



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
SENIOR PRACTICUM

SAGE HILL:
LEARNING FROM THE
PAST, PREPARING
FOR THE FUTURE

2020/2021

MEET THE TEAM



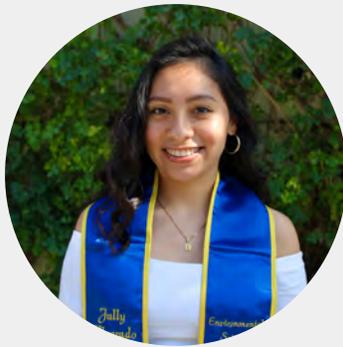
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Client: Dr. Marilyn Raphael and the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability





FOREWORD

Sage Hill at UCLA acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and So. Channel Islands). As a land grant institution, we pay our respects to the Honuukvetam (Ancestors), 'Ahihirom (Elders), and 'Eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present, and emerging.

This report was crafted by five Environmental Science students of the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability (IoES) here at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in collaboration with the university and IoES.

We would like to personally thank the following individuals and groups who supported our project and our team, including, but not limited to: our advisor, Dr. Cully Nordby; our client, Marilyn Raphael and The Institute of the Environment and Sustainability (IoES); the IoES Communications Team: David Colgan, Scott Gruber, and Ashley Kruythoff; Dr. Tom Gillespie; Dr. Travis Longcore; Noah Garrison; and UCLA faculty members, organizations, and students who participated in our interviews and provided valuable insight and knowledge.

Photo by: Chelsea Zhang/Daily Bruin

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INTRODUCTION



Photos by: Nurit Katz

Sage Hill is located between Sunset Boulevard and Hitch Residential Suites in the northwest corner of UCLA. It is home to many native plants and animals that inhabit the natural coastal sage scrub ecosystem of Los Angeles. It is also a sacred, tribal land that carries the history and culture of the Gabrielino/Tongva people. Being only three and a half acres, Sage Hill is a small natural landscape surrounded by an otherwise dense urban city, offering a sense of escapism to visitors as well as educational potential for people in all fields of study.

The Gabrielino/Tongva peoples are the original caretakers of the Los Angeles Basin, which included Sage Hill. They use the plants that are found on-site for food, medicine, and other practical uses such as arrows and bowls (2012). The Spanish colonized the land in 1769 when the first California missions were established (Greene & Curwen, 2019). UCLA was founded in 1919, and Sage Hill became part of campus when, eight years later, UCLA moved from downtown Los Angeles to the Westwood campus (UCLA General Catalog 2020 - 21).



FIGURE 1: SAGE HILL LOCATION

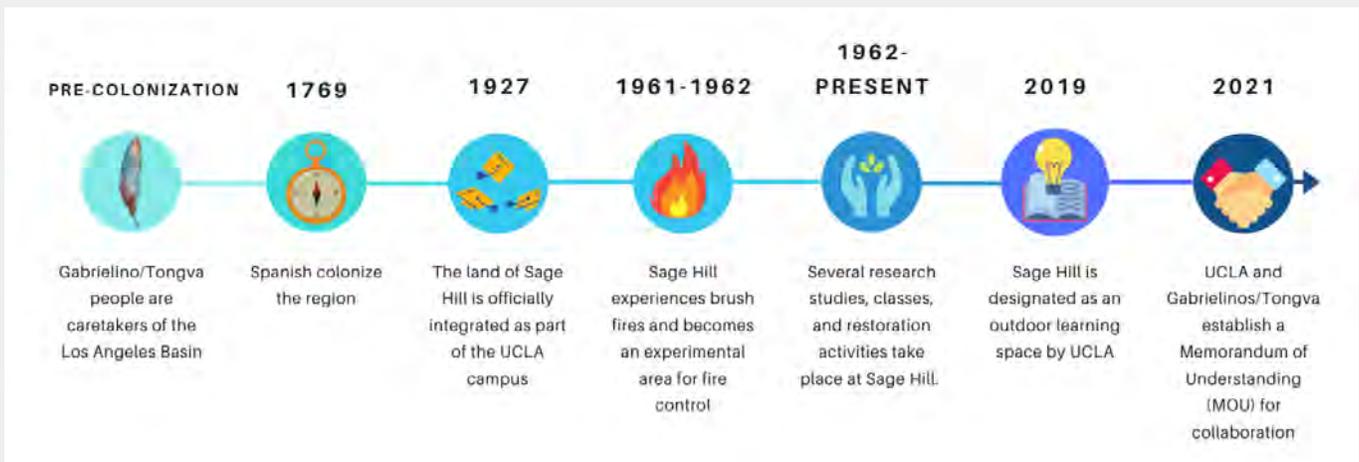


FIGURE 2: SAGE HILL BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Photo by: Nurit Katz

In 1961, Sage Hill experienced brush fires that spread as far as 6,090 acres and resulted in the loss of 484 nearby homes (Mckell et al., 1966). This landscape was designated as an experimental area for how various ground cover and shrub species affect fire events the following year. This involved completely clearing any remaining vegetation and reseeding it with native plant species. The study found that dense, low-growing grass offers no significant wildfire danger, and, to this day, the same plant species grown from this experiment can be found at Sage Hill.

