To sign up for PICA:

Apply online at studenthousing.ucsc.edu for housing at The Village.

On the application, mark that you "Strongly Prefer" involvement in PICA.

Tell us more about your interest in the PICA themed housing option in the additional comments section of the application.

For more information contact:
Bee Vadakan, PICA Program Manager
vvadakan@ucsc.edu

Visit the official PICA website at ucscpica.org

The Program in Community and Agroecology
The Program in Community and Agroecology (PICA) began in the fall of 2002. PICA is a living/learning program located at The Village in the Lower Quarry. PICA students address issues of sustainability through a hands-on residential living experience, turning an old rock quarry into a sustainable garden. PICA students grow organic food together, implement ecological landscaping projects around their housing units, and direct a Village wide composting program. Through PICA, students from a variety of majors have the opportunity to study agroecology and apply their academic knowledge to everyday practices within their community.

**Sustainable Living and Learning**

PICA’s primary academic mission is to engage students with sustainability through practical experience and the sharing of community based knowledge. At PICA we encourage creative thinking, independent learning, and community involvement. We hope to give students the opportunity to engage critically with issues of environmental quality and social justice through connections with their food system. By starting with an understanding of local communities, we hope to empower students to bring about social change on a global level. We invite motivated people who are excited about participating and collaborating on building a sustainable, intentional community to join us!

"We don’t accomplish anything in this world alone...and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one’s life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.”  
-Sandra Day O’Connor

**An Intentional Community**

By joining the PICA residential community in The Village, students choose to consciously and purposefully work towards sustainability with a group of people who share similar ideals. There is an intention that is connected to cooperative living, where each member of the group shares and contributes to building community.

At PICA, residents are expected to engage with their community through some of the following activities:

- Participate in hands-on learning about community and agroecology through the PICA Seminar (ENVS 91/191F)
- Join Saturday work days at the Foundational Roots Garden—an organic garden dedicated to learning and sustainable food production
- Cook and share in community meals with food from the garden and local farmers markets
- Apply for local internships or international exchanges in agricultural communities
- Collaborate on projects with other organizations to implement sustainable practices on campus

**PICA residents live on-campus at The Village in the B-Quad:**

- Nine single rooms, three bathrooms and a shared kitchenette in each building
- Large community kitchen with extensive facilities
- Paid leadership positions within the community to offset university housing costs
- Located near UCSC’s internationally renowned organic farm and the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems

**PICA students share their thoughts:**

“PICA provides an atmosphere for each individual to explore that which they feel passionate about…”

“PICA seeks to help harmonize the Village with the delicate ecosystem of which it is a part. We want to grow as much of our own food as possible and create a viable, creative, conscious eco-community on campus.”

“PICA involves so many different people with so many different ideas...there is an abundance of knowledge surrounding us...about plants, animals, food, self, relationships, general well being and health.”