MAJOR IN THE HUMANITIES, ARTS AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Find your path in the humanities, arts and cultural studies.

At UC Davis, the Division of HUMANITIES, ARTS AND CULTURAL STUDIES houses 14 departments, eight programs and eight centers. There are many opportunities for students entering any of the 25 majors in the division.

THE DIVISION OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND CULTURAL STUDIES examines human cultures through the study of language, literatures, new media and the arts; the varieties of human affiliation and identity; and the practices of the creative arts. Attending to past, present and emergent cultural formations—interpreting culture to itself—becomes ever more important as global communication technologies, transnational political forces and environmental concerns reshape our knowledge both of ourselves and of others.

Studies in the humanities, arts and cultural studies includes the study of languages, learning not only the language itself but also its literature, history and culture. The arts explore both the making of art, broadly defined, and its history and theory, in a range of media and disciplines, including art studio and art history, design, music and theatre and dance. The program in Cinema and Technocultural Studies explores digital media and digital cultures in ways that bridge the arts, humanities, technology and the sciences.

The division is also home to departments and programs that foster interdisciplinary work in African American and African Studies, American Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicana/o Studies and Native American Studies, as well as in Women and Gender Studies and Religious Studies.
“My major prepared me to appreciate diverse viewpoints, think more critically and look at situations with an open mind. The excellent professors encouraged success and provided continued support.”

—Angelina Applegate, ’10
The Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies has many top-ranked departments and programs.

U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT RANKINGS
English: #26 (2013)
Fine Arts: #27 (2012)
Fine Arts: Ceramics: #12 (2012)
University Writing Program: #11 (2014)
as ranked by 1,500 universities

PAYSCALES
2014-15 college salary report has ranked UC Davis’ humanities majors as #3 in best schools by salary potential for humanities majors.
“My choice to study Italian has somehow touched every significant stage of my life. Connections that I made through the Italian department took me to work in Europe after graduation. When I applied to law school, my Italian professors wrote excellent letters of recommendation. I recently worked for a law firm in San Francisco because they needed to advise a client on insurance policies in Italian. It almost seems as if Italian has chosen me...continuing to open doors and taking me places that I never would have expected.”
—Eric Ortner, ’01
About the Languages and Literatures at UC Davis

LEARNING LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND CULTURES other than "one’s own" has become the key to a well-rounded education in which humanistic values and scientific knowledge complement and strengthen each other. A major in the languages and literatures allows you to acquire linguistic fluency and to experience the full range of cultural and historical expressions, from cinema to art, from music to food, from design to politics, among numerous interdisciplinary course topics that characterize our languages and literatures curricula. All of the majors represent a perfect complement to most other majors not only in the humanities and social sciences but also in engineering and in the natural and health sciences. You will have a unique learning experience on campus and abroad. Seminar-like classroom settings foster personalized mentoring, direct interaction with stellar faculty, and the development of critical, analytical, communicative, interpersonal, and cross-cultural skills that will be crucial to your future career in any professional setting. UC Davis prides itself on being the only UC campus offering faculty-led quarter abroad, summer abroad, seminar abroad and internship programs all over the world. (See page 14 for more details). A study of languages and literatures will open you to the world and the world to you.

MAJORS IN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Chinese
Classical Civilization
Comparative Literature
English
French
German
Italian
Japanese
Medieval and Early Modern Studies
Russian
Spanish
“I wanted to learn about my heritage and be able to speak to my grandparents. Since graduating, I have worked as a bilingual outreach specialist in the multi-lingual voter unit in Los Angeles ... the program at UC Davis prepared me for an exciting and varied career path.”
—Brandon Paris, ‘06
“The program at UC Davis offers hands-on opportunities for undergraduate students to work very closely with professionally accomplished theatre artists that make up the staff, faculty and visiting artists. The one-on-one mentorships with faculty allow every student to have a true voice in the department.”
—Micaela Cirimelli, ’15

About the Arts at UC Davis

A MAJOR IN THE ARTS prepares students to think and express themselves in new ways, providing tools for making and thinking, and helping students pursue creative and scholarly achievements in the broad range of visual and performing arts. The disciplines include art and art history; cinema and technocultural studies; design; music; and theatre and dance.

We cultivate innovation and creative thinking through rigorous training and collaboration across disciplines. We emphasize both conceptual thinking and technical skills in our classrooms. We believe making and thinking are integral parts of our creative mind and promote the synergy between academic research and creative projects.