Since then, research studies and surveys conducted at Sage Hill have focused on biodiversity, soil quality, and fire control. Several classes have been taught at Sage Hill, and various restoration activities have taken place there including clean-ups, plantings, and removal of invasive plant species. This recent rise in activity at Sage Hill inspired the campus to designate it as an outdoor learning space in 2019. The IoES was given administrative responsibility for Sage Hill and further development of the site is guided by the Sage Hill Oversight Committee that includes faculty members and UCLA administrators. This year, in 2021, UCLA and tribal communities are establishing a memorandum of understanding to develop a collaborative partnership for Sage Hill use and maintenance.

**SAGE HILL WAS
DESIGNATED
AN OUTDOOR
LEARNING
SPACE IN 2019**

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Our year-long project centered on promoting Sage Hill as a campus asset for students and faculty to engage in outdoor research and learning. We also worked on resolving the issue of unregulated visits to Sage Hill that have been taking place for over 40 years. With these goals in mind, we developed three research questions to guide us in our project.



1. WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF SAGE HILL, AND WHAT IS ITS CURRENT STATE?

Because most past visits to Sage Hill have been undocumented, there is no database that tracks the use and history of Sage Hill. Future planning and decision-making for Sage Hill relies heavily on how it has been used in the past. Without this knowledge, IoES cannot make an accurate assessment of how to effectively maintain this site for educational and recreational purposes.

2. HOW CAN WE GET CAMPUS ENTITIES OF ALL DIFFERENT TYPES TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE SITE?

Sage Hill's ecology, history, culture, aesthetic, and engineering design make it a suitable space for students and faculty of all fields for research and learning. However, this is not often recognized. Therefore, promoting Sage Hill as a beneficial outdoor learning space will increase campus engagement.

3. HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS SPACE MORE VISIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE?

As mentioned, Sage Hill has incredible educational potential so we strived to make it better known across campus so more people will be interested in using this site for research and learning.

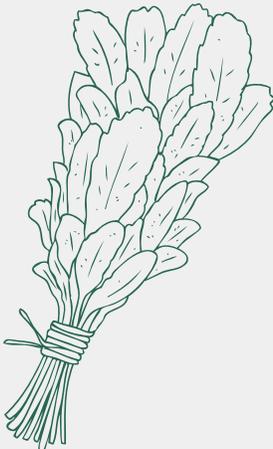


Photo by: Environmental Student Network at UCLA

METHODOLOGY

To address the lack of a central location for information about the history of Sage Hill, we created a website that contains important data about Sage Hill and its history. This solution was chosen because establishing an online presence for Sage Hill is essential to advancing its role as an outdoor learning space. To reach this final step, we started by collecting data, researching information, and then creating a database of our findings to be used for future reference.

Our team primarily used key informant interviews with knowledgeable figures as a method for collecting data. These figures were chosen with the help of Dr. Nordby, the previous practicum team that worked on Sage Hill, and word of mouth (see Appendix #1 for surveys from the 2019-2020 practicum). Dr. Nordby assisted us by sending out a survey we made to faculty and other individuals she knew who had worked on Sage Hill or taught classes that used it as a resource. After contacting these people, we used a structured interview method to gather data (see Appendix #1 for interview questions).

We then supplemented this with additional research about Sage Hill's history and past restoration. We used a UCLA website as a primary source for information on the history and restoration of the hill ([UCLA, 2021](#)). iNaturalist, which is a joint initiative by the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, was also used to find data on the flora and fauna that live in the hill ([iNaturalist, 2021](#)).

After completing our research, we created an official database that contains all files related to Sage Hill. To host files for the database, our team decided to use Google Drive because it allows for easy organization and access. Also, UCLA has a campus license for Google Drive which allows all students, staff, and faculty interested in engaging with the site to share relevant files and resources.

Lastly, after creating the database, our team built a website with the help of the IoES Communications Team. The Sage Hill website was incorporated into the existing WordPress content management system for IoES. Existing people, projects, and news articles were easily integrated into the website, and new profiles and articles created specifically for the Sage Hill website were created within the content management system for internal access across IoES sites. Scott Gruber, IoES web developer/designer provided our team with development and design expertise in creating the layout for the site.

RESULTS

To better understand what has been done at Sage Hill, our team interviewed ten UCLA Faculty Members, two student organizations, two graduate students, and the Krieger Childcare Center. We gathered information on courses taught between 2017-2020, the types of projects assigned, the number of students who participated, research projects, and future recommendations from these interviews.

Activities at Sage Hill

Here are a few examples of recent activities at Sage Hill.

Faculty

Tom Gillespie from the Department of Geography visits Sage Hill frequently for restoration work with students and has been taking large geography classes to Sage Hill for years.

Mark Rosman from the Department of Film & Television has been sending students to use Sage Hill as a filming location for their Symposium projects.

Alison Lipman from the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology has also been including visits to Sage Hill as part of her introductory Ecology lab where undergraduate students perform restoration activities, map the site, and conduct bird counts.

David Shorter from the Department of Anthropology is one of the faculty members serving as a liaison to Tongva tribal communities. He is facilitating visits to campus, including Sage Hill.



FIGURE 3: 10 UCLA FACULTY MEMBERS INTERVIEWED

RESULTS

Student Groups

Since 2010, UCLA students have been actively working towards preserving Sage Hill through plantings, invasive species removal, and cleanups. The **Environmental Student Network (ESN)** and the **Ecological Restoration Association (ERA)** are two student organizations at UCLA that are very involved at Sage Hill. Both groups have hosted events at the site to engage with the UCLA community and highlight it as a resource.

To help accomplish their sustainability goals, ESN applied to The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) at UCLA in 2018 and 2019. TGIF provides funding for projects that improve and support the university's campus sustainability efforts. ESN purchased and planted flowering perennial native plants to increase diversity at Sage Hill including: **black sage, white sage, sagebrush, sticky monkeyflower, laurel sumac, oak saplings, California Poppies, and California bush sunflower**. Additionally, ESN has hosted several activities and events at Sage Hill, including litter cleanups, Krieger Daycare Center Tours, and various community and social events (yoga, senior portrait photoshoots, picnics). Even throughout the pandemic, the organization has made efforts to stay connected with the Sage Hill Community by hosting online events and launching a Sage Hill Species Handbook with information on native plants, invasive species, and animals. To foster engagement, ERA created an interactive Native Plant Map in 2021 to help familiarize students and faculty with the various plant species at Sage Hill.



Photo by: Kyle Alves/ESN

RESULTS

Photo by: Nurit Katz

Courses and Student Engagement

Based on faculty and student interviews, we found that 3,560+ students have interacted with Sage Hill since 2017. The nature of engagement varies significantly, as courses taught at Sage Hill represent a variety of departments, including Geography, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Film and Television, and Anthropology. Student organizations also contribute to this engagement. Many instructors utilize the site to give their students unique hands-on instruction outside of the traditional classroom setting.

The Krieger Childcare Center at UCLA is located right across the street from Sage Hill. Volunteers and staff members take children on walks for fun and have them collect natural items from the ground. This also serves as a learning experience for the kids. Volunteers teach them about the plants in the area and also have them hike to the benches at the very top. These experiences allow young children to be exposed to natural, outdoor spaces which are very beneficial.

We would like to acknowledge that there may be additional faculty using Sage Hill that we did not account for, so there may be more engagement than what we recorded. Additionally, students do visit the site on their own for personal recreation and enjoyment of nature, but our team did not attempt to track these visits.

