Other PEERS Benefits

Block Scheduling
Program staff assists students in enrolling in their math and chemistry classes during their freshman year. As a result, all freshmen are enrolled in the same lectures and workshops as other PEERS students.

Undergraduate Research
PEERS students are encouraged to engage in undergraduate research. We provide assistance in identifying appropriate faculty mentors and obtaining financial support for research during the academic year and summer.

Career Exploration
PEERS students participate in career awareness activities. Speakers from varying science fields and industries introduce career opportunities for graduates with a science or mathematics degree.

Academic Advancement Program
All PEERS students are eligible for AAP. Students who attend the required orientation will be enrolled in AAP and have access to academic advising, peer learning (tutoring), and a host of other opportunities to promote academic excellence.

While PEERS will require you to work hard, the benefits you gain will make the program a worthwhile and rewarding experience. Let us help make your years at UCLA challenging, satisfying, and fun.

Applying to PEERS

Eligibility
You are eligible to apply to PEERS if you have a strong interest in a career in science or mathematics. Special consideration is given to applicants whose personal backgrounds may impact their retention and graduation from UCLA.

If you have experienced any social or environmental barriers that might affect your academic experience or performance, including a low family income or being a college student, please include this information in your application.

Apply online at:
www.eeb.ucla.edu/PEERS

Deadline: April 23rd, 2017

Questions:
PEERS@lifesci.ucla.edu
(310) 794-4227
**What Is PEERS?**

PEERS is a collaborative effort of the Departments of Mathematics, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Physics & Astronomy, the Division of Life Sciences, the Academic Advancement Program (AAP), the College of Letters & Science and the Undergraduate Research Center-Sciences.

PEERS is an intensive program promoting academic excellence and professional development for students interested in careers in the sciences, engineering or mathematics. The primary objective of the program is to increase the number of students who develop a strong foundation in the sciences and make research and/or teaching a part of their life's work.

PEERS' goal is to provide a complete program for Life and Physical Science students. The aim is to bond students into a community and prepare them to graduate from UCLA with an excellent understanding of their chosen field. PEERS provides students with informal contact with graduate students and faculty, meaningful research experiences, and the confidence to enter competitive graduate or professional programs.

**We encourage you to apply!**

PEERS students are assigned to a particular counselor and work with him or her through both years in the program. In quarterly counseling meetings, students plan their courses, learn better study and time management habits, give feedback about the program, and answer any questions students may have. Students also meet with departmental counselors once per year to discuss major requirements.

**EXCEL Workshops**

EXCEL (Excellence through Collaboration for Efficient Learners) workshops are an integral part of the success of the PEERS program. EXCEL workshops meet twice per week for 1.5 hours (total of 3 hours/week). Advanced graduate students serve as facilitators to lead EXCEL workshops in various Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics. Facilitators design worksheets to deepen your understanding of the course material and to develop your problem solving skills. Through the collaborative learning techniques used in these workshops, you will acquire strong study skills and develop support groups that will facilitate your success as an undergraduate and in your future studies.

**Freshman & Sophomore Seminars**

Each fall quarter, PEERS students take a 1 hour/week seminar. The freshman seminar facilitates a smooth transition to the university. Students will learn key strategies for success such as time management, effective study skills and test preparation. We also introduce you to undergraduate research opportunities through scientific poster sessions, lab tours and panels with student researchers.

The sophomore seminar focuses on exploring majors and career paths in science. You will talk to professors as well as professionals in other science careers. In addition, you will learn how to get into research with workshops on writing a resume and cover letter and informational sessions on research scholarships.

**Counseling**

Each quarter there were will be a number of PEERS events intended to develop friendships outside of the classroom and to create a sense of community among PEERS Scholars. Events include research talks by distinguished UCLA professors, poster sessions and social events.