Academic Advising:
Supporting Your Educational Journey

New Student Orientation – Summer 2018
Academic Planning:
SSHA Academic Advising Staff

Brenda Maldonado-Rosas
Advises last names: S-Z

Armando Contreras
Advises last names: G-L

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Advises last names: M-R

Kitsya Macias
Advises last names: A-F

Jesus Galvan

Sam Lopez-Martinez
SSHA Programs

Majors/Minors
## SSHA Majors and Minors

### Majors
- Anthropology, B.A.
- Cognitive Science, B.A. & B.S.
- Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, B.A.
- Global Arts Studies Program, B.A.
- Economics, B.A.
- English, B.A.
- History, B.A.
- Management and Business Economics, B.S.
- Philosophy – *(not available for Transfer students)*
- Political Science, B.A.
- Psychology, B.A.
- Public Health, B.A.
- Sociology, B.A.
- Spanish, B.A.

### Minors
- American Studies
- Anthropology
- Chicano/a Studies
- Cognitive Science
- Community Research and Service Economics
- English
- Global Arts Studies Program
- History
- Management and Business Economics
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Interdisciplinary Public Health
- Sociology
- Spanish
- World Heritage
- Writing
New Major – Philosophy

Philosophy provides students with an understanding of the principles, methods, and areas of application of contemporary philosophy. Philosophers study conceptual questions within and between the humanities, arts and sciences: What is freedom? What is justice? What is the relation between mind and brain? Philosophy at UC Merced combines a traditional curriculum with an emphasis on these interdisciplinary linkages. Because of this, students should be able to use their training in philosophy to complement their other coursework and to identify connections between their various areas of study.

Interested in learning more about PHIL? Enroll in PHIL 001, PHIL 002, PHIL 003 in the Fall. The PHIL major is not available to incoming transfer students.
New Minor – World Heritage

The World Heritage minor focuses on the natural heritage and cultural legacy of the human past, and how it is reflected today in places, landscapes, and intangible aspects of our cultures, including traditions, oral histories, song, music, dance, drama, skills, cuisine, crafts, and festivals. This program offers coursework and applied labs in:

- Studying and mapping monuments
- Buildings
- Managing cultural and natural heritage sites and landscapes using Remote Sensing, 3D visualization technologies, Geographic Information Systems, and digital data curation.

Students may minor in World Heritage to strengthen their skills in the documentation, analysis, interpretation, visualization, and management of heritage places and resources with an emphasis in either cultural and/or natural attributes. The program prepares students for heritage careers in historic preservation, heritage tourism, cultural and natural resource management, and global policies on heritage or a combination of such disciplinary approaches.

Interested in learning more about World Heritage? Enroll in WH 002: Intro to Digital Heritage in the Fall.
Change of Major/Minor Policy

- Students are not permitted to change majors or add a minor(s) until their second semester.
- Students must have a cumulative GPA of a 2.0 or higher.
- Students must have completed less than 90 units.
- Transfer students who wish to change their major within SSHA must meet the major admission criteria and major/minor policy at the time they wish to change their major.
  - If you are thinking of changing your major, please speak to an advisor today.
- Must fill out a Change of Major or Change of Minor form to be approved by the Dean of the School to which the major or minor is housed in.
Degree Requirements
Running a Degree Audit using MyDegreePath
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*MyDegreePath does not provide graduation plans for Transfer students. Transfer students will meet with their major advisor during Fall semester to discuss two-year graduation plans.*
An audit is your official student record
Includes all of your completed, in-progress and outstanding degree requirements
After making changes to your courses (adding/dropping) it is recommended you run an audit to see how your changes reflect on your degree audit
Reviewing audit for course equivalents

If a student has not completed the required prerequisite they can either take the prerequisite or email the instructor for permission to enroll.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Details</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 181</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>PSY 015: C-</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>COGS 105: C-</td>
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Transfer Student Degree Requirements

UC Merced Requirements
- WRI 1 (ELWR)
- WRI 10
- American History & Institutions (This is usually satisfied for Transfer who graduate from a CA high school or completed an approved History course at the last institution attended)

SSHA Requirements
- IGETC or SSHA Foundations
- Four non-major upper division General Education Courses (Outside Major)

Major Requirements
- Varies by major

You will be receiving an email in September informing you what lower division courses, if any, you have yet to complete, as well as any courses you must submit to the faculty for UC Merced equivalency review.
Minimum Grade Policy

- Prerequisites: C- or better
- Major/Minor course requirements: C- or better
- Courses must be repeated if minimum grade is not earned
- 2.0 GPA in all major/minor course work
Progress to Degree

**Enrollment Requirements**

**Full-time status: 12 units**
- We suggest students enroll in 15-16 units each semester (4 courses)

**Minimum progress:**
- Students must complete at least 24 units each academic year

**SSHA Degrees**
- SSHA degree requirements are 120 semester units

**Normal Progress Policy**
- Must complete degree requirements within 4 ½ years / 9 semesters
- Enrollment beyond 4 ½ years / 9 semesters requires a petition
Advising Services
Advising Services at UC Merced

advising.ucmerced.edu

- Looking for advising services? Begin here!
- Campus-wide events
- Academic Resources
- Student Plans for Success
- Centralized advising services
  - Direct links to other advising units on campus
SSHA Student Staff

Student Assistants support in the following:

- Collect SSHA Advising forms
- Direct students to appropriate resources on campus
- Check-in students to see an academic advisor and peer mentors
- Friendly smile 😊

SSHA Peer Mentor Program:
The Peer Mentors assist sophomores and will provide guidance and insight for a wide variety of subjects including, but not limited to:

- Answering registration questions
- Semester planning
Advisors help with:
- Degree planning
- Course selection
- Policies
- Special circumstances

SSHA student advice #1:
“For your Spring registration, you should seek advising after the schedule comes out in October”
Academic Planning: How to Get Assistance

STEP 1 → Research
- Utilize academic resources
  - SSHA Advising Website
  - MyDegreePath
  - Course Schedule

STEP 2 → Personalize and Plan
- Prepare your course options
- Identify academic concerns
- Explore major/minor options
- Make decisions about the upcoming semester

STEP 3 → Meet With an Advisor
- Items to bring to the meeting: current copy of audit and choice of courses
- Advisors help with course selection, not creating schedules
SSHA Advising Website

SSHA Advising website: [http://ssha-advising.ucmerced.edu](http://ssha-advising.ucmerced.edu)

- Location, Walk-in Hours, Important Dates
- Policies
- Major, Minor and GE requirements

SSHA Advising Office is located in the Classroom and Office Building (COB) – Room 204

- Walk-In Advising hours available 4-5 times a week
- Available through Email
- Appointments available during non-peak times

SSHA student advice #2:

“Use these resources to plan prior to seeking advising”
Communicating and Meeting with your Academic Advisor

Communication
• Email is often the only way many of the important information are distributed
• Due to privacy regulations, your Advisor will communicate solely through the email account assigned to you (@ucmerced.edu)
• Students emailing their advisor should expect a response within 1-2 business days

Appointments vs. Walk-Ins
• Appointments are available throughout the semester; requests for appointments are scheduled on-line by clicking on the advisor's appointment link
  • No-show and late-show will require a reschedule of appointment
• Walk-in hours are held for a specific amount of time every week; days and times will always be posted on the homepage of the SSHA Advising website
hey, LOL, I can’t register and need my holds removed AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! Can you call me @ 3pm tomorrow 😊
Good morning SSHA Advising,

My name is Rufus Bobcat (100200300) and I am a Psychology major. I can’t register for PSY 15 because it conflicts with WRI 101, is there an alternative? I hope to speak to you soon, thank you.

Sincerely,

Rufus Bobcat
rbobcat@ucmerced.edu
Student ID: 100200300
Academic Success
Responsibilities of an Advisee

- Follow through and accept responsibility for all decisions
- Visit your advisor for any life changes that may affect your education
- Visit your advisor to clarify your goals and needs
- Inform your advisor about your academic progress, course selection, and academic/career goals
- Know your major requirements, course prerequisites and class sequencing
- Review course syllabi, complete assignments and attend class
- Know University dates and deadlines, academic policies and procedures

YOU are responsible for your academic success at UC Merced!

Source: School of Natural Sciences
Choices Matter!

Example of a Fall schedule
It is a general rule that successful students should study **2-3 hours** for every unit they are enrolled. For example, if you are enrolled in 15 units, you need to be studying **30–45 hours per week**.
Personal Growth: Academic Support

**Professors / Teaching Assistants**
- Get help with assignments/exams
- Expert advice about careers/research in their field
- Letters of recommendation
- Research opportunities
- Internships and support on job interviews

**Free tutoring in 20+ subjects**

**Library - Research consultations and study areas**

**Study Skills and Academic Success workshops**

**SSHA student advice #3:**
“*If one resource doesn’t work, find an alternative; there is always a solution!*”
Mandatory Advising Meetings

- First semester of your first year
- Connect you with resources
- Create two year graduation plan
- Plan your Spring schedule
- Check your email early September for dates
Stay Connected

- Check your UC Merced email regularly (2 times a day)
  - Add SSHA Advising to your contact list to avoid emails lost in SPAM folder
  - Include your full name and student ID using our professional email template

- SSHA Student Handbook available on our website
  - Includes: University info, SSHA major requirements & other important academic information

- SSHA Update
  - Bi-weekly Advising Newsletter with information on deadlines, changes, scholarships, research opportunities, and more!
  - Emailed to you and can also be found on the SSHA advising website

- Visit and Academic Advisor or Peer Mentor during our walk-in hours
Like and/or add us for updates, deadlines, upcoming events and opportunities!