PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE & RESEARCH IN THE SCIENCES

From the Director

Dear First Year Students,

Welcome to UCLA and welcome to PEERS! By joining PEERS you have taken a critical step towards a successful career as a UCLA Science major. Your undergraduate years are exciting and dynamic, and the entire PEERS staff is here to assist and guide you so that you fulfill your potential and achieve your personal goals. At PEERS, we focus on maximizing your success in the sciences by:

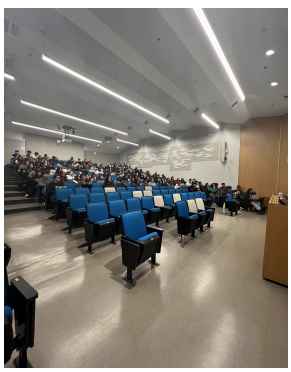
- Maximizing academic performance;
- Promoting deep understanding and learning;
- Encouraging active participation in the UCLA scientific community;
- Providing exposure to a broad range of exciting, cutting edge research;
- Facilitating engagement in undergraduate research.

By participating in PEERS and taking advantage of the opportunity it represents, PEERS students are exceptionally successful as science majors. Specifically, PEERS students:

- Earn higher grades in their core Math, Physics and Chemistry courses;
- Maintain higher overall grade point averages;
- Engage more in undergraduate research;
- Graduate faster.

We look forward to meeting you in the fall and working with you over the next two years. Welcome aboard and best wishes for an exciting and productive freshman year.

Dr. Paul Barber, PEERS Faculty Director



PEERS

2025-2026

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Year One

Summer 2025	Fall 2025	Winter 2026	Spring 2026

• Complete Chemistry & Math Diagnostic Test if required for major
• Attend summer orientation and meet with the PEERS Program Representative and PEERS Counselor
• Enroll in courses, including
  ○ Math and Chemistry or Life Science
  ○ PEERS collaborative learning workshops
  ○ PEERS Freshman Seminar
	• Attend PEERS Welcome Reception (Wednesday of Zero Week)
	• Take your courses including:
	  ○ Math and Chemistry or Life Science
	  ○ PEERS collaborative learning workshops
	  ○ PEERS Freshman Seminar
	• Attend PEERS research talk and community building activities.
		• Take your courses including:
		  ○ Math and Chemistry or Life Science
		  ○ PEERS collaborative learning workshops
		• Attend PEERS research talks, info sessions, and community building events.
			• Take your courses including:
			  ○ Math and Chemistry or Life Science
			  ○ PEERS collaborative learning workshops
			• Attend URW Showcase, PEERS research talks, and community building events.
			• Attend PEERS End of Year Reception

In addition, each quarter you will meet with your PEERS counselor for personalized academic guidance and complete course/program evaluations so we can make PEERS serve you better.

Year Two

Summer 2026	Fall 2026	Winter 2027	Spring 2027

• Consider participating in a summer research program	• Attend PEERS Welcome Reception
	• Take your courses including:
	  ○ Math/Science courses
	  ○ PEERS collaborative learning workshops
	  ○ PEERS Sophomore Seminar
	• Meet with your departmental counselor
	• Attend PEERS research talk and poster session.
		• Take your courses including:
		  ○ Math/Science courses
		• Attend PEERS research talks and info sessions
		• Apply for a research program through the Undergraduate Research Center.
			• Take your courses including:
			  ○ Math/Science courses
			• Attend URW Showcase and PEERS research talks
			• Attend End of Year Reception and graduate from PEERS!
			• Apply for a research program through the Undergraduate Research Center.

In addition, you will meet at least once per quarter with your PEERS counselor for personalized academic guidance and complete course/program evaluations.			

PEERS

2025-2026

COURSE SEQUENCE

Scheduling for science majors can be confusing, so we've simplified the course sequence for your first two years at UCLA to make it easier for you. Each quarter you typically take core courses in math, life science (only life science majors), chemistry, and/or physics. With your chemistry courses we offer exclusive collaborative learning workshops to help you excel and earn higher grades (for more information see page 8).

