

A Student Guide to Field Study



The Field Study Program was developed as a School of Social Ecology undergraduate degree requirement to immerse students in rigorous, innovative, and engaged learning both in the classroom and through active participation in our community.

ABOUT FIELD STUDY

To complete their School of Social Ecology Field Study requirement, students enroll in a field study course while completing 80 hours of fieldwork throughout the quarter at an approved field placement site.

In the classroom, students engage with faculty and one another through lectures, discussions, writing, and presentations, synthesizing their fieldwork with theory, paradigms, and ideas learned in their coursework.

With faculty guidance, students explore and develop professional competencies that complement their fieldwork experiences and prepare students for future graduate school and career goals.

During field placement, supervisors provide guidance and mentorship to foster students' professionalism and community engagement, while students thoughtfully contribute to the organizations' programming and help support the communities the organizations serve.

Students have the opportunity to explore a career field, observe and participate in organizational operations, and develop their interpersonal and technical competencies in a supportive and professional learning environment.



FIELD STUDY STEPS TO SUCCESS

1 PLAN

- Select a quarter, be mindful of deadlines and prerequisites
- Prepare resume & cover letter
- Browse the catalog of placement sites

2 APPLY

- *Ideally*, 3 months before the Course Enrollment Form deadline
- Apply to 3-6 sites
- Be professional & follow up

3 SELECT

- Consider, select and accept placement offers before CEF deadline
- Consider your course options (SOCECOL 195/195W/106W)

4 SUBMIT

- Once a placement is SECURED
- Submit Course Enrollment Form by the appropriate deadline

5 ENROLL

- Enroll through WebReg/Summer Session once authorized and notified by our office

2025 - 2026

Field Study Student Calendar

	Fall 2025	Winter 2026	Spring 2026
Plan & Apply	Jun - Aug	Aug - Nov	Nov - Feb
Course Enrollment Form Opens	Mon, Jun 30	Mon, Aug 25	Mon, Nov 17
Course Enrollment Form Deadline	Fri, Aug 22	Fri, Nov 7	Fri, Feb 13
Enroll (upon authorization)	Week of Sept 1	During enrollment window	During enrollment window
Placement Period	Sept 22 - Dec 5	Jan 2 - Mar 13	Mar 25 - Jun 5
Deadline to Complete Hours	Dec 5	Mar 13	Jun 5
Student Evaluation Due	Wed, Dec 10	Wed, Mar 18	Wed, Jun 10

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Spring field study typically has the highest enrollment and is the most competitive quarter for securing a field placement. Therefore, students who meet all prerequisites should consider completing their Field Study requirement during the fall or winter quarters.
- **For F-I Visa International Students:** Visit the [International Center website](#) (before submitting a Course Enrollment Form) for information on [Curricular Practical Training](#): eligibility, deadlines & submission process

Field Study Courses Overview



Pre-Requisites Applicable to All:

90+ units, completion of **SocEcol 10**, minimum **GPA: 2.0**
Declared Major in School of Social Ecology or ESNP
Course Enrollment Form submitted by deadline

SocEcol 195

- **4 units:** (coursework + 80 hours) fulfills Field Study requirement. Can be taken for 2-8 units (1 unit = 20 hours)
- **Must be taken:** P/NP
- **Class meetings:** 50-80 minutes/ week, up to 10 meetings/ quarter (usually 5-6 meetings)
- **Estimated time commitment:** 1-2 hours/ week outside of class and fieldwork
- **Class paper/s:** 2,500+ words (+625 words for each extra unit beyond 4)
- **Enrollment Policy:** 1 quarter max, no previous SE195W enrollment

Additional Pre-Requisite

- Secure an approved placement
- No previous enrollment in SE195W

SocEcol 195W

- **4 units:** (coursework + 80 hours) fulfills Field Study and Upper Division Writing. Can be taken for 4-8 units (1 unit = 20 hours)
- **Must be taken:** letter grade; 'C-' or better
- **Class meetings:** 50-80 minutes/ week, 10 meetings/ quarter
- **Estimated time commitment:** 2-3 hours/ week outside of class and fieldwork
- **Class paper/s:** 4,000+ words (+625 words for each extra unit beyond 4)
- **Enrollment Policy:** 1 quarter max, no previous SE195 enrollment