3,560+

STUDENTS HAVE

INTERACTED

WITH SAGE HILL

SINCE 2017

RESULTS

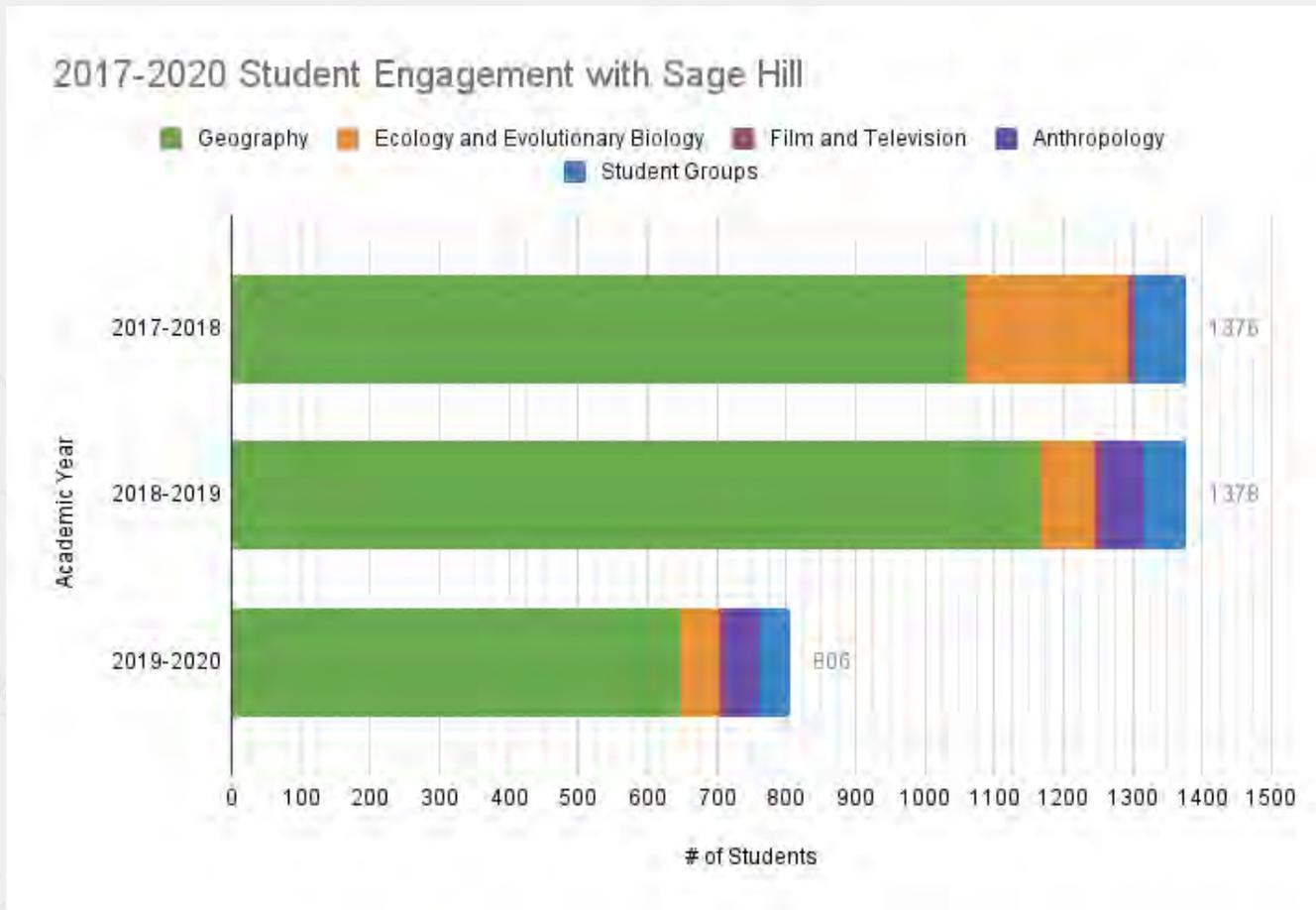


FIGURE 4: COURSES AND STUDENT GROUPS 2017-2020

Database

The database will continue to evolve with time. At the time of this report, the Sage Hill database contains 18 examples of student work, 31 documents including peer-reviewed articles and proposals featuring Sage Hill, 593 images, and 40 map layers of geospatial data which include the site. See Appendix 3 for organizational hierarchy of files in the database.

Our conversations with faculty gave us an insight into the shared challenges, wants, and needs of the campus community. This insight informed how we designed and populated the database, and in turn, the types of content collected within the database informed how we designed the website.

RESULTS

Website

The purpose of the website is to raise campus awareness of Sage Hill's environment, ecosystems, and history, which will then allow for more effective research and restoration efforts in the future. (See Appendix 4 for the website URL and original layout.)



Photo by: Rachel Bressler/ESN

- The **Welcome** page provides a brief overview of the history and current state of Sage Hill.
- The **People** page features profiles of the members of the Oversight Committee of Sage Hill and their contact information.
- The **Our Work** page contains past and current projects taking place at Sage Hill.
- The **News & Events** page lists all news articles and student blog posts, which provide context to the opportunities Sage Hill presents.
- The **Biodiversity** page connects students with iNaturalist flora and fauna data.

One essential tool, and main intention of creating the website, is the **Get Involved** page in which students and faculty can request to utilize Sage Hill. By filling out a simple form, UCLA community members can express interest in teaching courses, conducting research, or facilitating restoration. With the help of the database, the oversight committee can then provide these people with relevant information, connect them to the right people, and continue to keep official records of what's happened at Sage Hill.

FUTURE OF SAGE HILL



The work that we have been able to accomplish this year sets forth the foundation for future projects on Sage Hill. We have gathered, organized, and showcased a significant amount of data and information on the new, official website of Sage Hill. This is the building block of what is to come, as we have created a way for potential students and researchers to become involved with the site.

Improvements

After receiving feedback and input from various UCLA faculty, many are excited to continue and enhance the use of Sage Hill in their courses. Potential future plans for Sage Hill include: a trail design class, social media presence, and a Tongva/Gabrielino collaboration.

