

Food Systems

The Graduate Certificate in Food Systems (GCFS) responds to an escalating need to empower new leaders with the capacity to create innovative solutions to pressing food and agriculture challenges. Building on UC Berkeley's strength as a multi-disciplinary pioneer in food systems studies, the Certificate in Food Systems prepares Masters and Doctoral students to think critically about the multi-level, multi-system factors that affect food production, distribution, and consumption locally, nationally, and globally. This interdisciplinary program complements students' primary fields of study by addressing the ecological, social, health, political, policy, legal, and economic dimensions of food and agriculture and providing graduates with the necessary theoretical framework and practical skills that can be applied across diverse and emerging food-systems challenges.

Students pursuing the certificate take three courses: a required core course entitled "PH HLTH 207: Transforming Food Systems: From Agroecology to Population Health," and two elective courses chosen from a list of over 15 options.

The GSFS is hosted by the School of Public Health, College of Natural Resources, and Goldman School of Public Policy, and administered by the Berkeley Food Institute. Students from any graduate program at UC Berkeley are eligible to complete the certificate.

Any UC Berkeley graduate student in good standing (GPA of 3.0 or better) may apply. Completion of the Application for Admission Form (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScC3b1o0Tpea1qZ8V4DK8ttQmDqT0Z3YIAmuzyaWpp2ftToRxg/viewform/>) is required before completing the certificate core course. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

This application for admission signals a student's interest in the Graduate Certificate in Food Systems, but does not guarantee a seat in GCFS-approved courses.

The Graduate Certificate in Food Systems consists of 3 courses (totaling a minimum of 9 units), each of which must be taken for a letter grade.

- Required core course – PB HLTH 207: Transforming Food Systems: From Agroecology to Population Health (3 units, taught each fall)
- Two elective courses, chosen from the list below, totaling a minimum of 6 units. Courses not on the electives list will be considered on a case by case basis, via submission of the Elective Petition Form.

We encourage students to take all certificate courses outside their primary degrees; however one course can overlap with primary degree requirements.

Core Course

"PH HLTH 207: Transforming Food Systems: From Agroecology to Population Health" is held every fall and taught by Kristine Madsen, Associate Professor in the Joint Medical Program/Public Health Nutrition. The course is conducted as a weekly seminar with guest lectures by UC Berkeley's preeminent food systems scholars and other experts in the field. It takes a solutions-oriented approach to addressing the pressing problems in current food systems through strategies used by the disciplines of agroecology, policy, law, public health, and business in working to improve food systems and apply their varied approaches

to real-world case studies. Through weekly readings, discussions, and problem-solving sessions, students will gain a broad understanding of food systems and the leverage points that can be targeted to improve the health of people and the planet.

The Fall 2021 core course will be held on Thursdays, 2 – 5pm, for in-person instruction (pending latest public health guidelines). It will be taught by Lia Fernald, Professor of Community Health Sciences. Look for course 32183 in the online schedule of classes.

Elective Courses

The following electives count toward the Graduate Certificate in Food Systems. Note that not every course is offered on a yearly basis. Check guide.berkeley.edu for the most up to date course descriptions and class schedule.

CY PLAN C256/ PB HLTH C233	Healthy Cities	3
ENE,RES 275	Water and Development	4
ESPM 226	Interdisciplinary Food and Agriculture Studies	3
ESPM 230	Sociology of Agriculture	4
ESPM 261	Sustainability and Society	3
ESPM 279	Seminar on Pastoralism	3
ESPM 280	Seminar in Range Ecosystem Planning and Policy	3
LAW 220F	Course Not Available (The Schedule of Classes for Law can be found at law.berkeley.edu .)	3
MBA 292N	Course Not Available (Food Innovation Studio – This course is by application; contact the professor for instructions.)	2
MBA 292.22 Plant Futures (This course is by application; contact the professor for instructions) & MBA 293		
NUSCTX 260	Metabolic Bases of Human Health and Diseases Graduate Level	4
PB HLTH 206B	Food and Nutrition Policies and Programs	3
PB HLTH 206D	Food and Nutrition Programs and Policies in Developing Countries	3
PB HLTH 207A	Public Health Aspects of Maternal and Child Nutrition	2,3
PB HLTH 266A	Foodborne diseases	2
PB HLTH 271G	Health Implications of Climate Change	3
PUB POL 290	Special Topics in Public Policy (The Social Safety Net, Poverty, and Income Inequality - Spring)	3
PUB POL 290	Special Topics in Public Policy (The Fight for Food 3-4 Justice: Mass Movement or Consumer Culture - Fall every other year)	3-4

Elective Petitions

Students can petition for graduate courses beyond the standard elective list to count toward the certificate. Particularly 290 Special Topics and 299 Independent Study courses will be considered on a case by case basis, as topics pertain to food systems. Students must submit the Elective Petition Form (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeR391EqEyvbScKvRv3O0ucjbBuksJC72qO0dxTMfOuZCp0eQ/viewform/>) **at least one month prior** to enrolling in the proposed course. Electives proposed by the petition must be approved before taking the class.

The Graduate Certificate in Food Systems provides a unique opportunity for making connections with students from across the campus with a

shared interest in food systems. Typically students from ten different Berkeley degree programs participate in the core course; together they make an interdisciplinary intellectual community not typically found within students' primary degree programs.

The core course and certificate provides an integrated and structured overview of food systems such that graduates understand complex "production webs," how each aspect of these systems feeds into and depends on other aspects, and how different disciplines (ecology, business, policy, law, public health) have approached challenges in food systems. Through the certificate, students are exposed to multidisciplinary experiences and trained in analytical and applied skills. Thus, students who complete the certificate are better contributors to the multidisciplinary teams that are increasingly leading food systems changes. Further, students will be able to assess the strengths and weaknesses of various strategies (e.g., legal, political, or market-based) that they might pursue as they work to improve food systems during their careers.

Kristine Madsen (<http://sph.berkeley.edu/kristine-madsen/>), Associate Professor in the Joint Medical Program/Public Health Nutrition, serves as the director for the Graduate Certificate in Food Systems.