Typically, you enroll in one workshop per quarter. Yellow indicates PEERS workshops students are required to enroll in up to their Fall quarter of Sophomore year.

First Year Students

	Life Science			Physical Science	
	Math	LS	Chem	Math	Chem
Fall	LS 30A	7A	-	31AL	-
				31AL	20A
Winter	LS 30B	-	14A	31B	20A
			14AE		20B
Spring	-	7B	14B	32A	20B
			14BE		30A

Second Year Students

	Life Science			Physical Science		
	LS/Stats	Chem	Physics	Math	Chem	Physics
Fall	LS 7C	14C	5A	32B	30A	1A
Winter	-	14D	5B	33A	30B	1B
Spring	Stats 13	-	5C	33B	30C	1C

*Students in Life Sciences majors who are not on the pre-med track are encouraged to start the Physics series in Winter of their second year.

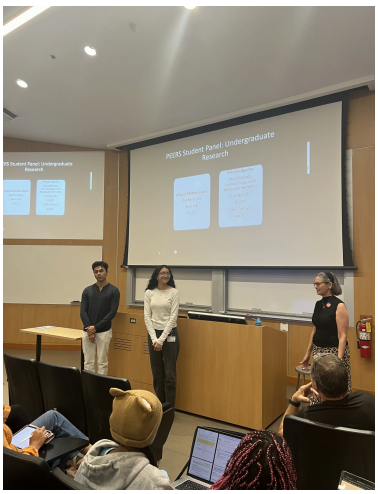
PEERS 2025-2026

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IN PEERS?

PEERS is a program for outstanding students who are committed to academic excellence and want to pursue careers in the life or physical sciences. PEERS works with you to develop a strong foundation in the sciences so you are ideally positioned to achieve your educational and career goals. PEERS will expand your horizons considerably during your first two years at UCLA, helping you explore and navigate the diversity of science career options.

For students committed to success, PEERS is very rewarding: improved grades; faster time to graduation; a supportive learning community; an understanding of the scope of science and scientific research; access to opportunities to participate in research yourself; and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Research Opportunities:



PEERS students are encouraged to engage in undergraduate research. The PEERS staff assists students in identifying appropriate faculty mentors and obtaining financial support for research during the academic year and summer. Following PEERS, many alumni participate in prestigious undergraduate research programs. PEERS alumni are now in top graduate and professional schools across the country!

