

The Berkeley Changemaker

What is the *Berkeley Changemaker*™?

Berkeley Changemaker is a way to codify an essential part of what UC Berkeley stands for and, judging from early feedback, may provide a future-oriented narrative that our campus can rally behind, humanists and scientists alike. Its curriculum seeks to activate our undergraduates' passions and help them develop a sharper sense of who they want to be and how to make that happen. Values like creating impact beyond oneself and questioning the status quo have drawn people to Berkeley for generations—this narrative doubles down on that spirit. If successful the narrative will attract even more top students and stretch them to more intentionally power our communities, economies, and people.

Berkeley Changemaker can be *identity-making*. Changemaking is at the heart of the Berkeley identity. Berkeley Changemaker would call to extraordinarily talented people who can see their potential through this lens and are drawn to Berkeley's bigger mission of translating intellectual creativity into societal benefit.

Berkeley Changemaker can be an inspiring *unifier*. Berkeley's uniqueness in the breadth-plus-depth of its intellectual creativity provides an opportunity to integrate disciplines as no other university can. The most important opportunities for change don't fit into single-discipline boxes. Effective changemaking requires integrating the skills of STEM, the Humanities, ethics, and other disciplines so we act with deliberation in addressing complex challenges. If ever society could use changemaking that is more human-centered, with less attitude, the time is now.

Berkeley Changemaker can be a *people-vision*. Since its founding as a public university, Berkeley has distinguished itself from other top universities by leading inclusively. The graduates we shape for the future are skilled problem solvers whose creativity and compassion advance and transform. What separates a changemaker from UC Berkeley is that they draw from, and build on, the elements that make this university itself unique, including a singular history and a culture of making societal difference. The world knows these things about Berkeley.

Painting a Sharper Picture

Already Achieved: The first Berkeley Changemaker course, piloted with 50 students across 17 majors, received an *average* student course-evaluation score of 6.7/7.0 and feedback such as:

"Everyone at Cal should be required to take this course. It gives an optimistic and changemaking perspective to any discipline. It has genuinely changed my outlook on the world and how I want to go through life. Even if you think you are already a good leader, this class will teach you so much about being not just a leader, but a changemaker, wherever you go in life."

The next course iteration, "The Berkeley Changemaker: A Discovery Experience," will be offered as L&S C12 this summer to incoming Freshman. Team-taught by many of Berkeley's most distinguished faculty, representing fifteen departments and six schools, it is offered at a scale roughly 5X the pilot (includes Professors Christ, Yellen, Auffhammer, Cascardi, Goldberg, Hassner, Hull, Jacobsen, O'Reilly, Rine, Taylor, Webber, Wymore). Special outreach efforts have been extended to include need-based scholarship recipients and scholar-athletes.

One Year Out “Vision”: The summer course successfully enrolls 200-300 students. By Spring 2021, 7-10 new undergraduate connector courses, donor funded, compose the Berkeley Changemaker connector suite of courses and experiences, following the successful model of Data8. Courses support the campus-wide [Connect/Discover/Engage](#) initiative. Designed and taught by faculty in their respective disciplines, courses may include: “Changemaking in Education,” “Becoming a Changemaker in Bioengineering,” or a more generalized elective called “The Art of Agency.” The pathway is clear to scaling the front-end course, “The Berkeley Changemaker,” to serve all incoming Freshmen and Transfers.

Three Years Out “Vision”: By the three-year mark, a fully articulated Berkeley Changemaker vision develops and, enabled by a transformative \$100m gift, Berkeley launches a “C-School.” The C-School is not a school in the usual sense, since it does not have its own faculty lines or majors; but it does oversee curriculum and more, including alumni engagement through Berkeley Connect, Professional Education, an Action Lab, a Changemaking Speaker Series, and Berkeley Changemaker Fellows (think Alice Waters). The transformative gift covers whatever faculty buy-outs are needed to deliver the curriculum and program, including graduate-student support. The Berkeley undergraduate application is augmented with questions like: “What thing in the world would you most like to change and how will you go about changing it?” The *Chronicle of Higher Education* publishes an article highlighting “The Berkeley Changemaker Transformation.” Success metrics include at least a third of incoming undergraduates agreeing that the Berkeley Changemaker curriculum and vision was “important to why I selected Berkeley.” Another round of connector-suite courses is designed at the overlaps of fields and applications.

Content

Berkeley Changemaker courses share foundational elements within three areas of student development:

- I. Critical Thinking:
 - 1) How to select and frame a problem
 - 2) How to ask the right questions
 - 3) How to craft a strong approach/solution
- II. Communicating:
 - 1) Public speaking and presentation
 - 2) Analytical writing
 - 3) Accountability and transparency
- III. Collaboration:
 - 1) Working on a project team
 - 2) Working across boundaries
 - 3) Diversity as an asset

These foundational elements can be organized in four parts:

Part 1: *You are a Berkeley Changemaker*

Purpose: Seeing yourself as a leader.

Part 2: Changemaking as Questioning

Purpose: See more clearly what needs to change/what questions to ask.

Part 3: Changemaking Together

Purpose: Learning how to work with and through other people to effect change.

Part 4: Changemaking in Practice

Purpose: [Discovery Experiences](#) — Discovering how to turn ideas into action.