



Greetings, MESM Class of 2027!

Welcome to the Bren School's Fall 2025 Orientation!

We're excited for you to meet your community! Students are expected to participate in all sessions except those noted as optional. Important things to note:

There are additional Orientation activities for new Graduate Students that occur prior to the start of Fall quarter, please also plan to participate in the following activities:

- Bren School Orientation starting September 22
- [UCSB Graduate Division Orientation](#)
 - [Grad Success Series](#) Sept 15-19, workshop and panel list available via [Shoreline](#) beginning in August. Please note that the Graduate Division will be recording the panel-specific presentations for their virtual events and will share them afterward through their weekly newsletter or another appropriate online platform. For any questions, contact the Graduate Student Resource Center at gsrc@ucsb.edu.
 - Please also peruse the [New Graduate Student Guide](#) and [New Student Website](#) that are helpful resources for incoming students.
 - [Teaching Assistant Orientation](#) (only for those who will work as a TA) [Register here](#).
 - Live TA Orientation events Sept 22-23, asynchronous modules Sept 15-22
- All students are required to complete the Sexual Assault Prevention for Graduate Students course assigned by UCSB's Title IX & Sexual Harassment Policy Compliance Office. Students will receive an email notification upon assignment.
- International students must complete [CALI training](#) this summer. If you are a non-native English speaker, you must also complete the [English Language Placement Exam \(ELPE\)](#).

About the Orientation Schedule

This schedule is a living document! It will be updated if there are any changes, so please check back each day to make sure you have the most up-to-date information (though we will do our best to adhere to the times/dates below).

Please review these other resources at your own pace:

- ✓ [Get to know Grad Div Staff and Services](#): This series of videos will help you get to know important Grad Div staff and the myriad services they offer to students, We recommend viewing all of the videos, but especially the Graduate Resources Center, Academic Services Overview, Academic Counselor, and Graduate Scholars program information.
- ✓ Graduate Division Success Series: The Grad Div has put together several workshops to help you connect to your community and access resources from campus. There are several offerings every week, so be sure to check them out regularly! <https://www.gradpost.ucsb.edu/new-students>
- ✓ Food Assistance Resources: Did you know that if you qualified for Financial Aid, you may be eligible for up to \$194 per month for groceries? Learn about CalFresh resources and [sign up today!](#)
- ✓ Lab Orientation: Sometimes students who TA for lab courses or work in a faculty lab are required to complete a Lab Orientation. This is not required for all Bren students, but if you need it, you can [follow the instructions here](#) to complete the training.

Reminders

Monday, September 15 – First Day of Orientation!

- Please wear sunscreen, comfortable/safe shoes for moving, bring sunglasses and a hat for some outdoor activities.
- Read [the Bren Graduate Student Handbook](#) prior to the Bren 101 session.
- Read the [How to Navigate Grad School guide](#) from the Graduate Division.
- International students, please make sure you have completed the [online portion of CALI training](#). If you are a non-native English speaker, you must also complete the [English Language Placement Exam \(ELPE\)](#).
- Per the Career Team's instructions via email in September, upload your current resume by midnight to your Box folder titled "@LastName_FirstName_BrenCareerFolder(Shared)." You'll be invited to the folder via email (check your UCSB inbox).
- If you have a TA position or are interested in being a TA, register for TA training. The online modules will become available the week of September 15, 2025. Register for TA Orientation here: <https://otl.ucsb.edu/graduate-students/new-tas>
- Create your U-Mail account and [read this IT guide](#) before the Computer Orientation. The guide also includes links for requesting computing resources, if needed.

Tuesday, September 16

- All students are required to complete the Sexual Assault Prevention for Graduate Students course assigned by UCSB's Title IX & Sexual Harassment Policy Compliance Office. Students will receive an email notification upon assignment.
- Your photo will be taken today, which is used on the website and for your bio. Please wear something professional.

Wednesday, September 24

- Bring an electronic or printed copy of your current resume to the Resume Design Workshop, as well as an 8.5 x 11" scratch piece of paper (with one blank side you can write on).
- Upload your MESM student bio to the following link: https://ucsb.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cT4Tpkx6EFiOLyu

MESM Orientation 2025 – At A Glance

Click on a date to view details for that day

About the Orientation Schedule

Reminders

[Monday, September 15 – First Day of Orientation!](#)

[Tuesday, September 16](#)

[Wednesday, September 24](#)

Monday, September 15, 2025

[8:30 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. Breakfast Check-In & Tours | Bren Hall Courtyard \(OPTIONAL\)](#)

[9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Bren Beginnings: Get to Know Your Cohort | Bren Hall Courtyard and Bren Hall 1414](#)

[1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Bren 101 | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Computer Orientation | Bren Hall 1414](#)

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

[9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Intro to Career Development & BrenConnect | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Your Guide to Bren Development | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. New Student Photos | Bren Hall 1510](#)

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

[9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Data Science Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Calculus Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

