Curious about how to be successful in today’s business world, better understand financial markets, and the workings of the economy? Not sure what economist do and how applied economists can help tackle emerging issues related to financial and currency markets, community development, worker and food safety, environmental protection, food consumption, agricultural production, and many other areas?

We invite you to explore life as a student on the UC Davis campus and gain firsthand experience in applied economics research. We encourage you to apply to be part of the first cohort of community college students participating in the Student Applied Economics Research Training (SET) program. This program is a key component of the Diversity and Inclusion in Research, Education, and Career Training (DIRECT) program administered by UC Davis’ Agricultural and Resource Economics (ARE) Department. The goal of the DIRECT program is to connect students from historically underrepresented groups to applied economic research and prepare them for successful careers in industry, government, and academia in this exciting field.
Program Components

Students in the SET cohort will participate in a year-long series of activities at the UC Davis campus designed to provide in-depth exposure to and direct participation in research related to the economics of agriculture, environment and natural resources in California. Each participant will come to the UC Davis campus at least once during the Fall, Winter and Spring quarters to participate in the following activities:

- **Career Connection Speaker Series:** This quarterly event features presentations by leaders in industry and academia. SET students will be able network with the speakers as well as ARE faculty, graduate students and Managerial Economics peers at the post-event reception. SET students are expected to participate in at least one of the three Career Connection events during their year in the program.

- **Research Seminars:** The ARE Department holds weekly research seminars in each of its primary fields: Agricultural Economics, Environmental/Resource Economics and, International Development Economics. In these seminars, invited speakers present results from ongoing research projects. SET students have an open invitation to attend these seminars.

- **ARE Research Field Day:** Each quarter, one research seminar will be identified for intensive interaction with SET students. In addition to attending the seminar, SET students will have a small group meeting with the speaker and interact with ARE faculty and graduate students to further discuss the topic of the seminar.

- **Summer Applied Research Course:** The SET program culminates with a summer course that will provide SET students an opportunity to participate in applied economics research. The course will be offered during Summer Session II (August 7, 2023 through September 15, 2023) and supervised by ARE faculty and graduate students. Small student teams, including a mix of upper division Managerial Economics students at UC Davis and SET cohort members, will be provided a data set and broad topic that they can use to define their own research question and complete a research project related to a current challenge facing California communities. Students will enroll in 2 units of ARE 190 that can be applied towards their Managerial Economics degree.

Timeline

**Summer 2022**  
Applications to the SET program (and request for transportation stipend) due by **September 15, 2022**.  
SET cohort announced and participants notified by **September 30, 2022**.

**Fall 2022**  
Participation in Career Connections Speaker Series, Research Seminars, and Research Field Day.  
Work on UC Davis transfer application due by **November 30, 2022**  
(TAG due by September 30, 2022).

**Winter 2023**  
Participation in Career Connections Speaker Series, Research Seminars, and Research Field Day.  
UC Davis admission decisions announced.

**Spring 2023**  
Participation in Career Connections Speaker Series, Research Seminars, and Research Field Day.  
Submit FAFSA and Cal Grant GPA Verification form by **March 2, 2023** to be considered for financial support during the Summer Applied Research Course.  
Submit Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) and Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) by **June 1, 2023**.

**Summer 2023**  
Participate in the SET Program in Summer Applied Research Course  
(Summer session II: **August 7 – September 15, 2023**).  
Math Camp

**Fall 2023**  
Begin taking classes in the Managerial Economics Major.
Financial Support

The Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) fee will be waived for all students participating students transferring to UC Davis. A limited number of $1000 summer research scholarships will be made available for students with demonstrated financial need in order to offset the loss of wages and other income associated with participating in the Summer Applied Research Course. Students will also be eligible for $50 transportation stipends to visit the Davis campus throughout the year.

Eligibility

The SET program is designed for community college students intending to transfer to the Managerial Economics major at UC Davis in the fall quarter following the Summer Applied Research Course. Students applying must meet the following criteria at the time of application:

1. Be a California resident for tuition purposes. Students with an AB 540 exemption are eligible and encouraged to apply.
2. Be a student in good academic standing, with the intent to submit the transfer application for the Managerial Economics major at UC Davis in the Fall of 2022 with the expectation of starting at UC Davis in the Fall of 2023.
3. Have completed 60 UC transferable semester units (90 quarter units) with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.8, or 3.2 for students with a Transfer Agreement Guarantee (TAG) agreement.
4. Have successfully completed courses that articulate to at least three of the following courses with a minimum grade of C- and plan to take the remaining courses prior to transfer:
   a. Economics 001A and 001B
   b. Mathematics 016A/B/C or 017A/B or 021A/B
   c. Statistics 013

In order to participate in the Summer Applied Research Course, students must be accepted to the Managerial Economics Major at UC Davis.

Students from under-represented groups in the STEM disciplines: American Indian/Alaskan native, Black, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, as well as socio-economically disadvantaged, or first-generation college students, and Veterans are strongly urged to apply.

Additional recommended coursework that may be completed prior to transferring include:

   a. AGRESEC 018-Business Law
   b. Communication 001 or 003 or 003V or 003Y
   c. Computer Science 015 or 032A or Plant Sciences 021
   d. Management 011A and 011

1 To find out which courses articulate to the courses listed above, consult the UC Davis-Woodland Articulation.
2 While you must complete at least 3 of these courses to be eligible for the SET program, you must complete all of the courses listed in point 4 above prior to transfer since Managerial Economics is a Selective Major.
3 These courses are required preparatory courses for the Managerial Economics major. Completing these courses prior to transfer increases student success and flexibility upon transferring.
Application Instructions

Interested students should submit the following material via an on-line application:

1. Unofficial transcripts
2. TAG agreement filed with counseling services (if applicable).
3. Two short essays (no more than 500 words each). Priority will be given to applicants’ whose essays demonstrate:
   a. An interest in agricultural, environmental or natural resource issues relevant to the California economy;
   b. The potential to contribute to higher education through their understanding of the faced by historically underrepresented student populations as evidenced by life experiences and educational background and;
   c. Financial need

DIRECT Program Contacts

Kristin Kiesel, Associate Professor of Teaching: kiesel@ucdavis.edu

Steve Boucher, Associate Professor: srboucher@ucdavis.edu

Department, Major, and Program Websites

Agricultural and Resource Economics Department: https://are.ucdavis.edu/

Managerial Economics Major: https://managerialeconomics.ucdavis.edu/

Diversity and Inclusion in Research, Education, and Career Training (DIRECT) program: direct.ucdavis.edu