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**School of Social Ecology**

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**Assistant Director of Graduate Affairs**

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<https://calendly.com/irice-castro/appointment>



# Agenda

- Preparing for graduate school
- Tips & FAQs
- Applying to Social Ecology Grad Programs
- Resources
- Q&A



# Freshman Year

- Develop a plan & a parallel plan
  - Classes you'll take, experiences you'll need
  - **Get good grades and explore your options!**
- Utilize your resources
  - **Faculty**, TA's, Academic Counselors, Peer Mentors, Campus Resources
  - **OFFICE HOURS**
- Take advantage of opportunities early and often



# Sophomore Year

- Explore research and internship opportunities
  - Be persistent!
  - Use your summers (summer research programs)
- Continue to develop relationships with faculty, TA's, and older undergrads
- Utilize the Career Center
  - Do you even NEED graduate school? Will it be worth it?
  - Go backwards – explore the professions that interest you most and see what kind of education you need
  - Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook
    - <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>
  - LinkedIn example



## LinkedIn Example

- Don't have LinkedIn?
  - Make one!
  - Feel free to connect with me 😊
    - Irice Castro

# LinkedIn Example

in Search



Home



My Network



Jobs



Messaging



Notifications



Me



Work



Learning

Pepperdine's Online MBA - Prepare to drive meaningful change in business. No GMAT required. Ad ...



UC Irvine

Irvine, CA · 168,207+ alumni · 230,848 followers

✓ Following ...



Chat with Neda & 8 other connections who work here

[See all 10,605 employees on LinkedIn](#) →

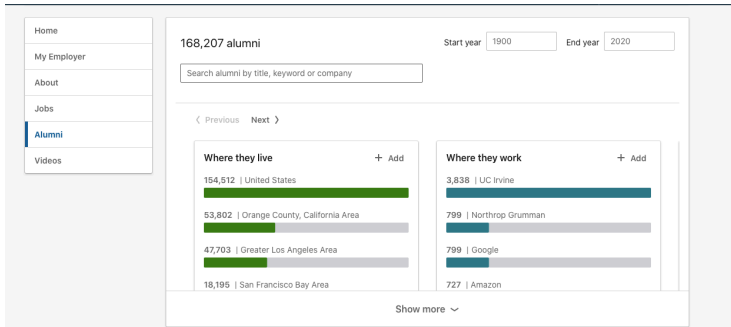
[Visit website](#) ↗

Home

My Employer

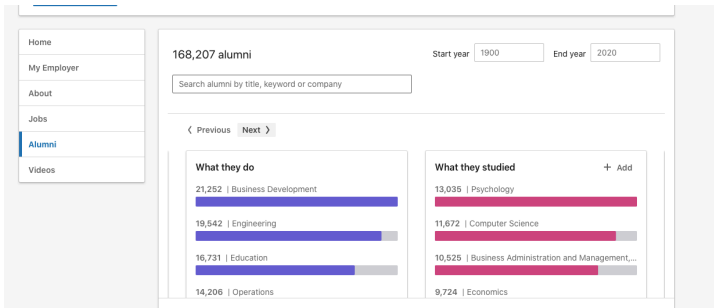


# LinkedIn Example













# LinkedIn Example



# LinkedIn Example

 <p><b>Nancy Guirguis...</b> · 2nd Director, Student Affairs at UC Irvine School of... '06 Psychology and Social ... 11 shared connections</p> <p><a href="#">Connect</a></p>	 <p><b>Amy Bue</b> · 2nd Higher Education   Courageous Authenticity  ... '13 Psychology and Social ... 6 shared connections</p> <p><a href="#">Connect</a></p>	 <p><b>Daniel K. Park (...)</b> · 2nd Diversity and Inclusion Specialist I Mid-Level... Psychology and Social Beh... 9 shared connections</p> <p><a href="#">Connect</a></p>	 <p><b>Eliza Magaña</b> · 2nd Undergraduate Advisor at California State University,... '13 Psychology and Social ... 4 shared connections</p> <p><a href="#">Connect</a></p>
 <p><b>Sheetal Chib, L...</b> · 2nd</p>	 <p><b>Danny Mann, P...</b> · 2nd</p>	 <p><b>Erika Jordan</b> · 2nd</p>	 <p><b>Mark Banderas...</b> · 2nd</p>



# Junior Year

- Start your search
  - Clarify your goals
    - What degree are you looking for?
    - Master's vs PhD – what's the difference?
  - Visit schools/attend virtual fairs/reach out to admissions office
- Use your summers to build your CV/resume
- Prepare for graduate school exams (GRE)
- Explore extramural fellowships (mostly for PhD, like NSF GRFP, Ford)
  - [https://roybal-allard.house.gov/uploadedfiles/student\\_resource\\_guide\\_2020-2021\\_final.pdf](https://roybal-allard.house.gov/uploadedfiles/student_resource_guide_2020-2021_final.pdf)
- Are you a transfer student?
  - JUMP RIGHT IN!



