including the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research, the UCSF Diabetes Center, and the Gladstone Institutes.

thematic areas

stem cells and cell differentiation
organogenesis and tissue regeneration
pattern formation and morphogenesis
evolutionary developmental biology

See further information about the DSCB program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at [graduate.ucsf.edu/dscb](http://graduate.ucsf.edu/dscb).
The PhD in Global Health Sciences is a transdisciplinary program that prepares students to work in and contribute to the field of global health by providing a range of perspectives on global health challenges and solutions. Students are trained in research methods and modes of inquiry drawn from public health, public policy, economics, development studies, implementation science, and the social sciences, to prepare them to address health problems of global importance. Graduates are equipped for careers in academia, policy, and organizational leadership.

The program is structured as a four-year degree. Students spend the first two years in residence at the UCSF Mission Bay campus engaged in coursework, research rotations, and teaching residencies. After completing the core curriculum and passing the qualifying examination, students spend the next two years focused on conducting their dissertation research and engaging in other research and professional growth activities under the guidance of research advisers and faculty mentors.

The UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences (IGHS) was established in 2003 by Haile T. Debas to provide institutional leadership for global health at UCSF. Reporting directly to the chancellor, IGHS is an interdisciplinary educational, research, and service organization dedicated to improving health and reducing the burden of disease in the world’s most vulnerable populations.

See further information about the Global Health Sciences program, including admissions, demographics, and time to degree, at graduate.ucsf.edu/ghs.

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**Epidemiology & Translational Science**

The Epidemiology and Translational Science PhD program is a three to five-year course of study for individuals wishing to pursue independent research careers. Incoming students have typically completed training at the master’s level in epidemiology, public health, or related quantitative research fields prior to entering the program. Students are trained in the most advanced methods for studying disease etiology and prevention; for evaluating diagnostic tests and treatment efficacy in clinical settings; and for implementing evidence-based approaches in clinical practice and population health.

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at UCSF is the largest of its kind in the 10-campus UC system in terms of full-time primary faculty and number of affiliated faculty. Epidemiology serves as a key discipline — an “epicenter” in team science and in problem-based learning, bridging basic and population sciences. It serves translational science with a critical perspective on population health and provides instruction on research methods that move basic scientific discoveries to practical clinical applications.

**concentrations**

- environmental and occupational epidemiology
- social epidemiology
- genetic epidemiology
- infectious disease epidemiology
- screening and early detection
- aging
- cancer epidemiology
- global health
- biostatistics
- bioinformatics

See further information about the Epidemiology & Translational Science program, including admissions, demographics, and time to degree, at graduate.ucsf.edu/epi.

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**Global Health Sciences**

What excites me most about my research is the ability to conduct research aimed at making a positive impact among some of the most vulnerable populations.

Luis Rodriguez
PhD student, Epidemiology & Translational Science

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Maricianah Onono
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Global Health Sciences

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Maricianah Onono
PhD student, Global Health Sciences

Global Health Sciences

I am constantly exposed to areas of study outside my primary area of concentration and am therefore able to gain a much broader expertise and understanding of global health than I envisioned when applying.

Maricianah Onono
PhD student, Global Health Sciences
History of Health Sciences

The History of Health Sciences (HHS) program trains students to examine the history of health sciences – medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, alternative healing, and biomedical research – from a variety of critical approaches. With an emphasis on modern (late 19th to 21st century) contexts, the program’s faculty and students investigate how medicine, health, and illness are historically perceived, and how these perceptions reflect and shape culture and society.

The PhD program is a five-year degree that is composed of two years of coursework and a three-year dissertation project. Students learn to make use of all aspects of historical research: identifying appropriate sources, evaluating and interpreting the content of published and unpublished documents, contextualizing and analyzing those documents within the broader framework of contemporary knowledge, society, and culture, and writing a thesis that provides both historical narrative and interpretive analysis of the dissertation topic.

Students are admitted to the History of Health Sciences program biennially, in odd-numbered years. This keeps the student-to-faculty ratio very low, enabling students to work closely with their faculty mentors.

research focus areas

- public health
- healthcare systems
- pharmaceuticals
- race
- gender
- biomedicine

See further information about the History of Health Sciences program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at graduate.ucsf.edu/history.

