

Student Organization Name: The Compass Project
Date First Prepared: July 8, 2018
Date Amended: July 10, 2025

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be *The Compass Project*. It will also be known as *Compass*.

Article II - Purpose

The primary goal of the Compass Project is the improvement of the student experience in the physical sciences at UC Berkeley through peer-to-peer or near-peer interactions, especially for students who are typically underrepresented in the physical sciences. We also aim to increase the retention of underrepresented students by fostering a strong sense of community and belonging, and to provide our participants with opportunities for professional development. We believe that a person's academic achievement should be bound solely by the horizon of their intellectual curiosity, and that the breadth of innovation of people from all backgrounds is essential to the vitality of the physical sciences. Guided by these beliefs, the Compass Project seeks to nurture a community-focused environment that will empower students, particularly students from underrepresented backgrounds, to succeed in pursuing their scientific interests and contribute uniquely to the physical sciences community.

The objectives of The Compass Project shall be to:

1. Build a stronger sense of community and belonging among MPS undergraduates and graduates through initiatives;
2. Encourage leadership in undergraduate and new graduate students;
3. Increase and improve the health, diversity and professional preparedness of students in the physical sciences at Berkeley;
4. Offer opportunities for graduate students and postdocs to transcend routine lecturing and develop a more sophisticated approach to teaching and mentoring;
5. Promote public interest, as well as graduate and undergraduate interaction, in the physical sciences.

Article III - Membership

Any student, faculty, staff, or other researcher at UC Berkeley and LBNL who is interested in the physical sciences may become a member of Compass at no cost. Only currently registered students, faculty, staff, and other researchers at UC Berkeley and LBNL may be active members in the Compass Project. An active member is defined in Article IV. Only active members may vote or hold leadership positions. Alumni are eligible to obtain a non-active member status. Off-campus participants may obtain an associate member status.

We will not haze according to California State Law.

We will not restrict membership based upon race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions

related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (including membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services).

Article IV - Participation, Leadership, and Voting

Compass runs primarily through volunteer-based programming and anyone is welcome to join the Compass Project.

Compass Participants are anyone who is currently partaking in our programming.

Active Compass Members are those who attend and actively participate in at least two leadership meetings in each semester and/or partake in regular committee responsibilities.

Committee Leaders are active Compass members who take on running and delegating programming responsibilities.

Committee leaders are selected every semester based on a consensus decision. The leadership selection process will occur as needed each semester in which *active members* may volunteer themselves to be in charge of a committee for a semester. Through general consensus, the *active members* present will approve or deny the request. Active members who wish to vote, but are unable to attend the meeting can cast their votes electronically via Slack or email to one of the members present at the meeting. Each committee must have a leader before the start of the semester. In the event that a leader must withdraw their position due to any reason, it is that leader's responsibility to delegate their responsibilities to other active Compass members.

Leaders are expected to:

1. Fulfill all duties assigned to them.
2. Attend a majority of meetings, and provide updates about their committee's tasks. If unable to attend, they will delegate the update to an active Compass member.
3. Find a replacement for their position if at any time they are no longer able to fulfill their duties.

If required, leaders are also signatories for the organization.

Committees can be formed or dissolved through general consensus. These committees could include but are not limited to:

1. Participant Recruitment
2. Member Recruitment
3. Finances
4. Website/Social Media
5. Compass Lectures
6. Mentorship Program
7. Study Hall
8. Access Fellows (see end of Article IV)

Article V - Meetings

The Compass Project will meet weekly, or at a frequency as determined by the leaders, at a time and date to be determined each semester through general consensus of active members. Quorum for any meeting of Compass shall be 2 active members. Emergency meetings may be called by any member or on a basis of general consensus. Compass committee meetings can be organized independent of weekly Compass meetings.

Members in attendance may volunteer for one or more of the following roles, decided by the members in attendance at the previous meeting:

1. Facilitator: The facilitator has the role of leading the meeting. They are responsible for a) structuring the discussion, b) ensuring that all agenda items are addressed, and c) initiating votes on proposals.
2. Lead note-taker: The lead note-taker is responsible for taking notes in the running meetings notes document during the meeting. Other members are free to modify the notes, as long as it does not interfere with the lead note-taker's responsibilities.
3. Note preparer: The note preparer is responsible for creating and organizing a notes template prior to the meeting.
4. Meeting reminder: The meeting reminder is responsible for sending out an email reminder before 7:00 PM day prior to the meeting, advertising on Slack, and updating the Compass calendar for the meeting.
5. Updater: The updater is responsible for summarizing the weekly meeting in the dedicated Slack channel for those who were unable to attend.
6. Attendees at large: Other attendees of the meeting are responsible for setting up an agenda before the meeting is held and ensuring that open action items at the end of a meeting are assigned.
7. Committee leaders: For each project/event there should be at least one leader responsible for making sure that particular committee meets and provides updates during the meeting if applicable.

Article VI - Finances

If any proposed Compass expenditure exceeds the amount of \$500.00, the proposed expenditure should be discussed during a meeting and receive a vote of approval by consensus. Voters do not need to be present to vote, but they must contact the proposer before the meeting for their vote to count. Expenditures below \$500.00 can be approved by the finance committee officer. Any budgetary changes must also be agreed upon by consensus and approved by the finance committee officer.

Active Compass Members may receive compensation for their club-related work on a yearly basis as funds are available. This should be agreed upon by consensus and handled by the finance committee officer.

Article VII - Constitutional Amendments

Any active Compass member may propose a constitutional amendment at a regular meeting by adding it to the agenda the week prior. Once proposed at the meeting, active members will vote on it at the next meeting. Active members will be notified through Slack update before the meeting that the vote takes place. All amendments will need agreement by consensus from active members to pass. Members do not need to be present to vote, but they must contact the proposer before the meeting for their vote to count. To ratify the amendment, all members will have a period of time of at least one week from the amendment agreement by consensus to disapprove. If no disagreements are raised, then the amendment shall pass after the predetermined deadline.

Article VIII - Dissolution

Dissolution of Compass will need to be proposed by an active member at a regular meeting. 100% attendance and unanimous consensus by all active members is required to approve of the dissolution of Compass. Upon dissolution, unspent funds will be returned to their sources in the Physics, Astronomy, and EPS departments, respectively. If the organization is defunct for five (5) or more years, any privately obtained funds (including any funds left in miscellaneous accounts) shall be donated to the following nonprofit organization: Access Network (<https://accessnetwork.org/>).

In the event that the designated nonprofit organization no longer exists or has ceased to be a nonprofit, then the unspent funds shall be donated to the ASUC.