

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

FROM BOBCATS TO CHANGEMAKERS

New Student Orientation – Fall 2026



Community
Engagement
Center



<https://cec.ucmerced.edu>



KL 190





WELCOME BOBCATS!



Community
Engagement
Center

Andrea Tafolla
Associate Director

Melina Ramirez
Long-term Service Student Coordinator

Pricilla Cardenas
Coordinator

RAISE YOUR HAND IF...

You are from the Central Valley
You are from Northern California
You are from Southern California
You are from a different state
You are from a different country
You are a First-year student
You are a Transfer student



OUR MISSION

The Community Engagement Center brings together UC Merced students, staff, faculty, and Merced community members, agencies, and organizations to create and develop reciprocal partnerships that generate student learning, build capacity, and solve problems through service, scholarship, and leadership. These actions contribute to building a healthy and sustainable community (local to global) and creating positive change.



OBJECTIVES

OUR GOALS

FACILITATE equitable, effective, and reciprocal partnerships and opportunities for students, faculty, and community partners in educational and co-curricular service and research experiences.

PROVIDE opportunities to, and facilitate connections between, campus and community entities.

SUPPORT positive community engagement outcomes through educational workshops, trainings, and program implementation.



HIDDEN CURRICULUM

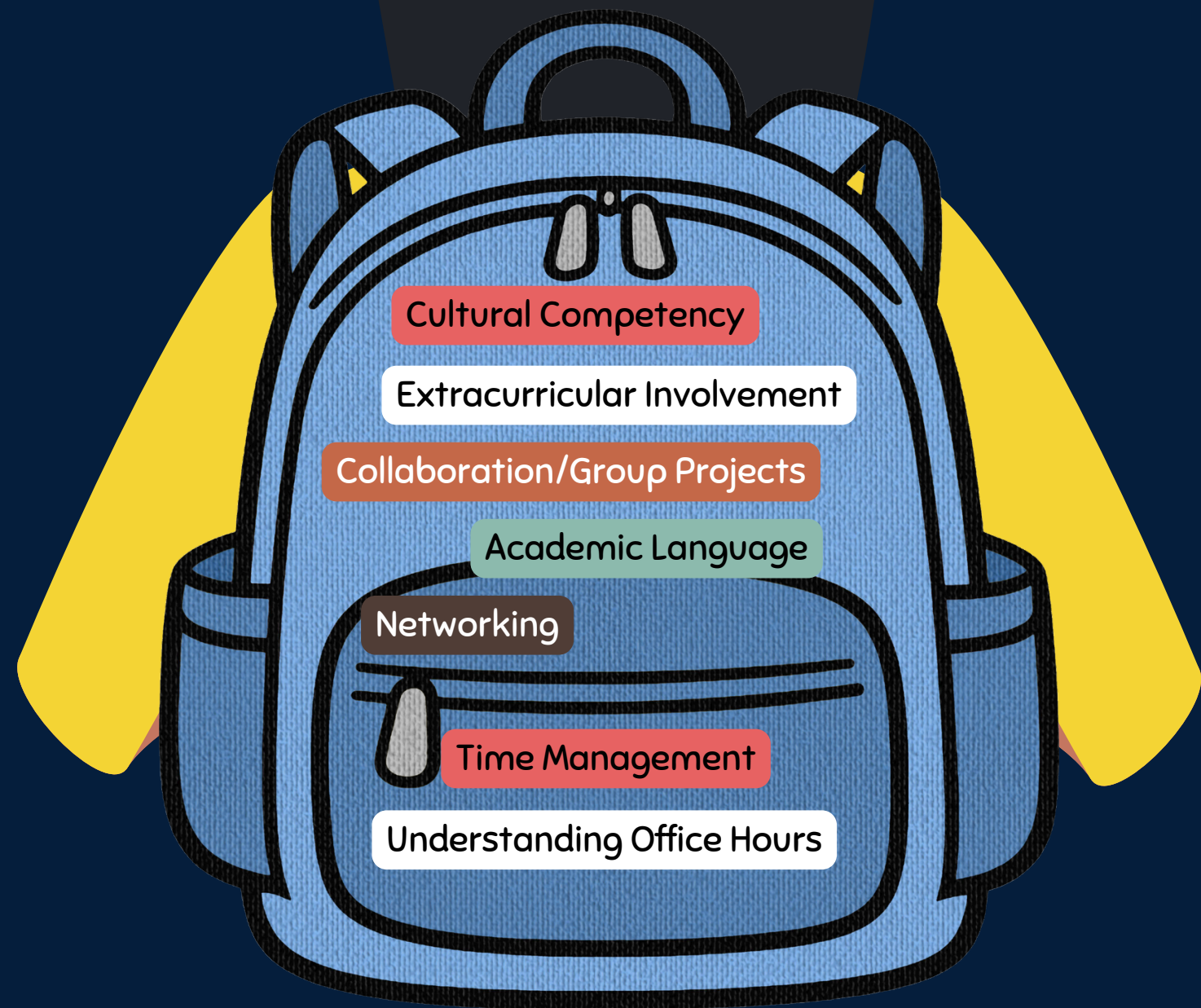
The hidden curriculum is what students learn from the school environment, rules, and interactions, rather than from textbooks or formal lessons.

