

University of California, Davis



*Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering*

*Graduate Student Orientation*

**September 29, 2020**



**UC DAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



# Civil & Environmental Engineering - Overview

- 40 faculty, 250 grads, 540 undergrads
- 31 Professional Engineers & Technical Staff, 24 Postdocs, 13 Administrative and Support Staff
- 5 specialty areas, 65+ grad classes
  - Environmental
  - Water Resources } EWR
- Structural Engineering/Structural Mechanics (SESM)
- Geotechnical
- Transportation
- Graduate Students Groups



Solutions for a Sustainable Future  
Discovery · Innovation · Policy · Engagement





# Key CEE People

Lauren Worrell  
Grad Coordinator



Miguel Jaller  
Faculty Grad Advisor



Holly Oldroyd  
Water Resources



## Graduate Program Committee (GPC) Area Advisors

Alejandro Martinez  
Geotech



Frank Loge  
Environmental



Michael Zhang  
Transportation



Michele Barbato  
Structures & Mechanics



# Types of Degrees Offered



- Master of Science (MS) Plan I (Thesis option)
- Master of Science (MS) Plan II (Project/exam option)
- Ph.D.

Each degree type has different requirements, which can be found in the [Guidance Manual for Graduate Students](#) on the CEE website. These will be discussed in more detail this afternoon.

# Advising Overview



- **Area Adviser, GPC Rep**
  - Default major professor for all MS-II students
    - Advises on coursework
  - Point of contact for all routine academic matters
  - Major professor for all MS-I & PhD students who don't yet have someone specific
- **Major Professor, Faculty Adviser, PI**
  - Your mentor
  - *All* MS-I and PhD students must find a major professor
  - Advises you on research, coursework, academic issues in general
- **Graduate Staff Advisor, Graduate Program Coordinator (Lauren)**
  - Point of contact for all routine administrative issues
- **Graduate Adviser, Graduate Program Chair (Miguel Jaller)**
  - Point of contact for all non-routine matters, academic or otherwise

# Advising Overview



- Depends on Degree Objective; Always consult the Grad Student Handbook!
- MS-I/PhD students should:
  - meet regularly with their Major Professor
  - Develop an initial course plan ([preliminary program of study](#)) by end of Fall/early Winter quarter
- MS-II students should:
  - Complete a [MS Program of Study](#) by end of Fall/early Winter quarter
  - Meet with Area Advisor, prepared with proposed MS PoS, OR meet with Major Professor
  - Consult with Area Advisor, Grad Coordinator (Lauren) or Grad Advisor (Miguel) as necessary

# Class Registration & Courses



- You must have 12 units minimum each quarter
- Typically take 3 classes (MS-II) or 2-3 (MS-I/PhD) of graded coursework per quarter
  - Undergraduates commonly take 4 courses per quarter...we *strongly* recommend against this
- Fill in additional units by:
  - ECI 296, TTP 281 (seminars) count towards 12 units for the quarter (not towards degree course unit requirement)
  - Research Units: Confirm with the appropriate faculty member (e.g. major professor) before signing up for ECI 299 or 290C
    - Obtain ECI 290C/299 CRNs from Rufa Pazyuk each quarter ([rnpazyuk@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rnpazyuk@ucdavis.edu))
  - Other: PE Course? Seminar in a different program?

# How do I know what courses are offered?



- Use the Registrar [Course Search Tool](#) to know exactly what will be offered in the upcoming quarter
  - Typically has information only one to two quarters in advance (e.g. W21 is available now, but S21 is not yet)
- A full list of CEE courses is [available](#) in the General Catalog
- A spreadsheet of past, current and projected CEE course offerings for the entire current academic year by quarter is [available](#) on the Graduate Courses page (CEE Course Matrix)
- ECI 289 courses and descriptions (special topics courses) are also [available](#) on our Graduate Courses page
- Which non-CEE departments might I want to look to for courses?
  - Math, TTP, Computer Science, Atmospheric Science, Hydrologic Science, Soil Science, BioAg Engineering, Economics, Statistics



# The quarter system & graduate courses



- The quarter system (10 weeks + finals) moves *a lot* faster than a semester system
- Important to stay on top of coursework from day one
- Pay attention to time management
  - Especially important for those who are also TA'ing or involved in research
- Many graduate courses do not have final exams, but instead final projects
  - Plan ahead and expect that things will pile up

# Public Speaking Requirement



- Requirement designed to improve your public speaking and technical presentation skills in research environments
- Required for all M.S. and Ph.D. students
- Requirement may be satisfied in various ways:
  - Area-approved courses (list of courses will be maintained on the [degree requirements](#) page)
  - Completing the [Public Speaking Requirement Section of the Program of Study](#)
    - Presenting in a seminar series
    - Presentation at a conference, etc. *with feedback*



## **Area-Specific Seminars**

- Credit and non-credit research seminar series (e.g. ECI 296)
- Frequency and focus varies by quarter
- Great opportunity to expand your knowledge base
- We strongly encourage you to attend and enroll!

