FIND YOUR FUTURE
at the College of Letters and Science
The College of Letters and Science at UC Davis is made up of three divisions, encompassing the broadest offering of disciplines and paths of study at UC Davis:

- Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies
- Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences
- Division of Social Sciences

With a focus on fundamental education, the college will provide you with the necessary skills in critical analysis to move into any future career path. Undergraduate students can choose from a wide variety of majors and minors. Unique research opportunities are also available. With many options to choose from and a rigorous education in the fundamentals, critical analysis and cultural competency, every undergraduate student can create his or her unique future.
Finding Your Future

Declaring a major is a big step towards focusing your education. Your major (or majors) will reflect your area of intellectual interest, though not necessarily your choice of career. You may love studying the literatures of the world, or anthropology, or chemistry, but that doesn’t mean what you study has to be what you do for a living after you graduate. Think about the major you want to pursue. What you would like to do academically may or may not be directly related to your career, but the skills and abilities you gain while studying your major will greatly enhance your professional pursuits.
Here are tips on declaring your major:

- You can declare after your first quarter through the end of your sophomore year.
- You are expected to focus your interests and declare your major before you have completed 90 units.
- Before declaring a major, consult with an advisor in that department or program. Your advisor can assist you in developing a program of study and help you file the petition to declare the major.

How to Declare a Major

A major is a personal statement about you. It reflects your area of intellectual interest, though not necessarily the choice of your career. We encourage you to think about the major you want to pursue and then what you would like to do professionally—they may not be directly related, but the transferable skills and abilities you gain in your major will greatly enhance your professional pursuits. You can declare a major at any time after your first quarter. Some students decide upon a major in their first year. Students choose a major before the end of the sophomore year. You are expected to focus your interests and declare your major by the time you have completed 90 units. Before declaring your major, consult with a faculty advisor in that department or program. They can assist you in developing a program of study and filing the petition to declare the major.

The following pages list majors and areas of study in the College of Letters and Science. You can choose to major in any of these or create an “individual major” in the College of Letters and Science.
Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies offer students the chance to explore human cultures through the study of cultural connections, identity, language, literatures, new media and the arts. Attending to past, present and emergent cultural formations around the world—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.

Students can choose from a wide array of languages, learning not only the language itself but also its literature, history and culture. In the arts, students can 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 newly-formed 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 home as well 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. In all, there are currently 25 majors in the humanities, arts and cultural studies.

Kay Coelho

B.A., ENGLISH, ’12
Outreach Coordinator, University of California, Office of the President

“My studies have given me critical thinking and analytical skills that have transferred into great strategic planning skills and have helped me become a member of management within only one year of receiving my bachelor’s.”
Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Mathematical and physical sciences provide the foundation to understand and solve some of our biggest questions regarding nature today and create new solutions for tomorrow. In the mathematical sciences, mathematics is the universal language of science. Students may concentrate on the fundamental or applied side. Applied mathematics—especially computer science and statistics—provide some of the most powerful tools available to the physical, biological and social sciences, as well as engineering and business. Another area of study in the mathematical sciences is statistics, which investigates the theoretical and practical questions of how experiments and studies should be conducted and how valid conclusions can be drawn from their results. The major in computer science emphasizes the mathematical side of computer science, as well as the theoretical foundations fundamental to all computers.

The physical sciences involve the study of the structure, processes and events of the physical universe. These sciences include physics, which is the study of matter and energy and their inter-conversions and the universe. The physical sciences also includes chemistry, which features the study of fundamental chemistry along with environmental chemistry, pharmaceutical chemistry and forensic chemistry. The physical sciences also includes geology, investigating how the Earth and other planets formed and function over geological time. Students can elect to major in physics, chemistry and geology and its many sub-disciplines.

Ting-Shiuang Chang
B.S., PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY, ’14

“The many opportunities outside the classroom, including participating in a research lab, provided me with hands-on experience to prepare me for a future career.”
Social Sciences

The social sciences encourage students to inquire, engage and discover the answers to some of the most intriguing questions about ourselves and our world. Studies in these fields explore a wide range of subjects and disciplines, all of which are fundamental to understanding our past, present and future. Studies in the social sciences involve a wide range of issues that derive from the individual, social, political and economic activities of people. Social scientists are interested in the relationships between people, groups and organizations.

In studying the social sciences, students can examine the social forces that shape the contemporary world. Because the social sciences represent a broad field of study, students in these majors develop some degree of specialization. There are distinctive paths of study in the social sciences—from examining the history of humankind through anthropologists’ research across the seven continents, to studying human interaction and communication, the variables of economics, society, culture and politics, and investigating the intricate mysteries of the mind in psychology.

Jordan Hitchens
B.A., INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, ’10
“I have developed critical thinking skills, writing skills and a cultural awareness that have allowed me to excel in numerous ways outside of the classroom.”
College Rankings

As you read through the many publications that rank colleges and universities, watch for how they rank their graduate programs as well. A department or program that demonstrates strong rankings will translate to a better education for you. Here are how some of the college’s departments and programs have done in recent US News and World Report rankings.