For Sage Hill to serve as an effective outdoor learning space for students at UCLA, the trail system requires improvement. One idea is to involve students through a TGIF grant-based trail design class. The potential class would be taught by an instructor with expertise in civil engineering and trail design. Students would learn trail building, planning, management, land protection, organization development, leadership, tools, and GIS techniques. Construction of the trail could follow the design course and be accomplished with student volunteers, similar to how trails are developed and maintained in the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area.

FUTURE OF SAGE HILL



Awareness

Promoting the site is extremely no important in gaining an individual's interest. Through our website, people can now get a glimpse and understanding of the background, events, and people working on Sage Hill. However, we also want the restoration process of Sage Hill to become a visible story that can also be seen through different means. The creation of a social media page for Sage Hill would be an effective way of gaining an audience, as social media is highly used nowadays. In doing so, we planned to show the process of our team's work as well as future processes that would take place. Social media is one of the best ways to get the attention of UCLA students and help spread awareness. For now, we hope that our website will build a large enough audience that can later on be interested in viewing or following Sage Hill on an established, official social media page as well.

Gabrielino/Tongva Collaboration

Sage Hill is a sacred land that holds value and tradition for the Gabrielino/Tongva people, the original and caretakers of the region. We want that to be emphasized and widely known, therefore one of the future plans for Sage Hill includes a Gabrielino/ Tongva collaboration. There's no better way to learn about the traditional ecological knowledge of this land than from the people that have had a relationship with the land for many generations. A collaborative course or course module could be developed in collaboration with tribal members and potentially co-taught by a member of the Gabrielino/Tongva community and a UCLA professor.

Appendices

- 1. Interview Questions and 2020 Practicum Survey Responses**
 - a. Faculty Interview Questions**
 - b. Senior Practicum 2019-2020 Survey Questions and Results**
- 2. Course Activity**
- 3. Database Hierarchy**
- 4. Website**
 - a. Sage Hill Website URL**
 - b. Welcome Page**
 - c. People Page**
 - d. Our Work Page**
 - e. News & Events Page**
 - f. Biodiversity Page**
 - g. Get Involved Page**

Bibliography

Appendix 1: Interview Questions and 2020 Practicum Survey Responses

a. Faculty Interview Questions

- How have you been involved with Sage Hill in the past?
- Faculty Teaching: during academic years 17-18, 18-19, 19-20
 - What courses have you taught there?
 - Course number and name
 - Quarter/Year
 - How many students were involved?
 - Assignments/projects?
 - Did everybody go? Or an optional site visit?
 - Willing to share copies of the assignments?
 - Any feedback from students?
 - Are you interested in teaching this class again?
 - What resources or support would you need or want?
 - What are some ideas for improving Sage Hill for teaching purposes?
- Faculty Research Mentor:
 - Have you mentored any students doing research at Sage Hill?
 - When?
 - How many students?
 - Project details?
 - Willing to share reports?
- Do you have data/images of Sage Hill?
 - Descriptions, when they're from
 - Willing to share?
- Best places to look for data related to Sage Hill?
- Who else should we reach out to for more information regarding Sage Hill?
- Are you interested in potentially being featured on the website for an interview?
- Do you have anything else you want to share?

b. Senior Practicum 2019-2020 Survey Questions and Results

Faculty Survey

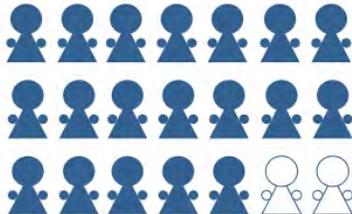


21 Faculty Representing

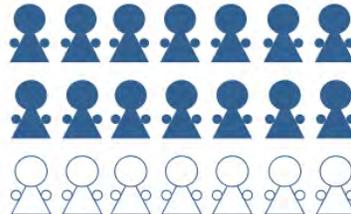
14 Departments

- American Indian Studies
- Anthropology
- Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
- Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Earth and Planetary Space Sciences
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- English
- Environment and Sustainability
- Geography
- Gender Studies
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Theater Film and Television

19 of 21 faculty interested in teaching undergraduate courses at Sage Hill



14 of 21 faculty interested in mentoring undergraduate research at Sage Hill



Top Resources Requested

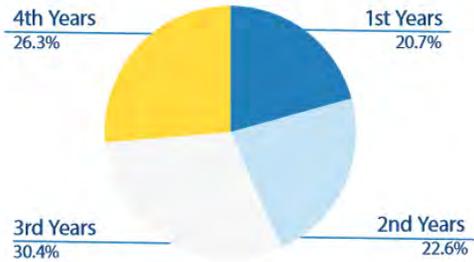
- Seating area
- Proper access and more formal route of entry
- Field equipment: measurement instruments, binoculars, and notebooks

Student Survey

217 undergraduates

representing **35** majors
and **26** minors ●●●

Grade Levels



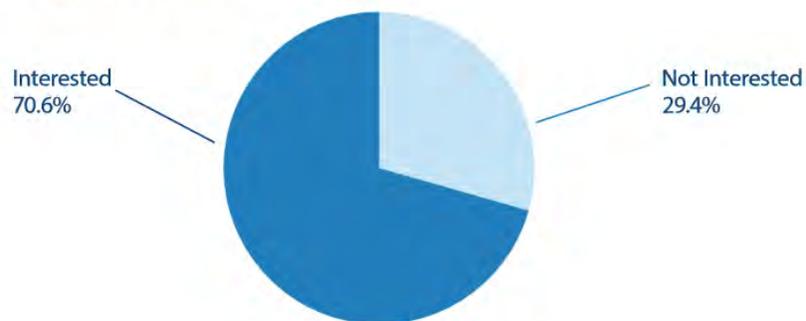
Research



Top Impediments to Conducting Research

Time Constraints	57.4%
Lack of Transportation to Field Sites	46.3%
Lack of Faculty Mentors	36.3%
Personal Financial Situation	28.1%

Undergraduate interest in conducting outdoor research



Student Survey



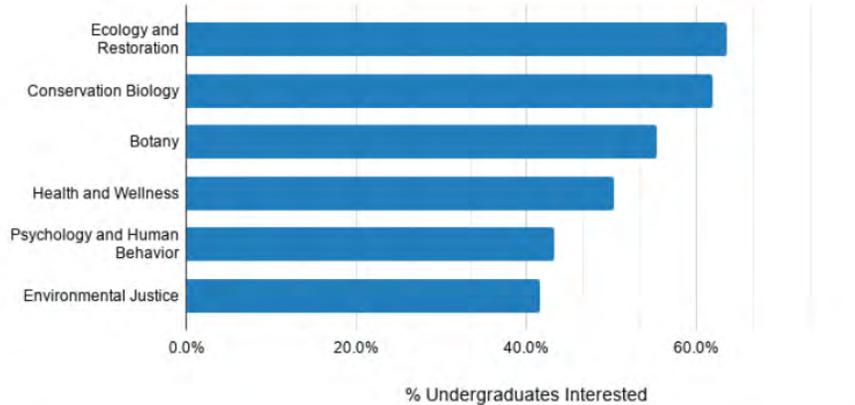
Courses



70.5% of undergraduates interested in taking courses at Sage Hill



Topics of Interest



Activities Students Currently Engage In at Sage Hill

- Enjoying nature
- Class activities
- Socializing with friends
- Student group activity
- Spending time alone



Appendix 2: Course Activity

Instructor	Unit	Course #	Course Title	Quarter	Year	# of Students	Notes
Ryan Harrigan	Environment	185B	Sustainability Action Research	Winter, Spring	2015	10	
Alison Lipman	Life Science	1	Evolution, Ecology, and Biodiversity	Fall	2016	350	Optional visit to site
Gregory Okin	Geography	M127	Soils and Environment	Winter	2016	35	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	18	Why Ecology Matters: Science Behind Environmental Issues	Fall	2017	85	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1A)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2017	17	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1B)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2017	18	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1C)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2017	18	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1D)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2017	18	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1E)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2017	18	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1F)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2017	18	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1G)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2017	18	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1H)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2017	18	
Chelsea Robinson	Geography	M117	Ecosystem Ecology	Fall	2017	35	
Chelsea Robinson	Geography	184	California	Summer	2017		
Mark Rosman	Film and Television	410A	Symposium	Fall	2017	26	10-11 on site
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary	18	Why Ecology Matters: Science	Fall	2018	77	

	Biology		Behind Environmental Issues				
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1A)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2018	18	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1B)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2018	16	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1C)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2018	15	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1D)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2018	17	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1E)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2018	17	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1F)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2018	12	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1G)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2018	17	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	100L (Section 1H)	Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory	Winter	2018	17	
Chelsea Robinson	Geography	5	People and the Earth's Ecosystems	Summer	2018		
Gregory Okin	Geography	M107	Soils and Water Conservation	Winter	2018	40	
Mark Rosman	Film and Television	410A	Symposium	Fall	2018	27	10-11 on site
Tom Gillespie	Geography	5	People and Earth's Ecosystems	Spring	2018	252	25-50 in each lab
Tom Gillespie	Geography	111	Forest Ecosystems	Fall	2018	250	25-50 in each lab
Tom Smith	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	114	Ornithology	Spring	2018	22	
Chelsea Robinson	Geography	1	Physical Geography	Summer	2019		
Chelsea Robinson	Geography	5	People and the Earth's Ecosystems	Summer	2019		
Chelsea Robinson	Geography	111	Forest Ecosystems	Fall	2019	42	
Chelsea	Geography	M117	Ecosystem Ecology	Fall	2019	28	