Math Lessons

Science Concepts

Theories

Test and Quiz Content



VOLUNTEER LEARNING OUTCOMES

Civic Responsibility

Consciousness of Self

Academic Success

What is Experiential Learning?





SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

One-time Service Opportunities (recurring events)

- USDA Food Distribution
- Campus Garden
- Park Clean-up
- Care Card-making Workshops

Long-term Service Opportunities (semester/year commitment)

- Mentorships
 - LWYL & BYBF
- Tutoring
 - Bright Spark Scholars, MCOE, etc
- College Corps
- Senior Care

SERVICE ACTIVITY

TIE BLANKETS FOR FOSTER TEENS

Population Serving: Foster Teens

Importance: Foster teens often face instability, long stays in care, and challenges related to finding permanent family support.

*368,000 children in foster care
on any given day (U.S.)*

*There was a record high of
690,000 spent time in foster
care in 2017*

*1/3 stayed longer than 2 years
(~68,000 youth) despite 1-year
permanency goal*

Key Insight

Many children remain in foster care far beyond the one-year permanency goal, creating instability that increases the risk of aging out without family support and facing challenges such as homelessness, disrupted education, and limited opportunities

*Information gathered by UC Merced Guardian Scholars
For resources please contact guardianscholars@ucmerced.edu*

