



UC LEADS
Leadership Excellence through Advanced DegreeS
General Overview Handout
University of California, Davis

The goal of the University of California's Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees (UCLEADS) program is to educate California's future leaders by preparing promising students for advanced education in science, mathematics and engineering. The program is designed to identify upper-division undergraduate students with the potential to succeed in these disciplines, but who have experienced situations or conditions that have adversely impacted their advancement in their field of study. Once chosen as a UCLEADS Scholar, the students embark upon a two-year program of scientific research and graduate school preparation guided by individual Faculty Mentors. Scholars are provided with an excellent opportunity to explore their discipline, experience a research environment, and improve their opportunities for future study in their chosen field.

UC LEADS is administered through each UC campus, and includes the following program components.

Academic Year Research Under the guidance of their faculty mentors, UC LEADS Scholars conduct research during both of the academic years they are enrolled in the program.

Summer Research UC LEADS Scholars participate in two summer research programs. The first summer's research takes place at the Scholar's home campus. The second summer experience is located at another UC campus. Scholars are provided with housing (or, under some conditions, compensation for housing) and a stipend.

Symposium Each year, UC LEADS holds a Symposium for its Scholars. This event gives Scholars and Mentors from across the state the opportunity to meet as an academic community. Scholars view presentations by leaders in government, industry and the academy, present their research, and participate in workshops and panel discussions relevant to pursuing graduate education in science, engineering and mathematics.

Professional and Scientific Meetings Scholars attend, and are given the opportunity to participate in, national or regional professional and scientific society meetings each year. The Scholar and Mentor should identify which meetings are most appropriate for each Scholar's participation in his/her individual Action Plan. Scholars are then given financial support to attend these meetings.

Enrichment Opportunities Each UC campus also provides UC LEADS Scholars with scientific training in areas critical to academic success. This includes Graduate Record Examination (GRE) preparation, and may include workshops on topics such as scientific writing, academic career planning, and funding one's graduate education.

Travel to other UC campuses One of the goals of UC LEADS is to assist Scholars in becoming competitive applicants for UC graduate programs. Toward that end, the program supports Scholars' travel to at least one UC campus per year to learn about the opportunities for graduate study, and speak with students and faculty in their fields of interest.