Medical Anthropology

The joint UCSF/UC Berkeley PhD in Medical Anthropology is one of the pioneering programs in the discipline both nationally and globally. The program brings together one of the finest medical universities and one of the finest arts and sciences universities in the country to offer students a theoretically engaged approach to emerging issues in medical anthropology. No other program offers the joint program’s combination of excellence in critical medical anthropology; studies of science, technology, and modernity; and training in historically informed, pedagogically rigorous social theory.

Students in the program are trained to develop original, creative, and relevant scholarship that contributes to both medical science and social science fields. The program emphasizes the ways social theory can be used to analyze urgent issues in contemporary health. These include: how populations are predisposed for care or violence; how markets structure health and the provision of aid; and differences in how life, ethics, and personhood are constituted.

The program also offers a unique opportunity for dual degree students through the Medical Anthropology MD/PhD track, which includes the Medical Sciences Training Program. This track graduates physician scholars able to contribute to anthropological scholarship, medical science, and clinical care.

thematic areas

- social inequality
- violence
- differential access to care
- the biomedical economy
- race
- science and technology studies

See further information about the Medical Anthropology program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at graduate.ucsf.edu/anth.
Through the Nursing PhD program, students begin a career and life of inquiry. Graduates of the program become scientists who conduct research in nursing and continually grow the knowledge base of the discipline. They answer the “why” and “how” questions and pursue careers as academic faculty or clinical researchers.

The UCSF School of Nursing takes pride in its graduate programs, which represent a century of pioneering leadership that has produced many of the country’s – and the world’s – nursing leaders. Among schools of nursing nationwide, the UCSF School of Nursing is one of the top recipients of research funding from the National Institutes of Health. The School’s graduate students have many opportunities to capitalize on the symbiotic relationship between the Nursing PhD, DNP, MS, and MEPN programs, and the basic, clinical, and social and population science programs offered by the Graduate Division.

**Research Focus Areas**

family health care nursing
community health systems
physiological nursing

See further information about the Nursing PhD program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at [graduate.ucsf.edu/nursing](http://graduate.ucsf.edu/nursing).

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**Neuroscience**

The Neuroscience PhD program prepares students for independent research and teaching in neuroscience. It seeks to train students who will be expert in one particular approach to neuroscientific research, but who will also have a strong general background in other areas of neuroscience and related disciplines. To achieve this objective, students take interdisciplinary core and advanced courses in neuroscience, as well as related courses sponsored by other graduate programs. In addition, students carry out research under the supervision of faculty members in the program.

The UCSF Neuroscience program faculty, who are among the world leaders in their respective areas of neuroscience, utilize innovative cellular, computational, electrophysiological, genetic, imaging, and molecular strategies to address outstanding problems in neuroscience. These approaches are employed in an integrative manner to engage students in research in all areas of neuroscience, including behavior, biophysics, cell biology, development, neural systems, and disorders of the nervous system. The collaborative nature of the UCSF environment offers a unique opportunity in which to take advantage of the interdisciplinary nature of research at the frontier of modern neuroscience.

**Sub-disciplines**

- cellular/molecular neuroscience
- developmental neuroscience
- neuroscience of disease
- systems/computational neuroscience

See further information about the Neuroscience program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at [graduate.ucsf.edu/neurosci](http://graduate.ucsf.edu/neurosci).

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**USCF seems to have absorbed the sunny California ethos, where faculty and students treat each other like equals in a shared scientific endeavor. ... Fellow students in the Neuroscience program have welcomed me into a broad, program-wide community.**

Carlos Johnson-Cruz
PhD student, Neuroscience

**USCF attracts some of the most passionate and compassionate people who are dedicated to promoting health equity to those society has pushed to the margins. It was very easy to find quality people who sincerely care for our communities and provide infinite warmth and support towards one another.**

Brianna M. Singleton
PhD student, Nursing

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See further information about the Neuroscience program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at [graduate.ucsf.edu/neurosci](http://graduate.ucsf.edu/neurosci).
Oral & Craniofacial Sciences

The Oral and Craniofacial Sciences (OCS) interdisciplinary PhD program provides students with the knowledge and research tools needed to study oral and craniofacial tissue and organ systems. From a variety of approaches, students learn about the functions of these tissues and systems, and about the conditions and diseases to which these tissues and systems are susceptible. The OCS program places emphasis on translating scientific discovery into advances in patient treatment and clinical care.