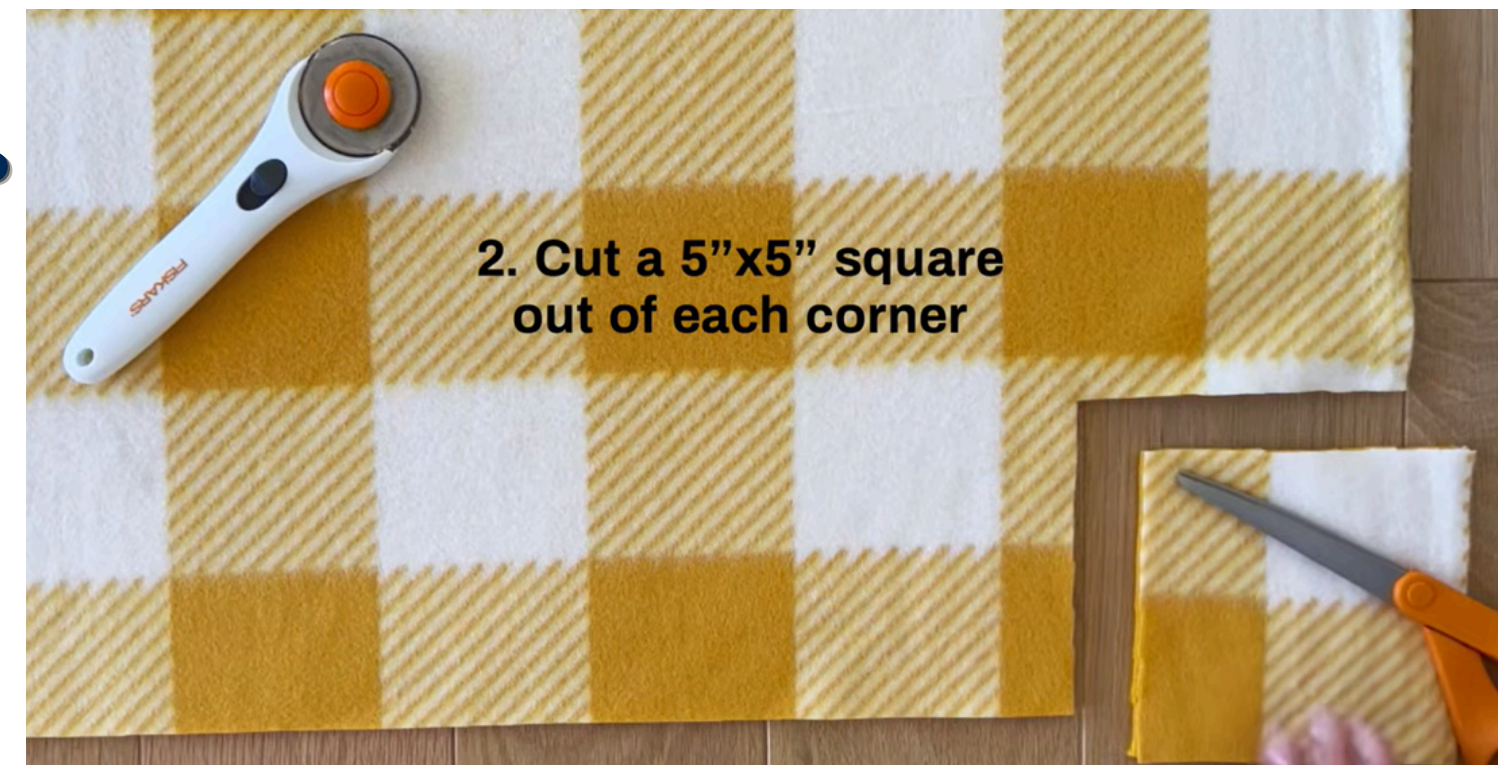
TIE BLANKETS

In groups of 3-5 people you will be working on a tie blanket together.

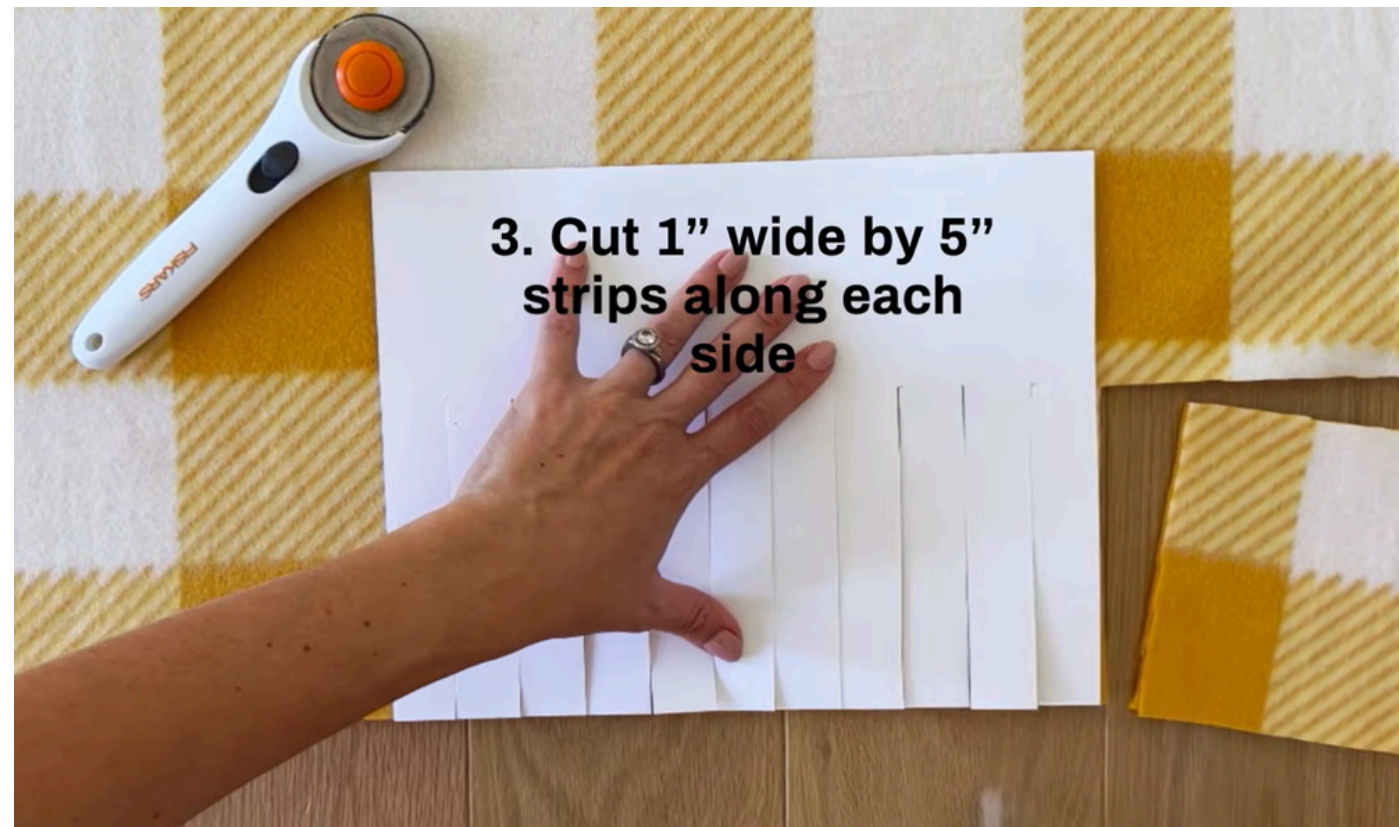
1.



