Find Your Future at the College of Letters and Science
The College of Letters and Science 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. At the College of Letters and Science, undergraduate students can choose from a wide variety of majors and have unique opportunities to do research and thesis projects if they choose to do so. 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. We encourage you to think about the major you want to pursue. What you would like to do professionally 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.

Declaring a Major
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 after 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.
Early Elias
B.A.S., ECONOMICS, POLITICAL SCIENCE, AND STATISTICS, ’11

Current Profession:
Economics Research, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

Tell us about research opportunities you had at UC Davis and how these helped prepare you for your profession.
I was a research assistant in both the economics and political science departments. I was able to see first-hand the effort that goes into producing independent research. And by writing an honors thesis in economics, I was able to experience the challenge of producing my own research. Both experiences directly prepared me for my job as a research assistant at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

Tell us about some special programs or activities that you participated in and how these enhanced your UC Davis experience.
Being a member of the UC Davis women’s rowing team brought into clear focus the self-created nature of my perceived limitations. Participating in Division I athletics was demanding but rewarding. My coach had a huge influence on my life, my sense of worth and my courage to try the impossible. The personal strength of the other women I rowed with continues to be a huge source of inspiration.

What advice do you have for undergraduate students during their education at UC Davis?
Put time into understanding what is expected of you and then do more than what is expected. Always look for what you can bring to your environment and how you can help the people around you. Don’t ask questions that can be answered by reading a class syllabus, but do develop your curiosity. The only way you can find out if you like something is by trying it!

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**HUMANITIES, ARTS AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
- African American and African Studies
- American Studies
- Art History
- Art Studio
- Asian American Studies
- Chicana/Chicano Studies
- Chinese
- Classical Civilization
- Comparative Literature
- Design
- Dramatic Art
- English
- Film Studies
- French
- German
- Italian
- Japanese
- Medieval and Early Modern Studies
- Music
- Native American Studies
- Religious Studies
- Russian
- Spanish
- Technocultural Studies
- Women’s Studies

**LETTERS AND SCIENCE**
- Individual Major

**SOCIAL SCIENCES**
- Anthropology
- Communication
- East Asian Studies
- Economics
- History
- International Relations
- Linguistics
- Middle East/South Asia Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Political Science–Public Service
- Psychology
- Science and Technology Studies
- Sociology
- Sociology–Organizational Studies

**MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES**
- Applied Mathematics
- Applied Physics
- Chemical Physics
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Geology
- Mathematical and Scientific Computation
- Mathematics
- Natural Sciences
- Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- Physics
- Statistics
Areas of Study

Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies offer students the chance to examine 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.

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. (See page 2 for a full listing.)

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. Chemistry features the study of fundamental structure and reactivity of molecules and materials along with environmental chemistry, pharmaceutical chemistry and forensic chemistry. Geology investigates how the Earth and other planets formed and function over millions of years and at the present. Chemistry and physics have technological applications and offer career paths in fields ranging from medicine and biotechnology to electronics and nanotechnology, while geology is applicable to oil, gas, water, minerals and other natural resources and to our environment. The mathematical and physical sciences provide the fundamental background for all applied fields. Students can elect to major in physics, chemistry or geology and their many sub-disciplines. (See page 2 for a full listing of majors in mathematical and physical sciences.)

Social Sciences

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. (See page 2 for a full listing of majors in the social sciences.)
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. Options include:

**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: http://studentlife.ucdavis.edu/learn/grad.html*

**Graduate Studies in Management (M.B.A.)**
Many UC Davis graduates pursue an M.B.A., regardless of their undergraduate majors. 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.
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

Essential Skills
A survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers shows the skills that are most sought in the professional world:

- Communication
- Analytical
- Strong work ethic
- Flexibility/adaptability
- Teamwork
- Computer/technical
- Initiative
- Interpersonal
- Detail-oriented
- Problem-solving
- Organizational

Your Career
As some of the stories in the pages of this brochure exemplify, 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.

One Path For You
As you consider your next step in undergraduate education, 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 outside your area of study.

More online: www.ls.ucdavis.edu

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.”
one path for you

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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 is how the College of Letters and Science has done in recent US News and World Report rankings after the publication evaluated hundreds of universities. The National Research Council has also rated several programs from UC Davis at the very top of the list, including Spanish which is #1.

More online:
www.ls.ucdavis.edu
—click on 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 (2011)

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