Our faculty are leading artists and scholars in their fields, actively producing, exhibiting and performing their work nationally and globally. They share their experiences to the classroom and engage the students in the intimate environment of studio classes. We also bring nationally and internationally renowned artists and scholars to Davis. Each discipline offers rich visiting lecturer programs to connect students to the professional world of visual and performing arts outside campus.

MAJORS IN THE ARTS

Art History
Art Studio
Design
Film Studies
Music
Technocultural Studies
Theatre and Dance
About Cultural Studies at UC Davis

THE CULTURAL STUDIES at UC Davis includes several majors in which students learn to understand the world around us through the lens of the diversity of peoples whose perspectives, beliefs, and practices shape all of our daily experience on an increasingly global scale. Identities, communities, and differences pertaining to class, ethnicity, gender, nation, “race,” religion, sexuality, and other ways of knowing and being intersect and overlap in complex ways. We explore how and why identity, community, and difference matter in our world, and open up opportunities for constructive change.

Whatever career path you choose after graduating, having an understanding of the social, political, and cultural histories, struggles, and contributions of diverse groups of people can only enhance your ability to be more effective and to connect with the broadest range of constituents as possible. Cultural studies majors offer students a unique opportunity to study in an academically rigorous, interdisciplinary environment with world-renowned faculty. Many of our faculty members are on the cutting edge of research, producing new knowledge and ways of thinking about the groups they study. Their work contributes to the appreciation of how essential it is to the health of a democracy and relationships within the global community to have multiple narratives told from multiple perspectives.

One particularly exciting aspect of majoring in the cultural studies fields at UC Davis is the opportunity to extend the learning experience beyond the classroom, the campus, and even beyond the United States, through international travel in our education abroad program. These courses are taught by our faculty and include not only classroom instruction in a host institution abroad but also a full schedule of social and cultural activities. Students spend time getting to know the local people, food, customs, and just having a fun while earning units toward their degree.

MAJORS IN CULTURAL STUDIES

- African American and African Studies
- American Studies
- Asian American Studies
- Chicana/Chicano Studies
- Native American Studies
- Religious Studies
- Women’s Studies
“My degree has prepared me to work in diverse settings by exposing me to the different plights and perspectives of various ethnic groups globally and nationally. I will be able to educate people about their legal rights and advocate for underrepresented and oppressed members of our society.”
—Moriah Cenance, '14
“We solve real-world problems, learn how to make a difference in people’s lives, and are constantly challenged to be better in everything we do. We get to be creative and engage with the most passionate professors and peers.”
—Megan Reynolds, ’14
TRAVEL ABROAD Each year nearly 1,000 UC Davis students participate in programs offered through UC Davis Study Abroad. Programs led by UC Davis faculty range from Seminars Abroad (two weeks) to Summer Abroad (four weeks) to Summer Abroad Internships (five to eight weeks) to Quarter Abroad (10–16 weeks). Students may also participate in semester and year-long exchanges through the UC Education Abroad Program (UCEAP).

Study abroad programs serve students in virtually every major and, beyond traditional classroom learning, include internships, language learning, and lab and field work. Students on UC Davis faculty-led programs remain enrolled at UC Davis while abroad, taking UC Davis courses that satisfy major, minor and GE requirements. Students may also take their financial aid packages with them, as well as apply for scholarships and awards specifically for study abroad participants.

By far the most popular option for students are UC Davis faculty-led programs, and the faculty in the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies offer 22 Summer Abroad, seven Quarter Abroad, two Summer Abroad Internship, and two Seminars Abroad programs, spanning every continent and including four language programs. The smaller size programs (typically 12-30 students) is a great opportunity for undergraduates to work closely with faculty in their areas of expertise and, often, in their native countries.

Exciting new additions include a quarter abroad program on Arabic language and culture in Morocco, a summer abroad program on fashion marketing in Paris, and seminar abroad programs during winter break on live theatre in London and art in Rome.

There are many ways for you to learn more about study abroad—on the web at http://studyabroad.ucdavis.edu, in person with program advisors and a financial aid specialist at the Study Abroad office, at Summer Advising/ Freshman orientation sessions, Study Abroad Fairs in the fall and winter, program-specific info sessions, and more.
“My research gave me opportunities to travel to Scotland, England, and Sweden, and handle medieval documents that are over five hundred years old. With help from professors I experienced the magic of manuscript studies and the rigor of academic research.”
—Annika Cunningham, ’14
With 25 fields of study, the humanities, arts and cultural studies will give you a broad range of skills that will help you move into any future you choose for yourself.

