The College of Letters and Science

The College of Letters and Science lives and breathes its interdisciplinary mission each day, generating knowledge and creating new disciplines at the intersection of fundamental scholarship. Our faculty and students come together in exploring and connecting fields as diverse as the arts & stars, math & music, chemistry & cinema, economics & English.

Since 1951, the College of Letters and Science has provided the foundation for a truly unified and distinctive liberal arts education. The College of Letters and Science is the largest of the schools and colleges at UC Davis, the University of California’s most comprehensive campus. We offer courses and conduct research in the broadest array of disciplines, spanning more than 50 fields of study in the arts, humanities, cultural studies, social sciences, and the mathematical and physical sciences.

Our faculty mentor over 1,500 graduate students, in addition to teaching the core curriculum for virtually all the university’s undergraduates. We are proud that nearly half of all undergraduates at UC Davis graduate from one of our programs and that half of all UC Davis living alumni are our graduates.

Rankings

U.S. News & World Report Graduate Program Rankings*
Chemistry: 35 (2015)
Computer Science: 34 (2015)
Economics: 29 (2018)
English: 20 (2018)
Fine Arts: 27 (2018)
Fine Arts: Ceramics: 12 (2013)
Geology: 17 (2010)
History: 32 (2018)
History: U.S. Colonial History: 9 (2014)
Physics: 29 (2015)
Political Science: 17 (2018)
Political Science: Comparative Politics: 15 (2014)
Political Science: Political Methodology: 15 (2014)
Psychology: 26 (2018)
Sociology: 30 (2018)
Sociology: Sex & Gender: 10 (2014)
University Writing Program: ranked in top 11 in nation as ranked by 1,500 universities (2014)

*Years indicate the last time U.S. News and World Report ranked this discipline.

FACTS

founded 1951
814 faculty
12,200 undergraduate student majors
1,500+ graduate students
108,000 alumni
11 of the top 20 majors (by degrees conferred)
53 majors (of 104 at UC Davis)
$46.2M research awards (2015-16)
$17.2M total philanthropic dollars contributed (2016-17)

National Research Council (2010)
Anthropology: 7-21 out of 82
Economics: 29-44 out of 117
Spanish: 1-6 out of 60
Other rankings available at ls.ucdavis.edu.
College of Letters and Science

Departments
African American and African Studies
American Studies
Anthropology
Art and Art History
Asian American Studies
Chemistry
Chicana and Chicano Studies
Cinema and Digital Media
Communication
Comparative Literature
Design
Earth and Planetary Sciences
East Asian Languages and Cultures
Economics
English
French and Italian
German and Russian
History
Linguistics
Mathematics
Military Science
Music
Native American Studies
Philosophy
Physics
Political Science
Psychology
Religious Studies
Spanish and Portuguese
Sociology
Statistics
Theatre and Dance

Programs
Classics
Cognitive Science
Early Modern Studies
East Asian Studies
Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies
Humanities Program
Jewish Studies
Middle and Early Modern Studies
Middle East/South Asia Studies
Physical Education
Science and Technology Studies
University Writing Program

Institutes
Institute for Social Sciences
UC Davis Humanities Institute

Museums
C.N. Gorman Museum and Collection
Design Museum and Collection

Education Outreach
California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science (COSMOS)
Mathematics and Science Teaching Program (MAST)
Mentorship for Undergraduate Research Participants in the Physical and Mathematical Sciences (MURPPS)

Centers and Labs
Bodega Marine Laboratory
California Lighting Technology Center
Center for Mind and Brain
Center for Poverty Research
Center for Quantum Mathematics and Physics (QMAP)
Center for Science and Innovation Studies
Center for Transnational Health
Complexity Science Center
Crocker Nuclear Lab
Davis Language Center
Energy for the Future
Hemispheric Institute on the Americas
John Muir Institute of the Environment
ModLab
Nanomaterials in the Environment, Agriculture, and Technology (NEAT)
Native American Language Center
Taller Arte del Nuevo Amanecer (TANA)
UC Center Sacramento
Universe @ UC Davis