The OCS graduate program aims to develop world leaders in scientific discovery, who will be able to translate their research into health benefits for patients worldwide. Recognizing that significant scientific discovery occurs at the crossroads of different disciplines, students acquire an outstanding level of competence in cell and molecular biology, which is incorporated with an in-depth examination of the key developmental, molecular, materials sciences questions related to oral and craniofacial sciences.

Sixty faculty members are associated with the OCS program, representing several departments in the UCSF School of Dentistry as well as many departments in the UCSF School of Medicine. This ensures a program curriculum that spans a range of disciplines.

See further information about the Oral and Craniofacial Sciences program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at graduate.ucsf.edu/ocs.

Pharmaceutical Sciences & Pharmacogenomics

The Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacogenomics (PSPG) program educates students to address the major questions in the pharmaceutical sciences, teaches them the basic sciences needed to address these questions, and creates an environment where they can develop into independent and creative scientific problem solvers. This multidisciplinary graduate program has a dual focus on pharmaceutical sciences – including molecular and systems pharmacology, drug development and delivery, therapeutic bioengineering, and pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics – and pharmacogenomics, the application of genetics and genomics to drug action and disposition.

Large multidisciplinary research projects, focusing on membrane transporter pharmacogenetics and quantitative systems pharmacology, provide students with cross-disciplinary training in pharmacology, human genetics, and computational biology.

The PSPG faculty developed the foundation for current principles regarding the kinetics of drug action and variability in drug response, and it includes members of the National Academy of Sciences.

thematic areas

- pharmacogenomics and functional genomics
- quantitative and systems pharmacology
- computational genomics
- molecular pharmacology
- drug development
- therapeutic bioengineering

See further information about the PSPG program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at graduate.ucsf.edu/pspg.

photos: Cindy Chew
Rehabilitation Science

The Rehabilitation Science PhD program at UC San Francisco is offered in collaboration with faculty from both UCSF and San Francisco State University (SFSU). The program employs a non-traditional approach that addresses the broader perspective of basic and clinical sciences in the areas of musculoskeletal and neurological rehabilitation. This program takes advantage of the highly interdisciplinary nature of UCSF and the diversity at SFSU to expand the learning opportunities and enrich the collaborative science research experience for graduate students. Backed by the outstanding faculty in physical therapy at both institutions, as well as the state-of-the-art research facilities and clinical expertise at UCSF, the program is a preeminent center of learning and discovery in rehabilitation science at the doctoral level.

specialization areas

musculoskeletal biomechanics
Musculoskeletal biomechanics is one of the foundational sciences of rehabilitation science. Within this specialization, new investigators are trained on the latest advancements in musculoskeletal biomechanics and are prepared for careers in research in academia and industry.

clinically informed neuroscience
The clinically informed neuroscience track offers either a clinically-focused pathway, which addresses neural injury and neurodegenerative disease, or a laboratory-based translational research pathway that utilizes clinically relevant models of neurodegeneration to address mechanisms underlying activity-based restoration of function.

See further information about the Rehabilitation Science program at graduate.ucsf.edu/rehab-sci.

Sociology

The Sociology PhD program at UCSF offers an exceptionally deep curriculum focused on the sociology of health, illness, biomedicine, and health care systems. The program is one of the most highly ranked graduate programs in sociology nationwide: the National Research Council in 2010 ranked the UCSF program 6th-20th out of a field of 118 sociology doctoral programs. The program features extensive training in both general sociological theory and the sociology of health, illness, and medicine; it also provides rigorous methodological training in both quantitative and qualitative research methods, including hands-on learning through the conduct of original research. Commitments to social justice and reducing health inequalities pervade the curriculum and the research of faculty and students.

The Sociology program is part of a network of social science communities at UCSF, including the Institute for Health & Aging, the Center for Health and Community, and the Social and Population Sciences Research Consortium. The program also has key relationships with such Bay Area intellectual communities as the Science & Justice Research Center (at UC Santa Cruz), and the Center for Science, Technology, Medicine & Society (at UC Berkeley).

specialization areas

global health and global health policy
race, class, gender, and health disparities
science, technology, and medicine studies

See further information about the Sociology program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at graduate.ucsf.edu/sociology.
The Tetrad graduate program prepares students to pose and address fundamental research problems in modern biology. The program highly values curiosity-driven research that investigates challenging questions in life sciences conducted in a collegial and scientifically rigorous manner. The program places special emphasis on modern approaches within three core and interrelated areas listed below. The research conducted under the Tetrad umbrella encompasses a wide range of structural, molecular, cellular, physiological, and pathophysiological questions.