2.



3.



4.



CatLife

Catlife is UC Merced's official online student involvement platform!

- Browse student events
- Join clubs/organizations
- Fraternities & Sororities
- Promote club recruitment & activities
- REGISTER YOUR SERVICE HOURS

CatLife Presence Portal Tutorial



SCAN HERE

CatLife Tutorial





Organizations Events Forms 

Coming Up



Wake Up Wednesday
11/04/2026 - 10:00 AM



Wake Up Wednesday
09/30/2026 - 10:00 AM



Wake Up Wednesday
09/23/2026 - 10:00 AM



Wake Up Wednesday
10/07/2026 - 10:00 AM



Welcome to CatLife!

Have questions about CatLife? Please review the Office of Student Involvement's CatLife "How-To" Website.
Office of Student Involvement Monthly Newsletter

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to clubsandorgs@ucmerced.edu or studentinvolvement@ucmerced.edu.

Featured Organizations

Get involved in student organizations on campus.

[See More](#) [CREATE ORGANIZATION](#)



12:10   







Welcome to CatLife!

Have questions about CatLife? Please review the Office of Student Involvement's CatLife "How-To" Website.
Office of Student Involvement Monthly Newsletter

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to clubsandorgs@ucmerced.edu or studentinvolvement@ucmerced.edu.

Featured Organizations

Get involved in student organizations on campus.

[See More](#) [CREATE ORGANIZATION](#)



Grad Nomads



Sikh Student Association



Anthropology Society



Lao Arts, Culture, and Herit...

