

What is the Berkeley Changemaker™?

Berkeley Changemaker codifies an essential part of what UC Berkeley stands for and provides a future-oriented narrative that our campus is rallying behind, humanists and scientists alike. Its inclusive curriculum activates student passions and helps them develop a sharper sense of who they want to be and how to make that happen. Values like impact beyond oneself and question the status quo have drawn people to Berkeley for generations—this narrative is powered by those values. Its success will attract even better students and stretch them to shape more intentionally our communities, economies, and people.

Berkeley Changemaker is a **people-vision**. This is its most compelling *why*. What separates a changemaker from UC Berkeley is that they draw from, and build on, elements that make this university itself unique, including a singular history, distinctive values, and an agency for making society better. The graduates we shape are skilled problem solvers whose creativity and compassion advance and transform. Since its founding as a public university, Berkeley distinguishes itself from other top universities by leading inclusively. The world knows these things about Berkeley.

Berkeley Changemaker is **identity-making**. Codifying Berkeley's essence in this way attracts extraordinarily talented people who see their potential through this lens and are drawn to Berkeley's bigger mission of translating intellectual creativity into societal benefit.

Berkeley Changemaker is an inspiring **unifier**. The breadth-plus-depth of Berkeley's intellectual creativity allows us to integrate disciplines as no other university can. The most important opportunities for change don't fit into single-discipline boxes: effective changemaking requires integrating STEM, the Humanities, ethics, and other fields so that we can act with deliberation to address these complex challenges. If ever society could use changemaking that is more human-centered, with less attitude, the time is now.

Already Achieved

Our gateway [Course 12: The Berkeley Changemaker](#) was first offered in summer 2020 to incoming first-years. Team-taught by 24 of Berkeley's most distinguished faculty, representing 19 departments and 8 schools, it features Professors Christ, Yellen, Auffhammer, Burton, Cascardi, García Bedolla, Goldberg, Hassner, Hull, Jacobsen, Johnson, Lu, O'Reilly, Rine, Taylor, Weber, and Wymore. Targeted to reach 250 students, the enrollment cap was raised four times to accommodate a diverse mix of students. To date, Course 12 has enrolled over 1,300 students. *Course 12* is accessible and inclusive: fully-online and asynchronous (with supplemental "live" material) that meets students wherever they are located and whenever their schedule permits. Berkeley Changemaker grants have funded the development of five additional connector courses, many satisfying graduation or degree requirements, bringing our suite of courses to 14. (see below) Within less than 1.5 years, our courses have already enrolled 9.2% of undergraduates. Berkeley Changemaker is now a "course type" in the Academic Guide. This growing set of opportunities is donor-funded and supports the [Connect/Discover/Engage](#) initiative. With so rich a mix of connectors, we anticipate that within 3 years the Berkeley Changemaker curriculum will be *serving 50%+ of all Berkeley undergraduates*. Ongoing partnerships have also been formed with [Big Ideas](#), the [CTO](#), the [CAA](#), and [SCET](#).

"I truly believe this is the greatest preparation I could have received going into my first year at Berkeley. I'm sad this has come to an end, but excited to apply the lessons and principles I learned into my Berkeley journey and my life!"
Grace Kelly '24

"As someone who had relatively little guidance as to how I could be a leader, changemaker, and effective teammate before this course, I am more than excited to instill the lessons I've learned into my everyday life. Since the course, I've started a project with a fellow changemaker, have set aside the time for an organization I'm hoping to develop and have begun planning for future endeavors!"
Cyn Gomez '24

Content

Berkeley Changemaker courses share foundations in three areas of student development, complemented by an emphasis on creativity, community, and belonging:

- I. **Critical Thinking:**
 - 1) How to select and frame a problem that matters
 - 2) How to ask the right questions and listen with empathy
 - 3) How to craft a strong approach/solution
- II. **Communicating:**
 - 1) Public speaking and presentation
 - 2) Analytical writing
 - 3) Building trust and connection
- III. **Collaboration:**
 - 1) Working on a project team
 - 2) Working across boundaries
 - 3) Diversity as an asset

Berkeley Changemaker Courses (As of Spring 2022)

Gateway

1. Course 12: The Berkeley Changemaker (L&S / Bus Ad)

Arts and Humanities

2. Berkeley Changemaker: Writing the Change We Seek (College Writing Programs)[‡]
3. Berkeley Changemaker: Humanists at Work (Humanities)
4. Berkeley Changemaker: Big Ideas Social Leadership OnRamp (Bus Ad)
5. Berkeley Changemaker: Public Speaking: Communicating in a Diverse World (College Writing)

Social Sciences

6. Berkeley Changemaker: Critical Studies in Education (Education)^{*}
7. Berkeley Changemaker: Living with Agency (Bus Ad)
8. Berkeley Changemaker: Edible Education (Bus Ad)
9. Berkeley Changemaker: Labor Research for Action & Policy (Public Policy/Center for Labor Res.)
10. Berkeley Changemaker: Topics in International Ethics (Poly Sci)^{*}

STEM

11. Richard Newton Lecture Series: A Berkeley Changemaker Course (Ind. Eng. /SCET)
12. Berkeley Changemaker: Sense & Sensibility in Science (L&S)[‡]
13. Berkeley Changemaker: Big Ideas “Special Topic” Innovations OnRamp (Bus Ad)
14. Berkeley Changemaker: Thinking Entrepreneurially (Bus Ad, Fall 2022)

[‡] Course satisfies UC Berkeley graduation or breadth requirement.

^{*} 1 unit-practicum accompanies a course satisfying a UC Berkeley graduation or degree requirement.

“Questioning the status quo and serving the community are certainly important themes right now. These values are why I chose Berkeley and I am glad we are taking the time to analyze how we can act on those values in the interest of building a better world.”

-- Isha Soni '24