



# PEER-LED ACADEMIC COHORT EXPERIENCES (PACE)

## ENHANCING CAMPUS CULTURE AND CONNECTION

**Peer-Led Academic Cohort Experiences (PACE)** build community for first-year undergraduate computing students at UC San Diego, where they connect with student mentors in a variety of collaborative settings. Hosted by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), these opportunities run for a full academic year to engage undergraduates in safe, welcoming spaces. PACE empowers students to thrive on campus and prepare for a tech-driven future.

### **Weekly PACE sessions give flexible on-ramps throughout the first year.**

These opportunities are open to all first-year computing students. Cohorts are led by experienced CSE undergraduate mentors. Cohort sessions give onboarding to computing majors, exploration and inspiration for computing careers, and deep-dive sessions on cutting-edge computing topics.

**PACE mentors build and lead sessions** where impact extends beyond the program. When a first-year student drops in to one of the sessions, they know they'll get a friendly welcome, thought-provoking conversations and food. Each session has a hands-on, personalized computing-related activity and informal network time with peers, mentors and faculty — sometimes with alumni and other guests.

### **MORE THAN 533**

Computing students have participated in PACE to date

### **10:1**

Student-to-mentor ratio for each cohort group, supporting small group communication and leadership opportunities

### **28 STUDENT LEADERS**

As Lead Peer Mentors, some for multiple years

### **WEEKLY SESSIONS**

Allow consistent opportunities for connection to peers

At UC San Diego, we believe that what we don't know today will forever change our tomorrows. Empowered by generosity and fueled by curiosity, we are unafraid to chase the unknown — to ask the questions no one has asked before and to push the boundaries of possibility. Together, we unite diverse people and unconventional perspectives to propel limitless impact. Because we know that when we come together, nothing is beyond us.



## UC San Diego is leading the way with CSE's PACE.

The design of PACE is informed by core research on student experience in college, funded by the NSF and published in premiere education venues. UC San Diego provides a library of lesson plans for PACE's hands-on workshops and cohort activities for other universities looking to build similar programs.

### GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Charitable donations of any amount directly support operational costs for PACE, alleviating the financial burden for first-year students seeking connection and encouraging involvement by all computing students, regardless of their background.

As encouragement to our alumni community to prioritize PACE, CSE's Alumni Advisory Board is generously matching up to \$50,000 in donations to PACE. Through this challenge, every \$2 donated to PACE will be matched \$1 by the fund.

### Help us ensure PACE's sustainability by contributing today!

#### Your support establishes the following resources:

- **Lead Peer Mentors** - annual stipends for undergraduate leaders, the cornerstone of peer-to-peer cohorts
- **Graduate Teaching Assistants** - quarter-long stipends for graduate teaching assistantship to facilitate cohort interactions and support professional development
- **Oversight and events** - central coordination of cohort activities, including resources for food and instructional supplies, as well as faculty guidance

Together with your philanthropic support, we can equip our students to advance discovery in computer science and engineering through the power of community and collaboration.

**Learn more at [giving.ucsd.edu](https://giving.ucsd.edu).**

For more information on how you can support the Department of Computer Science and Engineering through PACE, please contact:

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"When I was a mentee, I really valued when mentors told me that I am talented, I have skills, I should pursue opportunities. I work to give my students that confidence as well."

*Anya Chernova, CSE '26*

**UC San Diego**

**JACOBS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING**

Department of Computer Science and Engineering