ucmerced.presence.io

CatLife Tutorial

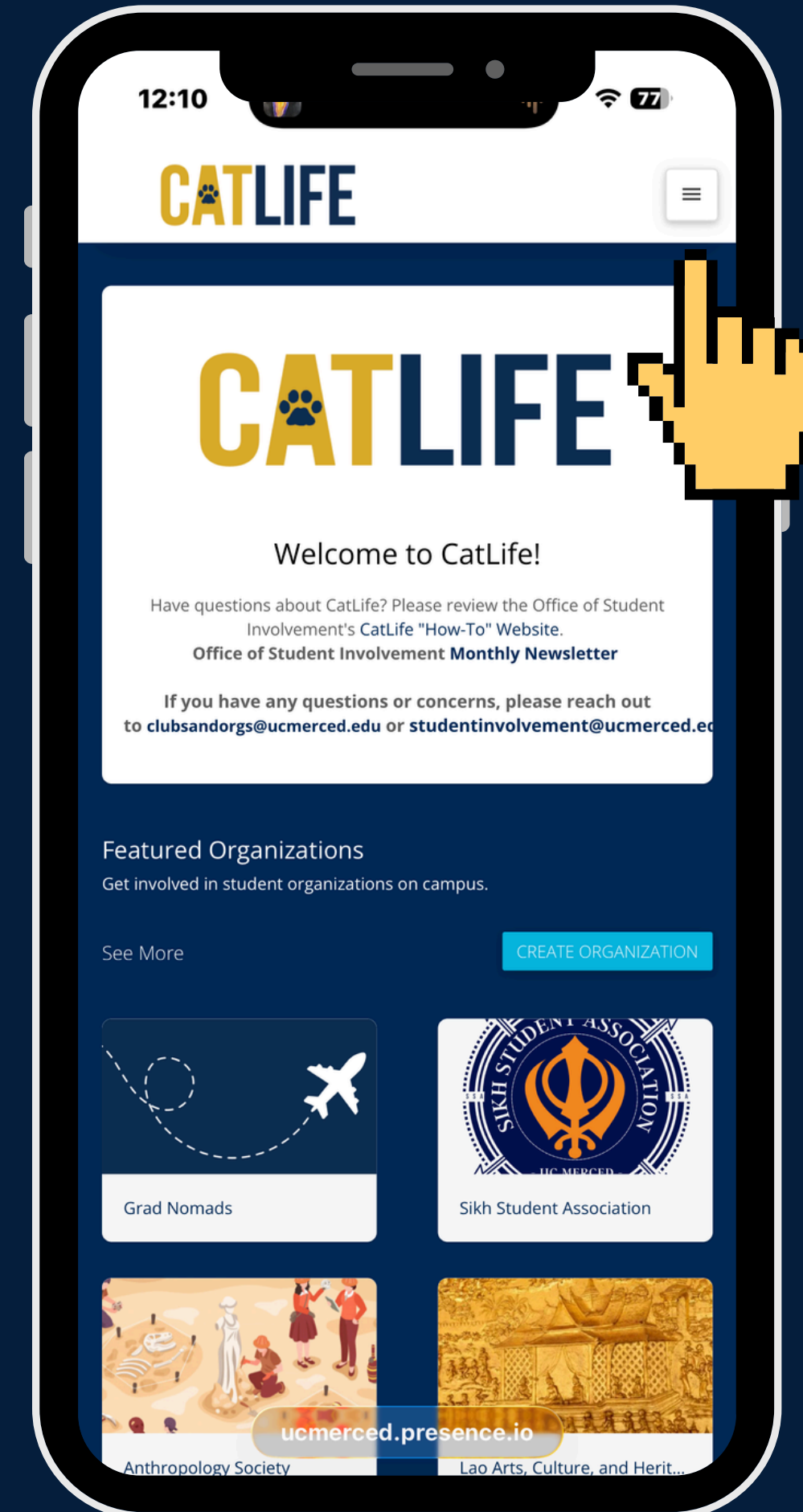
Log in with your UC Merced Portal
Username & Password

Example:

