Politics of the Environment
PhD in Political Science

Study Environmental Politics at UC Santa Barbara

Managing environmental problems at scale is not just about technology and economics. We also need to understand and solve the politics of our climate and energy problems. UCSB brings together world-leading academic and environmental policy experts to train graduate students in the study of environmental politics and policy.

UCSB has eight professors who specialize in environmental politics, more than any other research university in the world.

Environmental Politics is a top priority in our Political Science Department, which has formal coursework and certifications on the topic.

Together with graduate students, we form an active community studying climate policy and politics, energy governance, environmental justice and more. Our work focuses on critical environmental challenges both here in the United States and around the world.

Our program also draws on strengths from many other UCSB departments from the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management to the Environmental Studies Program, and new policy efforts like UCSB's 2035 Initiative to develop political and policy roadmaps towards global decarbonization. Faculty and students meet together weekly in the Environmental Politics Workshop to get feedback on our scholarship, do professional development activities, and create a community of collaboration.

Our program is both committed to engaged scholarship and rigorous empirics. We blend cutting-edge research with the skills necessary to advocate for change.

We are actively recruiting graduate students for admission beginning in 2023-2024.

Applications are open now!

The deadline to submit your materials is December 1st. You can read about application requirements at the Graduate Division's application webpage under "How To Apply."

For more information, please contact Professor Matto Mildenberger, Director of Graduate Admissions, at mildenberger@ucsb.edu