Thursday, September 18, 2025

[9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Data Science Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Calculus Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Writing Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

Friday, September 19, 2025

[9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Data Science Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Calculus Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

Monday, September 22, 2025

[9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Data Science Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Calculus Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mutual Respect Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

[9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Teaching Assistant Training | Campbell Hall \(OPTIONAL\)](#)

[12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Calculus Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Data Science Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

[9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. All About Bren Hall | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Bren School Governance | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CAPS Resources | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Grad Div Luncheon and Resource Fair | UCSB Chemistry Lawn](#)

[1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Resume Design Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

[3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. 2nd Year Student Panel | Bren Hall 1414](#)

Thursday, September 25, 2025

[8:00 a.m. First Day of Instruction](#)

[4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. All-Community Welcome | Bren Hall Courtyard](#)

Resources

[Bike Share Program](#)

[Storage Lockers](#)

[Surfboard Lockers](#)

[Map of Bren Hall \(1st floor\)](#)

MESM Orientation 2025 – The Details

Monday, September 15, 2025

8:30 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. Breakfast Check-In & Tours | Bren Hall Courtyard (OPTIONAL)

Grab your name tag, meet some of your new classmates and enjoy a continental breakfast before beginning the day's activities. Take a tour of Bren Hall and learn about Bren's facilities and the areas most utilized by students.

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions | Bren Hall 1414

Interim Dean Sarah Anderson welcomes incoming students to the Bren School, followed by staff introductions.

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Bren Beginnings: Get to Know Your Cohort | Bren Hall Courtyard and Bren Hall 1414

Get to know one another while participating in two team-building activities designed to strengthen connections, promote teamwork, and demonstrate the importance of building a strong professional network. One activity will be outdoors and involve active movement on grass, so please wear sun protection and comfortable clothing/shoes for moving. These activities will be led by the Bren Career Development and Alumni Relations Team.

We are committed to creating an inclusive environment where all participants feel valued and respected. We recognize and accommodate diverse needs, including those related to physical disabilities and temporary injuries. If you require any accommodations or have specific accessibility requirements, please inform us in advance so we can ensure your full participation and enjoyment of the activities.

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Bren 101 | Bren Hall 1414

The Bren Student Services Team will provide an overview of the MESM academic program, policies and resources available to students.

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Computer Orientation | Bren Hall 1414

The Compute staff orients students to the Bren School's computer network, provides log-in and password information for personal use of Bren Hall computers, and assigns Bren email addresses. Please [read this IT](#)

[guide](#) before this session.

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Intro to Career Development & BrenConnect | Bren Hall 1414

The Career & Alumni team will share the mission, services, expectations, and logistics of Bren's career development program. The team will also guide you in creating your account for BrenConnect, a tool you will use throughout your time at Bren (and beyond) to access career resources, search for and network with alumni in your field(s) of interest, and find job and internship opportunities.

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Your Guide to Bren Development| Bren Hall 1414

Hear an overview of Bren history, ongoing developments and how you can get involved from the Bren School Development Team.

11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. New Student Photos | Bren Hall 1510

New students will have individual photos taken for their LinkedIn profiles, media needs and faculty reference. Please dress in business professional or business casual attire for your photos. Photos will be taken in two groups:

- Last Name A-M: 11:45 a.m. –12:30 p.m.
- Last Name N-Z: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Data Science Workshop | Bren Hall 1414

The Data Science Workshop will focus on getting R and R Studio installed and set up, provide an overview of the R studio interface, introduce key programming functions for data manipulations, and review data science and statistical principles. Topics will include an introduction to the R tidyverse, R project creation and curation, and a refresher on hypothesis tests and p-values for statistical inference.

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Calculus Workshop | Bren Hall 1414

The Calculus Workshop will cover math essential to Bren Courses and environmental science at large. The workshop is designed to facilitate transition into graduate school and build collaborative environments. Topics will include algebra, limits, derivatives, integration, and differential equations.

Thursday, September 18, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. [Data Science Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

The Data Science Workshop will focus on getting R and R Studio installed and set up, provide an overview of the R studio interface, introduce key programming functions for data manipulations, and review data science and statistical principles. Topics will include an introduction to the R tidyverse, R project creation and curation, and a refresher on hypothesis tests and p-values for statistical inference.

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. [Calculus Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

The Calculus Workshop will cover math essential to Bren Courses and environmental science at large. The workshop is designed to facilitate transition into graduate school and build collaborative environments. Topics will include algebra, limits, derivatives, integration, and differential equations

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. [Writing Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

Environmental Communication expert Alex Phillips introduces principles of excellent writing and how to compose a professional bio.

Friday, September 19, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. [Data Science Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

The Data Science Workshop will focus on getting R and R Studio installed and set up, provide an overview of the R studio interface, introduce key programming functions for data manipulations, and review data science and statistical principles. Topics will include an introduction to the R tidyverse, R project creation and curation, and a refresher on hypothesis tests and p-values for statistical inference.