US News and World Report Rankings*

| #38 | Chemistry (2010) |
| #39 | Computer Science (2010) |
| #17 | Earth Sciences (2010) |
| #32 | Economics (2013) |
| #26 | English (2013) |
| #27 | Fine Arts (2012) |
| #12 | Fine Arts: Ceramics (2012) |
| #17 | Geology (2010) |
| #27 | History (2013) |
| #9  | History: U.S. Colonial History (2013) |
| #36 | Mathematics (2010) |
| #13 | Mathematics: Topology (2010) |
| #26 | Physics (2010) |
| #23 | Political Science (2013) |
| #15 | Political Science: Comparative Politics (2013) |
| #15 | Political Science: Political Methodology (2013) |
| #21 | Psychology (2013) |
| #31 | Sociology (2013) |
| #31 | Statistics (2010) |
| #11 | University Writing Program (2014) as ranked by 1,500 universities |

*Years indicate the last time US News and World Report ranked this discipline.
Once you have your undergraduate degree, whether you go directly into the professional world or decide to go on to graduate school, a rigorous education from the top-ranked College of Letters and Science will open many doors for you.

**Graduate Studies**
Regardless of the major you pursue, the goal of faculty and staff at UC Davis is to prepare you for graduate studies if you choose to do so. UC Davis has a pre-professional/pre-graduate advising office that can help you create your own path to graduate and professional studies.

More online: studentlife.ucdavis.edu/learn/grad.html

**Graduate Studies in Management (M.B.A.)**
As you pursue your undergraduate studies, if an M.B.A. is in your future plans, it will be important for you to complete courses that are needed to be eligible for admission into a management degree program such as economics, calculus, statistics and accounting.

**Studies in Law (J.D.)**
Law schools do not require a specific major. The American Association of Law Schools has identified a list of intellectual skills that are essential for law school preparation, including analytical and problem-solving skills, critical analysis, research and communication. All of these skills can be developed in any of the majors in the College of Letters and Science.

**Medical and Health Professions**
An education in a major in the College of Letters and Science can provide a strong background in the areas needed for a profession in medicine: teamwork, communication, cultural awareness, strong reasoning and critical thinking. Qualifying exams such as the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) have components that include verbal skills and social sciences, which cannot be developed with a curriculum that focuses only on science. MCAT test scores are higher among students with a background in the humanities and social sciences, and admission to medical school is also higher among students who majored in these areas.

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**WHAT CAN YOU DO With Your Degree?**

*Jonas Mark Mari*
B.A.S., ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS, ‘07

“I think learning all the theory helped me understand the motivation behind a lot of data analysis techniques. If I didn’t have that background, my understanding would not be as enriched as it is today.”

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further studies
Here are some of the fields that graduates from the College of Letters and Science have gone into. No matter what major or majors you select, these fields, and many more, are options you could choose when you graduate.

Physician
Teacher
Graphic artist
Photographer
Filmmaker
Publicist
Journalist
Actor
Dancer
Producer
Publicist
Counselor
Curator
Composer
Consultant
Speech writer
Marketing professional
Designer
Museum director
Artist
Publisher
Sales director
Account manager
Librarian
Musicologist
Animator
Foreign service officer
Fashion designer
Retail executive
Legislator
Television anchor
Choreographer
Editor
Investment banker
Venture capitalist
Business owner
Politician
Nurse
Computer technician
Lawyer
Financial planner
Real estate agent
Lobbyist
Recruiter
Peace Corps volunteer
Interpreter
Military specialist
Human resources director
Astronaut
Winemaker
Brewmaster
Chef
Veterinarian
Career counselor
Professor
Lecturer
Physicist
Statistician
Programmer
Physical therapist
Accountant
Manufacturing engineer
Actuary
Risk management researcher
Surveyor
Electrician
Bioanalytical scientist
Hazardous substance scientist
Telecommunications engineer
Financial analyst
Satellite systems engineer
Labor economist
Meteorologist
Geologist
Writer
Emergency services manager
Biostatistician
Aerospace engineer
Counselor
Therapist
Park ranger
Energy analyst
Child care specialist
Campaign consultant
Government legislator
Surveyor
City manager
Intelligence analyst
Builder
Transportation planner
Economist
Psychologist
Neuroscientist
County clerk
Stockbroker
Cartographer
Historian
Environmental impact analyst
Auditor
Entertainment executive
Investor

... and so many more!
UC Davis Internship and Career Center
As you progress through your undergraduate education, we hope you will take advantage of the services and support of the UC Davis Internship and Career Center (ICC). The process of finding your first career starts long before the interview. Some students start to explore an industry that appeals to them through internships, and others take assessments to find their career fit. The ICC helps students prepare for interviews, polish their cover letters and resumes, and receive tips on how to find a job. They offer workshops, career fairs, and internship and employment opportunities.

More online: iccweb.ucdavis.edu

Your Career
College of Letters and Science graduates move into careers with as wide a variety as the imagination can conceive. The skill set you will gain will help you plan your future. Along with the Internship and Career Center, you can find mentors in your professors or even fellow students to help you find a career path that fits best with your goals.

As you consider options for your major, keep these skills in mind—you can gain all of them in a major in the College of Letters and Science.

Ignacio Torres
B.A., SPANISH & COMMUNICATION, ‘10

UC Davis alumnus Ignacio Torres ’10, is photographed outside his workplace in New York. As a television producer, he was put in charge of the 2012 Olympics coverage and helped out with the 2012 election coverage for NBCLatino.com, an English language digital branch of NBC News. Torres has also rolled up his sleeves for NBC’s Today show and Rock Center with Brian Williams.
As you consider your next step, take some time to determine what might work best for your own interests. The College of Letters and Science is able to open the door to that path for you, with more than 50 major programs and limitless opportunities for research and programs in your area of study.

More online: www.ls.ucdavis.edu