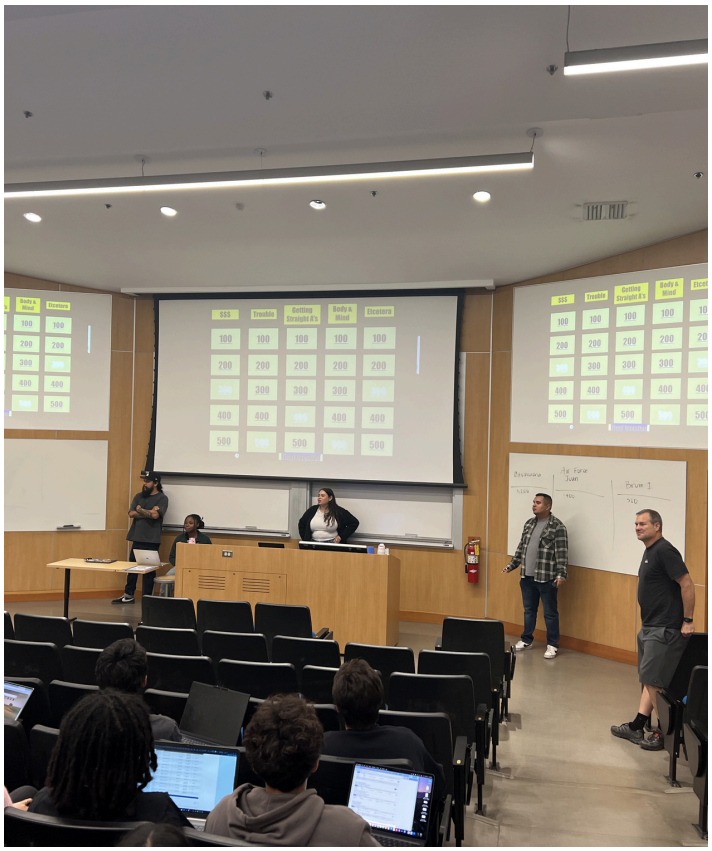
Higher Grades in Your Science Classes

Collaborative learnings workshops are an integral part of PEERS success. In each workshop, advanced students serve as facilitators to guide you through the learning process in your core chemistry courses. Facilitators design worksheets to deepen your understanding of course materials and develop your problem solving skills. These PEERS workshops are low stress, supportive learning environments. Workshops meet twice per week, building in effective, structured study time for your science classes. As a result, PEERS students routinely get one grade higher than other students in the class, resulting in higher GPAs.

Faster Time to Graduation

Because the collaborative learning workshops result in higher grades, PEERS students rarely retake courses. This academic success combined with personalized academic counseling ensures you graduate on time, saving you time and money. PEERS students have the fastest time to graduation at UCLA!

Better Study and Time Management Skills



The PEERS Freshman seminar (Research Practice 97XA) is designed to help you transition to the UCLA academic environment. This one-unit pass/no pass course meets weekly to develop your time management, study skills, and test taking strategies, and it helps you navigate your first quarter at UCLA. Students in this seminar report that skills learned in this seminar helped them succeed in their first quarter science classes as well as other science and non-science courses.

Enrollment in the Academic Advancement Program (AAP)

Through AAP, PEERS students have access to specialized academic advising, peer learning (tutoring) and other resources to promote academic excellence. To activate AAP membership, you must attend an AAP Orientation Workshop during your first quarter. Please visit aap.ucla.edu for details.

Counseling

PEERS provides unique access to academic advising that is personalized and tailored to your goals. PEERS Counselors makes sure that you take the right courses, and give you tips on how to excel in your science major. Our specialized academic advising helps PEERS students graduate faster and with a higher GPA than other UCLA science majors.

Networking Events

Networking events are held twice a year to help connect you with UCLA faculty looking for undergraduate students to join their research lab. You will learn about different types of research happening on campus, and may successfully

match with a participating research lab whose research interests align with yours. More than half of PEERS students who participate in the event are offered a position to join a research lab with a UCLA faculty.

Research Events

PEERS gives incoming science majors unparalleled access and insight into the UCLA research community. Each quarter PEERS students attend research talks by leading UCLA scientists; these events are only for PEERS students.

Career and Research Exploration

The PEERS sophomore seminar (Research Practice 97XB) exposes students to careers in science and prepares you to join a research lab. This seminar hosts various career panels, focusing on fields and industries that you find interesting. We help you identify and successfully apply for research opportunities with UCLA programs that will fund you to do research.

Taking Classes with PEERS students

The PEERS staff will guide you as you enroll in your math and science classes during your first year at UCLA. We promote enrollment in the same lectures and collaborative learning workshops as other PEERS students, ensuring that you have a supportive group of students to study with and that you have a strong feeling of community while at UCLA.

PEERS 2025-2026

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS DURING YOUR FIRST QUARTER IN PEERS

Q: How do I go about choosing a major?

A: Talk to your PEERS counselor and visit the department counselor in the major you are considering.

Q: I know my major, but what classes do I need to take?

A: Your PEERS Counselor or the counselor in your respective department.

Q: Who can I talk to if I'm having trouble managing classes, PEERS responsibilities, etc.?

A: Your PEERS Counselor is here for you! They will direct you to resources.

Q: Who can tell me more about research opportunities?

A: Visit the URC-Sciences website, office (2121 Life Sciences Building) or email Dr. Hasson. We will make sure to help you find the right program or faculty mentor!

PEERS 2025-2026

PEERS LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATORS

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