

Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, University of California, Santa Barbara

Established in 1991, the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management is an interdisciplinary graduate program at UC Santa Barbara focused on environmental problem solving through the integration of science, management, law, economics, and policy. The mission of the Bren School is to play a leading role in researching environmental issues, training scientists and environmental management professionals, and identifying and solving environmental problems around the world.

This program is unique in the UC system and the only one of its kind in the western United States, and is considered to be in the top three of such programs in the nation.

The Bren School's international student body comprises approximately 150 master's students and 35 doctoral students. The School supports the teaching and research of twenty of the most outstanding cross-disciplinary faculties in the area of the environment and natural resources research.

The Bren School is housed in Bren Hall, a state-of-the-art 85,000-square-foot "living laboratory" that was recognized as the "greenest" laboratory building in the United States when it was completed in 2002 and has since become a benchmark of sustainable design, construction, and operation. As a result, the School is in the unique position of being recognized nationally for demonstrating environmental awareness in Bren Hall itself and for conducting teaching and research at the forefront of environmental science and management. Additionally, Bren Hall has set a standard for greening all new and retrofitted buildings on the UCSB campus and in the ten-campus UC system. To date, more than 6,000 visitors have toured the building.

Current programs and activities

In addition to the master's and Ph.D. programs, the School is home to advanced research programs in water policy, the water/power nexus, governance for sustainable development, as well as partnering with the Department of Economics to host the Economics and Environmental Science program for Ph.D students. The School participates in a multitude of interdisciplinary programs across campus including the Environmental Media Initiative, the Technology Management Program, and the New Visions of Science, Nature & Religion Program.

The School reaches out to the local community and beyond through the Dean's Council, a community Breakfast Club, a national Advisory Board, and a Corporate Partners Program. These groups help guide, promote, and support the School. In return, the School shares leading-edge research through publications, dialogs, presentations, summits, seminars, and student research projects.

Organizational relationships

As the home of the only professional Master of Environmental Science and Management (MESM) program in the western United States, the Bren School is uniquely positioned to provide leadership to a broad range of constituents, including the more than 50 corporations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in our Corporate Partners Program. These organizations share our commitment to sustainable enterprise, leading-edge research, and educational programs of preeminent quality.

Additionally, the Bren School serves as the only West Coast classroom for the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF), a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing all U.S. state legislative leaders and key democratic parliamentary leaders across the globe. SLLF provides legislative leaders with educational programs focused on many of the most important policy issues of the day. Together with the Bren School, SLLF offers programs in the area of environment.