The Tetrad program was among the first graduate programs nationwide to breakdown barriers between disciplines; emphasis on interdisciplinary research remains a guiding principle of the program. Hand-in-hand with promoting interdisciplinary research is the program’s emphasis on fostering a strong sense of community and interactions among students and the program’s cadre of internationally recognized scientists. Program activities include an annual retreat held in Lake Tahoe, a weekly seminar program featuring top scientists from around the world, and multiple other activities that provide student/faculty interactions in both formal and informal settings.

All Tetrad graduate students go through the same admission process, take the same classes, and have the same requirements. Depending on the specific aspects of their thesis work, their PhD degree will be in one of the indicated areas below.

**degree areas**
- biochemistry and molecular biology
- cell biology
- genetics

See further information about the Tetrad program, including admissions, career outcomes, demographics, and time to degree, at [graduate.ucsf.edu/tetrad](http://graduate.ucsf.edu/tetrad).
There are a multitude of possible career paths for graduate students. As a founding member of the Coalition for Next Generation Life Sciences, UCSF is committed to providing would-be scientists and researchers with clear, standardized data on program admissions, education and training opportunities, and realistic career prospects.

Take a look at the career outcomes data for UCSF alumni of the basic and social sciences PhD programs in an interactive presentation on our website at graduate.ucsf.edu/stats.

**take advantage of UCSF’s cutting-edge career services**

The UCSF Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD) helps prepare students and postdoctoral scholars for careers rich in scholarship, leadership, and discovery. OCPD runs more than 200 career-related workshops and events every year, as well as providing individual career guidance and many other resources. Start planning for your career right now, with the award-winning, free online career mapping tool, “MyIDP,” created at UCSF.

**Networking and Career Exploration through Campus Organizations**

There are more than 150 registered clubs and organizations at UCSF, including many focused on exploring career interests and options. They also provide valuable opportunities to network with your peers, faculty, UCSF alumni, and leaders in academia, industry, and other areas of science and research.

**Alumni step up.** The Basic Science Alumni Seminar Series facilitates informal conversations between current graduate students and Graduate Division alumni, allowing students to learn more about their post-graduation career options from insiders. Students from all programs may attend.

**MIND your future**

In response to the Biomedical Workforce Report released in 2012, the NIH created the Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST) award. UCSF was one of only 17 award recipients across the country, and with this funding the MIND – Motivating INformed Decisions – program was created.

MIND is a career exploration program, based on best practices emerging from five years of experimentation, that challenges the current perceptions of PhD training. It brings interactive programming to students and postdocs, links them with professionals in a wide variety of careers, and provides the tools and resources to support them through their career exploration journey.

**hit a grad slam**

Interested in polishing your presentation skills? Every spring, the UCSF Graduate Division hosts Grad Slam, a contest that challenges graduate students to give a compelling research talk in just three minutes. The winner gets $3,000 and goes on to compete in the UC-wide Grad Slam.

Watch videos of previous winners and finalists at graduate.ucsf.edu/grad-slam.
The National Institute for General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) IMSD fellowship at UCSF aims to improve the academic and research competitiveness of underrepresented minority students and facilitate their progress toward careers in biomedical research.

IMSD Fellows receive financial support through the program for a two-year period – including a stipend, tuition and fees, and funds for travel – and they come to the UCSF campus before the start of the academic year for a summer research rotation. Six first-year students in the basic/biomedical sciences are selected for the Fellowship each year.

The program provides a variety of academic enrichment opportunities both on and off-campus. Fellows receive advice and mentorship through many channels – not only from faculty, but also through IMSD peers, program alumni, postdocs, Graduate Division leadership, and others.

The IMSD co-curriculum focuses on developing research, communication, and other skills, while also emphasizing the importance of work-life balance.

Find out more at [graduate.ucsf.edu/imsd](http://graduate.ucsf.edu/imsd).

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Find out more at [graduate.ucsf.edu/imsd](http://graduate.ucsf.edu/imsd).
UC San Francisco Graduate Division

find out more or apply to our programs at

graduate.ucsf.edu

Word cloud generated from a survey of UCSF graduate students. Some quotes from the same survey appear in this booklet.

The Graduate Division warmly thanks all of the students who agreed to have their photos taken and provided quotes for this brochure.