Dean’s Office Special Initiatives
Awasthi Initiative for Cooperative Economics

Housed in the Blum Center for the study of Poverty, Inequality and Democracy this Initiative will support the study of Cooperative Economics, addressing such questions as: How are cooperative economic enterprises constituted and sustained? What are their impacts on society, nationally and globally? To what extent, in what ways, and under what conditions do they contribute to increased economic welfare and equity for participants and their communities?

The Initiative will provide funds in support of research activities of both honors-level undergraduates and graduate students. Undergraduate funding will be awarded on a competitive basis, for applicants planning to carry out honors thesis research on topic related to cooperative economics. Funding for graduate students will support pre-dissertation research on cooperative economics toward the preparation of their doctoral research proposals. In exceptional cases, these funds may also support dissertation research. These funds could be made available to faculty members, in support of research on cooperative economics that draws directly on the participation of undergraduate and graduate students. Finally, initiative funding will support the organization of an annual one-day symposium, organized by the students, intended to highlight their research results and to educate the university community on broader issues related to cooperative economics.

socialsciences.ucsb.edu