Robinson							
Chelsea Robinson	Geography	M131	Environmental Change	Summer	2019		
Gregory Okin	Geography	177	Field Methods in Physical Geography	Fall	2019	15	
Mark Rosman	Film and Television	410A	Symposium	Fall	2019	24	10-11 on site
Thomas Wake	Anthropology	119	Selected Topics in Archaeology	Winter	2019	48	
Thomas Wake	Anthropology	119	Selected Topics in Archaeology	Spring	2019	15	
Alison Lipman	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	18	Why Ecology Matters: Science Behind Environmental Issues	Fall	2020	54	
Kyle Cavanaugh	Geography	5	People and the Earth's Ecosystems	Spring	2020	40	
Mark Rosman	Film and Television	410A	Symposium	Fall	2020	24	10-11 on site
Thomas Wake	Anthropology	119	Selected Topics in Archaeology	Winter	2020	49	
Thomas Wake	Anthropology	119	Selected Topics in Archaeology	Fall	2020	65	
Brad Shaffer	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology		Herpetology	Spring	2021	(see inatura list)	species observations, upload to iNaturalist
Kyle Cavanaugh	Geography	117					
Maura Palacios	Environment		DNA Barcoding Project			63	

Appendix 3: Database Hierarchy

→ Shareable Data

- ◆ Sage Hill Handbook
- ◆ Miscellaneous Documents
- ◆ Data from Online Sources

→ Reports

- ◆ Specific to Sage Hill
- ◆ Not Specific to Sage Hill

→ Publications - Peer-reviewed Journal Articles, Chapters, Books

→ People

- ◆ Interviews (2021): Conducted by Sage Hill Practicum Team 2020 - 2021
- ◆ People Involved with Sage Hill

→ Internal UCLA Documents

- ◆ Proposals
- ◆ Legal Documents

→ Images

- ◆ UCLA DRAFT Master Sustainability Plan
- ◆ Travis Longcore Uploaded Images
- ◆ Thomas Wake Images
- ◆ Sage Hill Day Fall Quarter
- ◆ Sage Hill Day 2019

- ◆ Practicum Team Visit to Sage Hill April 16, 2021

- ◆ Sage Hill External Image Sources

→ Geospatial Data

- ◆ Specific to Sage Hill

- ◆ Not Specific to Sage Hill

→ Events

→ Courses

- ◆ Geography 123

- ◆ Geography 5

- ◆ Environmental Science Practicum 2019 - 2020 (Environ ABC)

- ◆ 410A Symposium with Mark Rosman

- ◆ Gillespie Student Websites

- ◆ Course Activity at Sage Hill

→ Communications

- ◆ Welcome Sign

- ◆ Sage Hill Websites

- ◆ Sage Hill Facebook Page

- ◆ Newspaper Features

- ◆ Digital Posters

Appendix 4: Website

a. Sage Hill Website URL

<https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/sagehill/>

b. Welcome Page

UCLA University of California
Environment & Sustainability

Sage Hill

HOME PEOPLE OUR WORK RESEARCH & EDUCATION ABOUT US



Land Acknowledgement

Sage Hill at UCLA acknowledges the Shoshone/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tongva (the Los Angeles basin) and Shoshone (Central Valley). As a land grant institution, we pay our respects to the Housatuck (Ancestors), Wotowah (Ancestors) and Wotowah (our ancestors) past, present and emerging.

LAND



Flora and fauna

Sage Hill, located in the northwest corner of campus, is 3.5 acres of native California habitat that is home to a high diversity of flora and fauna species — including 50 native higher plant species, 7 native mammal species, 17 butterfly species, and almost 50 resident and migratory bird species.



Outdoor learning space

Sage Hill serves as an outdoor learning space providing hands-on, meaningful teaching and undergraduate research opportunities for students on all levels. In the past, UCLA faculty have used Sage Hill as a site for instruction for courses in geobotany, evolutionary botany, conservation, and other topics. The landscape provides a teaching for student film projects. It is a frequent site for certified student and faculty-driven restoration projects.



Connections

We connect students and faculty to nature as a core experience of green space in the highly urbanized environment of UCLA. Sage Hill is also open to Indigenous groups for use and education. It is a place to learn about native flora and fauna, birds, ecosystems, and the role humans play in sustaining the space.

RESEARCH



Visit Sage Hill

If you are a UCLA student, student group, researcher, or faculty member interested in visiting Sage Hill or utilizing the space in your research, please get in touch.

GET INVOLVED

WORK PARTS



Sage Hill Spotlight: Ryan Harrigan

PROFESSOR RYAN HARRIGAN is an ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ASSISTANT at the UCLA Center for the Environment and Sustainability and an Assistant Professor for the Center for Tropical Research. (2019, PG)



Sage Hill Spotlight: Tom Gillespie

PROFESSOR TOM GILLESPIE is a part of the UCLA Department of Geography, is the chair for the Environmental Justice Network, and was the researcher for the SAN 2017 Sustainability Practitioner's Group.



Sage Hill Spotlight: Thomas Wake

PROFESSOR THOMAS WAKE is in the Department of Anthropology and is significantly involved with Sage Hill. He founded the same to protect Sage Hill nearly 10 years ago and provides...

OUR BILL OF MATERIALS

1331
Observations

291
Species

2374
Identifications

WATERBURY photo credit: Chelsea Zhang/Getty Images

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c. People Page

Sage Hill

[WELCOME](#) [PEOPLE](#) [OUR WORK](#) [NEWS & EVENTS](#) [BIODIVERSITY](#) [GET INVOLVED](#)

Oversight Committee



Cully Nordby
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Institute of the Environment and
Sustainability



Mishuana Goeman
Associate Professor
Gender Studies



Stephanie Pincetl, PhD
Chair, Environmental Science and
Engineering; Founding Director and
Professor
California Center for Sustainable
Communities at UCLA



Nurit Katz
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UCLA



Peter Hendrickson
Associate Vice Chancellor
Design and Construction, UCLA Capital
Programs



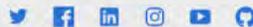
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d. Our Work Page

Sage Hill

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2021

Sage Hill – learning from the past, preparing for the future

Hidden between Hitch Suites and Sunset Boulevard on UCLA's campus are four acres of land home to the highest diversity of native California flora and fauna species in west Los...



2020

Creating an outdoor laboratory for teaching and undergraduate research at UCLA

Native flora and fauna have become an increasingly rare sight within heavily urban communities. In cities, both flora and fauna communities frequently show drastically altered species composition, abundance, and richness...



2018

Assessment and Revitalization of the Boneyard at Sage Hill for Mixed Use Purposes

The Boneyard at Sage Hill The Urban Nature Laboratory team will be focusing on three main objectives this year. Firstly, we will be conducting research and reaching out to other institutions and facilities...



2017

Biodiversity Restoration: Giving Sage Hill a Physical, Educational, and Digital Presence

Sage Hill, a biodiversity hotspot home to many California native plants, has huge potential to serve as an educational and recreational spot for the UCLA community, as well as a...



2016

Biodiversity at Sage Hill

2016's Biodiversity Action Research Team conducted research at Sage Hill on the UCLA campus. The team studied proof of concept for best methods of restoration. The project looked into the...

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e. News & Events Page

UCLA Institute of the Environment & Sustainability Q ☰

Sage Hill

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NEWSROOM

STUDENT BLOG
5.14.2021

Sage Hill Spotlight: Thomas Wake

Professor Thomas Wake is in the Department of Anthropology and is significantly involved with Sage Hill. He sounded the alarm to protect Sage Hill nearly 15 years ago and promotes...



STUDENT BLOG
5.14.2021

Sage Hill Spotlight: Tom Gillespie

Professor Gillespie is a part of the UCLA Department of Geography, is the advisor for the Environmental Student Network, and was the stakeholder for the SAR 2017 Biodiversity Restoration. Giving...

STUDENT BLOG
5.22.2017

Daily Bruin: Task force should expand student access to Sage Hill

Originally published by Emily Merz in the Daily Bruin Sage Hill is located off Bellagio Drive by the Krieger Center. The four-acre space is covered with rolling hills of small...



STUDENT BLOG
5.1.2017

Planting Awareness at Sage Hill

Spring 2017 - Week 4: Biodiversity



HEADLINE
4.25.2017

Daily Bruin: Sage Hill offers views of blooming California native plants, ecosystem

Originally published by Nate Nickolai in the Daily Bruin Students don't need to drive for hours to find a California superbloom - UCLA has one in its own backyard. Located...



STUDENT BLOG
3.3.2017

Sage Hill gets a Sign and 70 new native plants!

Winter 2017 - Week 8: Biodiversity



1 2 »

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g. Get Involved Page

UCLA Institute for Environment & Sustainability

Sage Hill

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How to visit Sage Hill

Thank you for your interest in Sage Hill! By filling out this form you are helping the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability coordinate use of the area and improve our understanding of how we can best encourage and support hands-on teaching activities and undergraduate research at Sage Hill.

[UCLA SAGE HILL: REQUEST FOR ACCESS](#)



PHOTO: CHRIS PAUL KANE

Map to Sage Hill at UCLA



Map of Sage Hill at UCLA. [Download PDF](#)

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