Additional Pre-Requisites

- Lower Division Writing
- Secure an approved placement
- No previous enrollment in SE195

SocEcol 106W

- Fieldwork is supervised by a faculty instructor and is integrated into the course
- **4 units:** (coursework + 80 fieldwork hours) fulfill Field Study and Upper Division Writing
- **Must be taken:** letter grade; 'C-' or better
- **Class meetings:** 50 minutes/ week, at least 10 meetings/ quarter
- **Estimated time commitment:** 1-2 hours/week outside of class and fieldwork
- **Class paper/s:** 4,000+ words
- **Must be taken:** 4 units ONLY

Additional Pre-Requisites

- Lower Division Writing
- Obtain instructor pre-approval for fieldwork

Fieldwork Roles and Expectations

Placement Supervisors Will:

- Provide a safe and supportive learning environment
- Assign roles and duties through which students can develop both technical and soft skills
- Clearly communicate expectations and responsibilities to students
- Provide adequate training and instruction for all assigned roles and duties
- Adhere to Field Study program timelines and guidelines
- Provide weekly 1:1 supervision, feedback, and mentoring
- Openly address student concerns and communicate concerns to the field study office as needed
- Confirm student placement hours and submit final evaluations after discussing feedback with student interns
- Nominate outstanding students for recognition

Student Interns Will:

- Be active participant observers
- Be professional, engaged, and inquisitive
- Respect and adhere to agency and UCI policies
- Support agency needs and goals through structured, supervised activities
- Regularly check in and report progress to their assigned supervisors
- Communicate concerns or challenges to their placement supervisors
- Complete hours based on the number of units they have enrolled in
 - 1 unit = 20 hours
 - Ex: 4 units = 80 hours



Earning APPLAUSE in Field Study



A guide to fieldwork learning goals for students



Apply assigned fieldwork activities to the organization's broader goals and outcomes

Why is this task important and how will its completion help the organization meet a short or long-term goal?

Prepare for the culture, norms, and etiquette of the workplace

How do professionals in this field typically interact and communicate amongst themselves and with clients/stakeholders?

Pactice communication, leadership, and collaboration skills

Develop and strengthen verbal and written communication, teamwork, and leadership skills.

Learn technical skills and competencies relevant to this field

Develop a basic knowledge of relevant skills and competencies for professionals in this field.

Acknowledge the challenges and benefits of careers in this field

What are some pros and cons associated with working in this field?

Understand career opportunities within this field

What are the different career options within the field and the paths toward reaching them?

Spend time with key personnel in the organization through meetings and observations

Gain exposure to various professionals, stakeholders, and clients through observations, informational interviews, and participation in meetings and other activities.

Examine how social problems are identified and addressed within this field

How does this organization's work directly and indirectly support the community?

Additional Info & Resources

KEEP IN MIND...

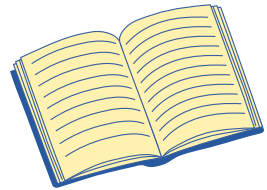
- **NEW REPEAT POLICY:** Starting Fall 2025, Students are limited to one quarter of SOCECOL 195 or 195W (4–8 units total).
 - Students may enroll in an additional 4 units of SOCECOL 106W, if interested.
- Students are responsible for meeting all deadlines, including ensuring that site evaluations are submitted on time.



- **Priority Enrollment:** If the course reaches full capacity, an internal waiting list will be created. Priority on this list will be given exclusively to graduating seniors.
- **Please note:** Students may not change placements after the course enrollment deadline.
- If participating in **UCDC/UCCS** hours, 4 units = 200 hours & 8 units = 320 hours

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- [UCI Division of Career Pathways](#)
 - [Resume help](#)
 - [Writing a cover letter](#)
 - [Interview practice](#)
- [Field Study Website](#)
- [Field Study Catalog](#) and [Field Study Course Enrollment Form](#)
- [School of Social Ecology workshops](#)



CONTACT US

<https://fieldstudy.soceco.uci.edu/pages/advising>

Chat or meet with an advisor

Email us anytime at

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