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. [Calculus Workshop | Bren Hall 1414](#)

The Calculus Workshop will cover math essential to Bren Courses and environmental science at large. The workshop is designed to facilitate transition into graduate school and build collaborative environments. Topics will include algebra, limits, derivatives, integration, and differential equations

Monday, September 22, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Data Science Workshop | Bren Hall 1414

The Data Science Workshop will focus on getting R and R Studio installed and set up, provide an overview of the R studio interface, introduce key programming functions for data manipulations, and review data science and statistical principles. Topics will include an introduction to the R tidyverse, R project creation and curation, and a refresher on hypothesis tests and p-values for statistical inference.

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Calculus Workshop | Bren Hall 1414

The Calculus Workshop will cover math essential to Bren Courses and environmental science at large. The workshop is designed to facilitate transition into graduate school and build collaborative environments. Topics will include algebra, limits, derivatives, integration, and differential equations

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mutual Respect Workshop | Bren Hall 1414

With an introduction by Jay Chakraborty, Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee at the Bren School, you will participate in a mutual respect workshop and discussion with James Joyce III of [Coffee with a Black Guy](#).

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Teaching Assistant Training | Campbell Hall (OPTIONAL)

Incoming students who have secured a Teaching Assistantship (TA) or Course Reader position for any academic quarter are required to attend this UCSB campus-wide orientation. If you have not secured a TA position but plan to apply for one, this training is also for you. Please ensure you have registered for the training prior to the event: <https://id.ucsb.edu/teaching/ta-training/new-tas>

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Calculus Workshop | Bren Hall 1414

The Calculus Workshop will cover math essential to Bren Courses and environmental science at large. The workshop is designed to facilitate transition into graduate school and build collaborative environments. Topics will include algebra, limits, derivatives, integration, and differential equations.

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Data Science Workshop | Bren Hall 1414

The Data Science Workshop will focus on getting R and R Studio installed and set up, provide an overview of the R studio interface, introduce key programming functions for data manipulations, and review data science

and statistical principles. Topics will include an introduction to the R tidyverse, R project creation and curation, and a refresher on hypothesis tests and p-values for statistical inference.

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. All About Bren Hall | Bren Hall 1414

Building Engineer Sage Davis will discuss safety and policies surrounding the use of Bren Hall. Senior Events Manager Aleah Van Woert will give a presentation about waste sorting at Bren and beyond.

10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Bren School Governance | Bren Hall 1414

Hear from Bren school leadership about how to get involved with governance at the Bren School. You can find the full list of committees on the Committees website. We will hold student elections around the midpoint of Fall quarter.

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CAPS Resources | Bren Hall 1414

Representatives from Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) will provide an overview of CAPS services and some common concerns shared by graduate students.

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Grad Div Luncheon and Resource Fair | UCSB Chemistry Lawn

Join the Graduate Division, the governing body for all departments on campus, as they introduce the variety of UCSB campus resources available to graduate students. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about over 30 campus organizations serving graduate students. The Graduate Division has sent out additional information via email.

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Resume Design Workshop | Bren Hall 1414

Kicking off a series of career workshops critical to the MESM program, the Career & Alumni team will provide instruction on the Bren resume approach and guide you in self-resume review. All MESM students are expected to attend. Please have 1) an electronic or hard copy of your current resume available to edit and/or annotate during the session and 2) an 8.5 x 11" scratch piece of paper (with one blank side you can write on) and pen/pencil ready to use for an interactive activity. If you haven't yet, please also submit your current resume to your Bren Career Box folder before this workshop (per the Career Team's instructions emailed to you in September).

3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. 2nd Year Student Panel | Bren Hall 1414

Listen to members of the MESM Class of 2026 share insider information about how to succeed in your first quarter at Bren. Bring your questions!

Thursday, September 25, 2025

8:00 a.m. First Day of Instruction

New and returning students begin Fall quarter classes.

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. All-Community Welcome | Bren Hall Courtyard

The Bren School welcomes new and continuing students, researchers, faculty, and staff as the school year begins. Mingle with community members and kick off the academic year! Don't forget your nametag and Bren cup!

Resources

Bike Share Program

You may already have seen the black and blue bikes around campus- UC Santa Barbara participates in the HOPR bike share program. There are over 600 dockless bikes available to ride in and around campus for a modest fee. If you are interested in enrolling you can find details [here](#).

Storage Lockers

The Bren School owns and maintains 120 lockers on the 3rd floor of Bren Hall (student kitchen, room 3328) that are available for use by MESM Students. Locker applications will be distributed via email during the first week of Fall quarter.

Surfboard Lockers

The Bren School owns and maintains a secured surfboard and wetsuit storage facility. All students will receive an email from Bren School Building Manager Sage Davis outlining the application and lottery process. Keep an eye out for this message during the first week of Fall quarter!

Map of Bren Hall (1st floor)

