Irice Castro, Ed.D.
Assistant Director of Graduate Affairs

irice.castro@uci.edu

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
  - [https://www.bls.gov/ooh/](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

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

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

Chat with Neda & 8 other connections who work here

See all 10,605 employees on LinkedIn →
LinkedIn Example

168,207 alumni

Search alumni by title, keyword or company

Where they live

154,512 | United States
53,802 | Orange County, California Area
47,703 | Greater Los Angeles Area
18,195 | San Francisco Bay Area

Where they work

3,838 | UC Irvine
799 | Northrop Grumman
799 | Google
727 | Amazon

Start year 1900   End year 2020
LinkedIn Example

168,207 alumni

Search alumni by title, keyword or company

What they do

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<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Field</th>
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<tr>
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<td>16,731</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>14,206</td>
<td>Operations</td>
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What they studied

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<th>Count</th>
<th>Field</th>
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<td>9,724</td>
<td>Economics</td>
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LinkedIn Example
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)
• 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
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/](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/1FAIpQLSeN4T2JaaZmY0Wvpl1LN0pop9wmkuXIdajLzKhKpyMRCPE02g/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.soceco.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](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](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](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/
Graduate & Postdoctoral Scholar Resource Center

- Graduate Preparation Advising & Fellowship Advising
  - Email gpsrc@uci.edu
Q&A