## **CEE Distinguished Speaker Seminars**

- Usually five per year, one from each research Area
- Cross-departmental...don't just go to the one in your area
- Typically a reception afterwards!

# Staff Office Hours & More



Lauren Worrell, 2007 Ghausi Hall (currently by zoom)

- [Make an appointment online](#)
- Once back on campus, if the door is open, feel free to come in!

Department Office, 2001 Ghausi Hall

- By appointment only: [cee-office@Ucdavis.edu](mailto:cee-office@Ucdavis.edu)

“Mailbox” – Graduate Student folders (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, by the elevators)

- For university related mail only

Desk Space/Locker Space

- Availability of individual desks is limited (mostly PhD students).
- Some lockers are also available for MS students
- Check with your major professor, then request [online](#)
- Some areas (e.g. Geotech) manage space independently

# Funding Opportunities and Resources



- All US Citizens should fill out the FAFSA
- Fellowships
  - External (e.g. NSF, DOE, Hertz, many others)
  - Campus wide (apply in the fall)
  - Departmental (GPFA)
- Academic Appointments
  - **TA and Reader:** [application on CEE website](#)
    - apply for each quarter you are interested
    - apply to other departments too!
  - **Graduate Student Researcher (GSR)**
    - appointed by individual faculty
  - All academic appointments come with in-state tuition remission + salary (GSR's include NRST remission)
  - Also be sure to check out [handshake](#) for postings



- Fall TA Office Hours should all be remote. Once we are back in person:
  - You can request/reserve specific rooms to hold office hours with Sabrina or our student assistants in 2001 Ghausi ([cee-office@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cee-office@ucdavis.edu))
  - Scheduling is on a first-come basis
  - If you have an office, generally do not hold office hours in your office as this is distracting for everyone else
- Be sure to communicate with the instructor to clearly understand expectations and timelines
- [Center for Educational Effectiveness](#) can provide additional support
  - [TA Handbook](#)

# Important Fall Quarter Dates and Deadlines



- Quarter begins – Sept 28
- Instruction begins – Sept 30
- 10<sup>th</sup> day of instruction: Oct. 13
  - Last day to submit a part-time application
  - Last day to drop 10-day-drop courses (most UG courses)
- Last day to add courses via SISWEB (without a PTA) – Oct 15
- Last day to drop 20-day-drop courses – Oct 27
- Some changes for fall 2020: S/U Grading and late drops

<http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/calendar/quarter.cfm>

- Graduate Student Final Fee Payment Deadline – Nov 19

<https://registrar.ucdavis.edu/calendar/fees.cfm>

# Finding More Information



- Guidance Manual for Graduate Students and Their Advisers
  - Available on the CEE Website
- Degree Requirements (in Guidance Manual)
  - Available on the CEE Website
  - Will be discussed this afternoon
- **Forms**
  - Available online on the [CEE Website](#) and [Graduate Studies Website](#)
  - See Graduate Staff Coordinator (Lauren) for more information on appropriate forms for your program
  - The Graduate Adviser has primary signature authority for all graduate student forms. Submit forms to Lauren to obtain the Graduate Adviser's signature.





## Department Emails

- “Announcement” emails from CEEGHELP
- Fellowships and Scholarships; Employment Opportunities; Professional Development Opportunities; Events; Trainings and Workshops; Happenings in other Departments

## Emails from Lauren (Grad Coordinator)

- Key dates, deadlines, important information

## Emails from Miguel (Grad Advisor) and Chris (Dept Chair)

- Information for the entire program

Subscribe to other listservs too!

# Mentoring and Wellness



- Mentoring is a two-way street...the key is communication
- Guidelines for mentorship ([Grad Studies](#))
- [Grad Pathways](#): professional development program
- Maintaining a balance between educational pursuits and [wellness](#) is important to success
- Be sure to [manage your stress](#)
- Don't be afraid to [seek help](#)

# GET A FREE BIKE HELMET!!!

## Helmet Hair Don't Care!

"Your brain is your most  
valuable possession."

- Kaylee Brummelen,  
UC Davis undergraduate



# Questions?