The professional of the future must be prepared to enter an increasingly diverse work environment in a world that every day becomes more closely inter-connected and inter-dependent. Students in majors that are part of the humanities, arts and cultural studies at UC Davis have a unique opportunity to grow and learn more about themselves, even as they learn about others. They are also particularly well prepared to meet the demands of post-graduate education, work, and life in the world of today, and of tomorrow.

**COME GROW WITH US!**

**HOW TO DECLARE A MAJOR**

If you are still undecided when you arrive at UC Davis as to what major to select, you can declare your major in the humanities, arts or cultural studies anytime after your first quarter through the end of your sophomore year. Students are expected to declare by the time 90 units have been completed. When you declare, consult with a faculty advisor in the department or program; they can assist you in developing a program of study and file the petition to declare the major. You can also create your own individual major in the College of Letters and Science.
Majors

African American and African Studies
American Studies
Art History
Art Studio
Asian American Studies
Chicana/Chicano Studies
Chinese
Classical Civilization
Comparative Literature
Design
English
Film Studies
French

German
Italian
Japanese
Medieval and Early Modern Studies
Music
Native American Studies
Religious Studies
Russian
Spanish
Technocultural Studies
Theatre and Dance
Women and Gender Studies

“I loved the small class sizes and also the flexibility the major gave me to explore my own interests. The interdisciplinary approach has allowed me to learn different research methods and analytical approaches related to my research interests.”

—Aaron Munoz-Alvarado, ’14
MINORS
African American and African Studies
American Studies
Arab Studies
Art History
Art Studio
Chicana/Chicano Studies
Chinese (East Asian Languages and Cultures)
Classical Civilization (Classics)
Comparative Literature
Dramatic Art (Theatre and Dance)
East Asian Studies
English
Film Studies
French
German
Global and International Studies (Humanities)
Greek (Classics)
Human Rights (Religious Studies)
India and South Asia Studies
Iran and Persian Studies
Italian
Japanese (East Asian Languages and Cultures)
Jewish Studies (Humanities)
Latin (Classics)
Luso-Brazilian Studies (Spanish and Portuguese)
Medieval and Early Modern Studies
Middle East/South Asia Studies
Music
Native American Studies
Professional Writing (University Writing Program)
Religious Studies
Russian
Sexuality Studies
Social and Ethnic Relations (African American and African Studies, Asian American Studies, Native American Studies, Women and Gender Studies)
Spanish
Women and Gender Studies

“I am headed to the U.S. Navy flight school as a United States aviation officer. I am especially thankful for the religious studies department, which has equipped me to think critically within other fields as I continue my education.”
—Cassandra Olson, ’13
Minors in the Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

A minor in the humanities, arts and cultural studies can give you a well-rounded curriculum that will complement your other areas of study. You can develop skills outside your major, investigate potential career paths or simply indulge a personal interest. Minors consist of 18 to 24 units of upper-division coursework. Because a minor requires fewer courses to complete than a full major, you may even want to pursue more than one minor.
Where to go for help

UC Davis and the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies have many resources on hand to help guide you throughout your undergraduate career.

**DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM MAJOR ADVISORS**
The advisors who sit in your home department/program will work with you to determine your coursework and help you throughout the way. Look on your department’s/program’s website for information to make an appointment.

**COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION ADVISING**
The advisors in Undergraduate education can assist you as you navigate your career at UC Davis. Go to www.ls.ucdavis.edu/advising/ and make an online appointment, or look for hours when you can drop in.

Advising Hours:
M, Tu, Th, Fri: 9–12, 1–4
Tues. 10–12
Advising Hours:
M, Tu, Th, Fri: 9–12, 1–4
Tues. 10–12
“The friendly and helpful nature of both faculty and students creates an ideal learning environment. The brilliant and talented staff and small class sizes give students excellent circumstances in which to advance their skills as composers, performers and musicologists.”

—Devrey Cunningham, ’13
“We welcome you to explore our majors! Our goal is to foster your critical and creative thinking, making, questioning, and problem-solving skills. These are especially crucial in a rapidly changing world, which demands deeper understanding of human differences and connections. Our alumni thrive in a wide range of careers; we hope to include you among them in the future!”

—Susan Kaiser, Interim Dean, Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies