Over the course of a student’s first year at Humboldt, they are immersed in a tight-knit group of students who share their interests and curiosity for the world. Exploring a specific theme through multidisciplinary courses, making connections, and gaining a sense of belonging are at the heart of Humboldt’s year-long freshmen learning communities.

**Why Place-Based Learning Communities?**

**Classes That Count.** Take the guesswork out of registration and enroll in courses with other students in the program that satisfy major and general education (GE) requirements, and set you on an efficient path towards graduation.

**Instant Connections.** Join a community of first-year students who are engaged and excited about studying the same things as you.

**Hands-on Learning.** Gain practical experience through field trips, projects, community service, and research connected to your program theme.

**Support Network From Day One.** Work closely with professors, peer mentors, Cal Poly Humboldt staff, and community professionals who will help you grow academically and personally.

**Transition Curriculum.** Take a course that covers college basics (such as campus resources and study habits), explore professional options, and connect to opportunities to gain experience.

**Optional Themed Housing.** Have the opportunity to live with other students in the program! It’s a great way to meet people and make friends.

**Humboldt Immersion.** Begin your semester exploring the environment and cultures of Humboldt County through hands-on field trips and activities that connect you to your major and interests.

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**Office for Place-Based Learning Communities**

humboldt.edu/pblc  pblc@humboldt.edu  (707) 826-5946
Our Place-Based Learning Communities

Among Giants
Students explore the biodiversity of coastal redwood forests and prairies—sampling microbes, identifying plants, and detecting cryptic mammals—and learn how the Wiyot and Yurok tribes have interacted with these species and ecosystems since time immemorial.

Majors: Biology, Botany, Zoology

Baduwa’t to Bay
Students are introduced to engineering design within the Baduwa’t (Mad River) Watershed. Students explore water quality, river restoration, renewable energy and other local design solutions addressing global issues.

Majors: Energy Systems Engineering, Environmental Resources Engineering, Mechanical Engineering

Creando Raíces
Join Cal Poly Humboldt’s movement for Ethnic Studies! Students will learn ways to bring issues from their classes into every aspect of the real world. Each course builds and expands upon what you already know and believe—your roots—while deepening your appreciation and awareness of justice, liberation, and gain career development opportunities along the way!

Majors: Kinesiology, Social Work, Psychology

Creative Coast
Students are introduced to art resources on campus and in the wider Humboldt community including public art, galleries, museums and local arts non–profits through field trips and hands–on learning opportunities. Students are offered priority enrollment in studio art and art history classes.

Majors: Art Education, Art History, Studio Art

Educators for Social Justice
Students will discover how learning about issues of education and social justice today, can shape our futures tomorrow. All of our handpicked instructors believe in the same goal: making the schooling experience equitable and empowering for all students. Learn from amazing educators who want to support you in becoming one and gain career development opportunities along the way!

Majors: Liberal Studies Elementary Education, Child Development

Global Humboldt
Global Humboldt is for any first year students who are still figuring out what their major will be. This “globally” themed learning community offers you an interdisciplinary introduction to that world.

Majors: Undeclared

Green to Gold
Create relationships in a cohort environment focused on the global green revolution that seeks to balance the needs of people, planet, and profits. Embark on an exciting adventure with your classmates to create a more sustainable future and gain career development opportunities along the way.

Majors: Business

Klamath Connection
Students explore environmental and social justice issues associated with the region, including conflicts over water rights, natural resource conservation, and issues affecting Yurok and Karuk communities.


Representing Realities
Students explore a variety of concepts to help to understand and represent the world around us and all of our different realities—and to use these to better solve problems.

Majors: Computer Science, Data Science, Geospatial Information Science & Technology, Mathematics, Software Engineering

Rising Tides
Students will compare both the cultures and marine life in Humboldt & Trinidad Bays! These two marine environments allow students to explore how the Wiyot Tribe and Trinidad Rancheria have interacted with these ecosystems alongside social and environmental policy in both areas.

Majors: Marine Biology, Oceanography

Stars to Rocks
Students explore the interdisciplinary nature of their majors, and how they can not become an expert in one without understanding the others. Physics describes the forces acting in our universe, shaping the chemical reactions that form the geological matter of our planet.

Majors: Chemistry, Geology, Physical Science, Physics & Astronomy

Students for Violence Prevention
Students for Violence Prevention is a themed learning community for incoming first–year students who want to create a culture of non–violence. It is for students who want to be part of a small community of other first–year students who take classes together, explore shared interests, and participate in service, activism and culture change.

Application based, interested first year students are encouraged to apply