User: rufusbobcat

Pass: merceds#1cat

*May ask you to verify through **DUO**
application



CatLife Tutorial

Navigate to the three-lined tab in the top, right corner

- **CLICK ON THE FORMS TAB**



CatLife Tutorial

Select Apply for Opportunity

- Fill out the Apply for Opportunity Form

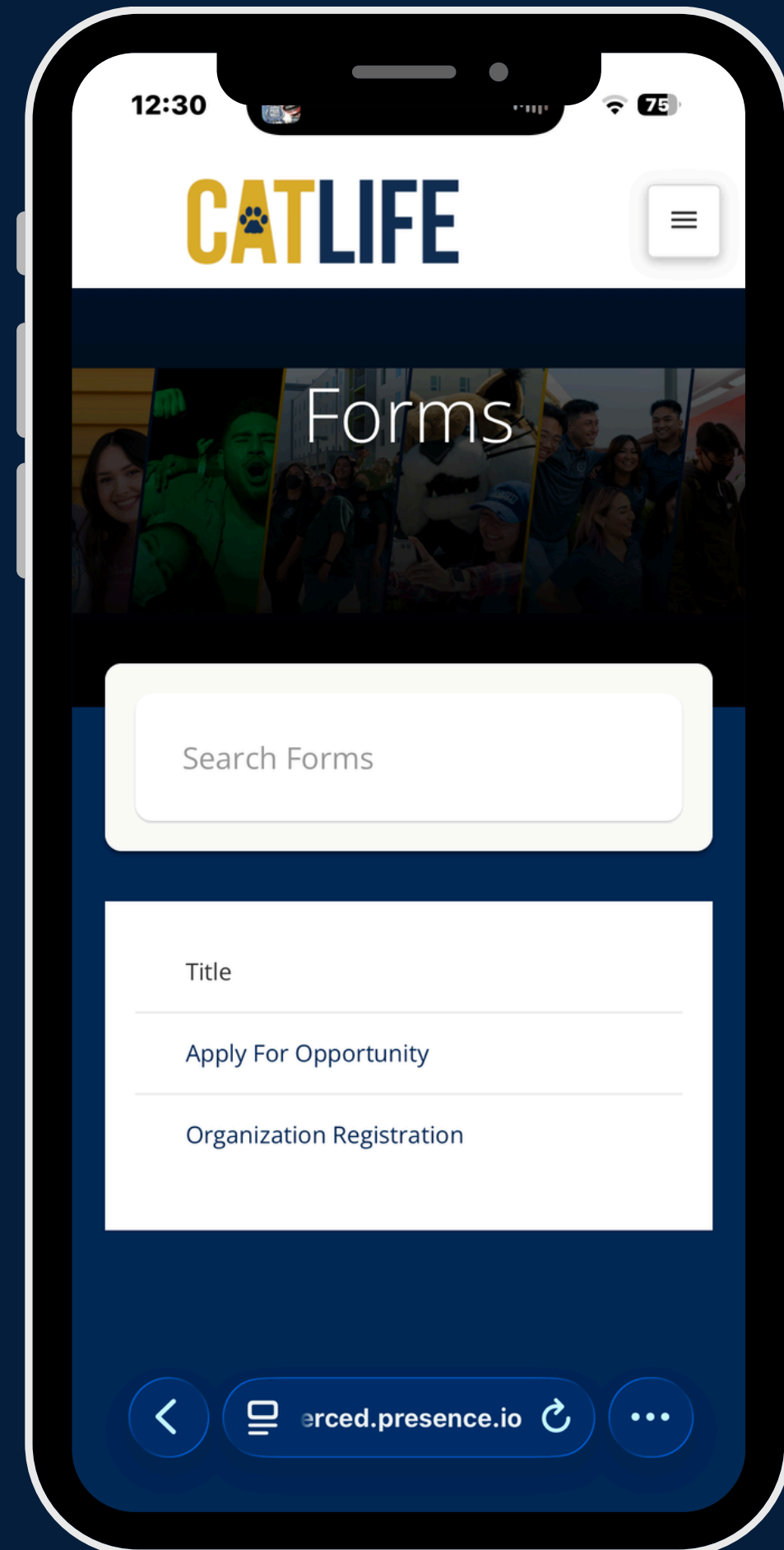
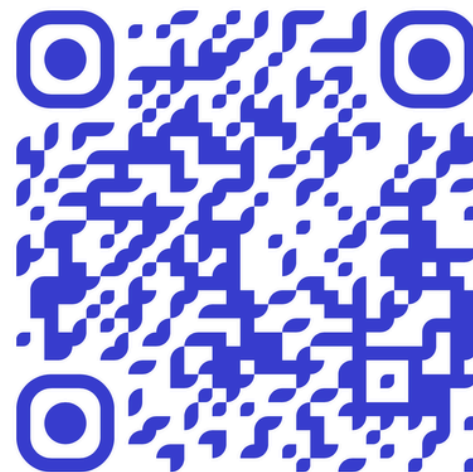
If you have any questions regarding completion of the form, visit our *Record Your Service Hours* page on our website!



<https://cec.ucmerced.edu>



Visit Website



Why Submit Service to Catlife?

Graduation Pin



To be eligible, one of these three criteria must be met:

- Participation in a long-term service project
- 30 approved Catlife hours of CEC events
- 30 approved Catlife hours of Service through UC Merced Clubs/Orgs

Public Service & Leadership Certificate

- Pathways to Public Service Assessment
- 80 approved DIRECT service hours through Catlife
- Receive a passing grade of “C” or above in a Community-engaged course
- A capstone project with the emphasis in community engagement



THANK YOU

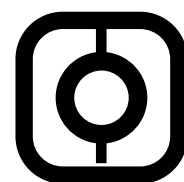
SEE YOU AROUND BOBCATS



cec.ucmerced.edu



communityservice@ucmerced.edu



[ucmerced.cec](https://www.instagram.com/ucmerced.cec)



KL 190