

# 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

# 2026 - 2027

## Field Study Student Calendar

|                                 | Fall 2026                                       | Winter 2027                         | Spring 2027                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Plan & Apply                    | Jun - Aug                                       | Aug - Nov                           | Nov - Feb                           |
| Course Enrollment Form Opens    | Mon, Jun 29                                     | Mon, Aug 31                         | Mon, Nov 16                         |
| Course Enrollment Form Deadline | Fri, Aug 21                                     | Fri, Nov 6                          | Fri, Feb 12                         |
| Enroll (upon authorization)     | <i>September 1-3<br/>During assigned window</i> | <i>During<br/>enrollment window</i> | <i>During<br/>enrollment window</i> |
| Placement Period                | Sept 21 - Dec 4                                 | Jan 4 - Mar 12                      | Mar 24 - Jun 4                      |
| Deadline to Complete Hours      | Fri, Dec 4                                      | Fri, Mar 12                         | Fri, Jun 4                          |
| Student Evaluation Due          | Wed, Dec 9                                      | Wed, Mar 17                         | Wed, Jun 9                          |

### 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



## **A**pply 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?*

## **P**repare 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?*

## **P**actice communication, leadership, and collaboration skills

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

## **L**earn technical skills and competencies relevant to this field

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

## **A**cknowledge the challenges and benefits of careers in this field

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

## **U**nderstand career opportunities within this field

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

## **S**pend 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.*

## **E**xamine 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...

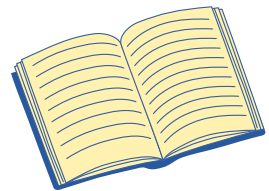
- **NEW REPEAT POLICY:** Starting Fall 2025, Students are limited to one quarter of SOCECOL 195 or 195W (4–8 units total).
  - Students may enroll in an additional 4 units of SOCECOL 106W, if interested.
- Students are responsible for meeting all deadlines, including ensuring that site evaluations are 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.
- **Starting Fall '26,** research assistants will no longer be required to enroll in additional SE198 units

## 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

[sefieldstudy@uci.edu](mailto:sefieldstudy@uci.edu)