# Senior Year

Application season typically December-March

- Get organized (create chart with schools, deadlines, requirements, etc.)
  - What do schools require?
  - Who will you be asking for letters of recommendation?
  - Take required exams (GRE? GRE Subject Test? GMAT?)
  - Obtain fee waivers if needed
- Narrow down programs & be realistic
  - Look at stats, some schools may have an Office of Institutional Research that regularly posts data
  - Google “UCI OIR”



# Tips

- Letters of Recommendation
  - Get them now (aim for 5), especially if you **may** apply in the future
    - Remember making those connections???
    - Can request to update in the future
  - Give them 4-6 weeks
  - **Provide information to your recommenders!**
    - CV/Resume, Statement of Purpose
  - Follow up with them
    - A thank you note is always appreciated
    - Let them know of the outcome
- Taking a break?
  - Make it meaningful
  - [http://career.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/QT\\_GapYear.pdf](http://career.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/QT_GapYear.pdf)



# FAQs

- What if my grades aren't great?
  - Focus on what you **can** change
  - Can explain poor grades and highlight improvement in statements
  - Take classes as a non-degree seeking student if you've already graduated
- How do I prepare for the GRE?
  - Free test prep materials on GRE site
  - Take a practice test to figure out your weaknesses
  - <https://camp.uci.edu/gre-prep/>
- What if I take a LOT of time off?
  - Connect what you did professionally to pursuit of the graduate degree
  - Volunteer with faculty on research projects
- How do I pay for my degree?
  - Grants, loans, fellowships
  - PhD programs typically fully funded



## Graduate Programs

*On-Campus, Full Time*

- Ph.D. in Criminology, Law & Society (info session October 28)
- Ph.D. in Psychological Science
- Ph.D. in Psychological Science with a concentration in Clinical Psychology (recorded info session here:  
<https://grads.soceco.uci.edu/pages/archived-information-sessions#PS>)
- Ph.D. in Social Ecology – Core
- Ph.D. in Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy
- MA in Public Policy
- MA in Urban and Regional Planning (info session November 9)



## Graduate Programs

*Online, Full Time*

- Master of Advanced Study in Criminology, Law & Society
  - Register here: <https://clsmas.soceco.uci.edu/events>
- Master of Legal & Forensic Psychology
  - Register here:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeN4T2JaaZmY0Wvpl1LN0pop9wmkuXldajLzKhKpyMRCPE02g/viewform>

## Deadlines & Application Instructions

<https://grads.soceco.uci.edu/pages/application-deadlines-instructions>





# Application Requirements

- Graduate Application - online
  - <https://apply.grad.uci.edu/apply/>
- Application Fee
  - \$120 for US citizens/US Permanent Residents
  - \$140 for international applicants
  - Waivers for domestic applicants available
- Unofficial transcripts from each college or university attended after high school
  - Can now be uploaded online
  - 3.0 minimum undergraduate GPA to be eligible for admission



# Application Requirements

- GRE is NOT required for the 2021 cycle
  - EXCEPT international students applying to the MPP
    - Can be waived if completed ALL undergraduate or graduate coursework in US or country where dominant language is English (manually verified via transcripts)
- TOEFL or IELTS
  - Can be waived if completed ALL undergraduate or graduate coursework in US or country where dominant language is English (manually verified via transcripts)
  - International PhD applicants HIGHLY encouraged to submit a TOEFL or IELTS
  - TOEFL 80 minimum, Speak 26+
  - IELTS 7 overall (no less than 6 on any section), Speak 8+
- 3 letters of recommendation
  - Link to upload sent directly to recommenders (check junk filter!)
- Statement of Purpose **and** Personal History
  - Recorded info session here: <https://grads.sococo.uci.edu/pages/archived-information-sessions#Info>
- Resume/CV required of some programs (MPP, MAS & MLFP)



# Social Ecology Resources

- Schedule a phone appointment with me
  - <https://calendly.com/irice-castro/appointment>
- Attend a grad school application workshop or info session
  - Opportunity to have your statement of purpose/personal history statement reviewed!
  - <https://grads.soceco.uci.edu/events>
- Attend/watch workshops offered by Undergrad Advising (especially “Getting Involved with Research”)
  - <https://students.soceco.uci.edu/pages/quarter-workshops>



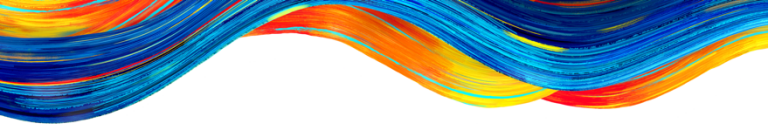
# Division of Career Pathways

- Graduate and Professional School Week (November 2-5)
  - <https://career.uci.edu/graduate-pro-school-week/>
- Grad School Checklists
  - <https://career.uci.edu/undergraduate/apply-for-grad-school/>
  - [http://career.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/QT\\_ConsideringGradSchool.pdf](http://career.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/QT_ConsideringGradSchool.pdf)
  - [http://career.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/QT\\_ApplicationChecklist.pdf](http://career.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/QT_ApplicationChecklist.pdf)



# Graduate & Postdoctoral Scholar Resource Center

- Graduate Preparation Advising & Fellowship Advising
  - Email [gpsrc@uci.edu](mailto:gpsrc@uci.edu)



# Q&A