EXPLORING YOUR INTERESTS, SHAPING YOUR FUTURE

UCLA
Academic Majors
Deciding Your Major

COLLEGE IS A TIME OF DISCOVERY AND SELF-DISCOVERY — and deciding on your major involves both. Look inward to gauge your interests, academic strengths and personal goals. But don’t stop there. UCLA provides the rare opportunity to explore all the new subject areas and learning experiences only a research university in an innovative global city can offer.
This booklet will introduce you to broad subject areas at UCLA. You'll see some familiar fields of study — and some new ones. You can pursue more than one interest: Choose a double major or minor. For instance, one recent graduate paired business economics with Chinese to prepare for global business. Another majored in African American studies and minored in accounting; he was hired as a bank financial analyst before graduation.

EXPLORING NEW FIELDS
As early as Orientation, your advisor or counselor can help you choose Fiat Lux seminars, Clusters and survey courses that will introduce you to new academic fields. With 10-week fall, winter and spring quarters, you have a lot of flexibility to sample new subject areas.

If you’re a transfer student, you must declare a major when you apply, but you may be able to add a minor later. Be sure to consult our Transfer Admission Guide for detailed information.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
UCLA is a research powerhouse, averaging $1 billion in research funding annually. So it’s no surprise that more than half of UCLA students graduate with some kind of research experience. And not all research happens in labs: Social science and humanities students do original research as well, from analyzing the costs and benefits of DNA databases to identifying the influences of Victorian Gothic literature on online games.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
From Silicon Beach to Hollywood, Los Angeles is a great place to get an internship and translate your academic interests into career skills. Student organizations offer another important way to shape your UCLA experience. Volunteering for groups like Mobile Clinic, L.A. Hacks or Bruin Consulting helps you explore your interests and build a robust résumé. And for entrepreneurial skills, there’s the Startup UCLA curriculum.

STUDY ABROAD
Many UCLA students earn course credit outside the U.S. UCLA offers 100+ programs in more than 40 countries. Financial aid can help make study abroad affordable.
Interested in the way things work

If you have a talent for numbers or you like to take things apart — with your hands or in your imagination — you may find your major in the PHYSICAL SCIENCES or ENGINEERING.

SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS

The physical sciences are known for rigorous measurement and testing of hypotheses and theories. Students learn to handle big data as easily as lab equipment. Engineering is even more hands on, with an emphasis on practical problem-solving.

SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

Physical sciences and engineering graduates are in demand. So many employers recruit our students that UCLA’s Engineering and Technical Fair, a two-day event, is repeated twice a year. Some graduates end up in surprising places. The team that created the algorithm for the snow in Disney’s Frozen and the water in Moana included both an alumnus and a professor of applied mathematics.

VALUE ADDED

DESALINATION. Engineers at UCLA invented the first practical way to convert saltwater to drinking water in 1959. Today, UCLA researchers are using nanotechnology to improve the membranes that filter the water. A cross-disciplinary team of all-star faculty is committed to making Los Angeles 100 percent sustainable by 2050.

SUPER-SIZED TELESCOPES. UCLA faculty and researchers use the Keck I and II telescopes on Mauna Kea, Hawaii; they are designing instruments for the next-generation Thirty Meter Telescope.

INFINITY AND BEYOND. Faculty and alumni are involved with many NASA missions, from Dawn to Mars 2020 to Europa Clipper. Astronaut Megan McArthur ’93 was the robotics expert on the final space shuttle mission to the Hubble Telescope; today, she is the pilot of the NASA SpaceX Crew-2 mission to the ISS, launched on April 23, 2021. Undergraduate students designed, built and launched the ELFIN satellite to conduct research into space weather.

Bioengineering Assoc. Prof. Andrea Kasko focuses on the design of new materials for biomedical use.
A sampling of majors (see pages 14–15 for a complete list):

Applied Mathematics
Biochemistry
Computer Science
Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Majors of growing interest:
Climate Science
Engineering Geology
Mathematics/Economics
Physics
Statistics

Some intriguing minors in this area (see page 15 for a complete list):
Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
Biomedical Research
Earth and Environmental Science
Geochemistry

The Concrete Lab is a research and instructional space for Civil and Environmental Engineering.
Fascinated by life, from single cells to the human body

If you like to explore the secrets of living organisms or you think you might have a talent for healing, you may find your calling in the LIFE SCIENCES or NURSING.

SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS
All life sciences and nursing majors learn critical thinking, analytical skills, research strategies and laboratory skills. Depending on your major and course choices, you may develop ease in data mapping or acquire specific clinical skills.

SHAPE YOUR FUTURE
Life sciences majors find jobs in research labs, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals or genetic counseling. Many go on to graduate study in neuroscience, medicine, dentistry and other health-related professions.

VALUE ADDED

HOSPITAL. UCLA’s health science schools are on the main campus — and so is Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, ranked the No. 3 hospital in the U.S. That’s where our nursing students do their clinical immersion. Even more students are involved at the hospital as volunteers and researchers, especially in the biomedical research minor. And our medical school faculty teaches courses in the undergraduate neuroscience program.

BRAIN RESEARCH. More than 50 years ago, UCLA became a leader in the then-new field of brain research. That’s one reason we identify psychology as a life science, not a social science: Our approach is grounded in neurobiology. UCLA’s graduate program in clinical psychology is ranked first in the U.S.

ECOLOGY. There’s an extensive botanical garden right on campus, an urban refuge for biodiversity. Further afield is the University of California’s Stunt Ranch Santa Monica Mountains Reserve, used for research and internships. Ongoing studies focus on how flora and fauna have recovered from a 1993 fire.
Prof. Robert Goldberg, Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology, focuses on plant genetics.

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center is ranked No. 3 in the nation.

A sampling of majors (see pages 14–15 for a complete list):

- Biology
- Nursing
- Psychobiology
- Psychology
- Physiological Science

Majors of growing interest:

- Cognitive Science
- Human Biology and Society
- Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology
- Neuroscience

Some intriguing minors in this area (see page 15 for a complete list):

- Applied Developmental Psychology
- Biomedical Research
- Conservation Biology
- Evolutionary Medicine

Assoc. Prof. Amy Rowat, Integrative Biology and Physiology, teaches a course called Science and Food.
Intrigued by people and the institutions they create

Perhaps you have a flair for business or politics. Or maybe you like understanding how institutions work — and why they don’t. You may find your focus in the SOCIAL SCIENCES OR PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS

Social science majors learn research and writing skills, creative thinking and problem-solving. Some areas — notably economics — stress quantitative skills as well.

SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

Social science majors bring their skills to business, consulting and government. Some students pursue professional degrees in law, public policy or management.

VALUE ADDED

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE. Founded in 1958, the International Institute is the central hub for global and area studies at UCLA, with more than 25 centers and programs promoting multidisciplinary research. Both a major and minor in global studies are offered.

QUARTER IN WASHINGTON. The University of California D.C. Center houses more than 270 students in a high-rise a short walk from the White House. UCLA students can do the Quarter in Washington program in fall, winter or spring — completing an internship and an original research project.

FIELD STUDY. Los Angeles offers many opportunities for research. But our students pursue field study all over the world: geography students in Thailand, anthropology students in Ghana and Bali, political science students in Sacramento. The Lemelson Anthropological Honors Program is only one of the field study programs in Social Sciences.

PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS. The Luskin School offers a public affairs major as well as a minor in urban and regional studies. The Law School welcomes undergraduate volunteers to its moot court program. The Anderson School has a minor in accounting and courses for the entrepreneurship minor.
A sampling of majors (see pages 14–15 for a complete list):

**Business Economics**

**Education and Social Transformation**

**History**

**Political Science**

**Public Affairs**

**Sociology**

**Majors of growing interest:**

- African American Studies
- American Indian Studies
- Chicana and Chicano Studies
- Communication Studies
- Gender Studies
- Labor Studies

**Some intriguing minors in this area (see page 15 for a complete list):**

- Civic Engagement
- Entrepreneurship
Lover of the arts, literature and culture

Perhaps your passion is theater or painting. Or maybe you are thrilled by literature or language as a reader or a writer. You may find your major in MUSIC, the ARTS or the HUMANITIES.

SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS

At UCLA, performing and visual arts majors get a liberal arts background as well as specialized skills. Humanities majors hone their writing and research skills in English and in other languages. Digital humanities adds new dimensions: for example, mapping the cultural, architectural and urban history of a city space.

SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

Music major Sophia James wowed audiences on American Idol’s 18th season. She’ll soon be the latest in a long line of singers, actors and artists with degrees from UCLA. Humanities majors embrace a wide range of careers, from business and academia to digital media content creation.

VALUE ADDED

HAMMER. With a focus on emerging artists and an extensive permanent collection of prints and drawings, the Hammer Museum is a rich resource for art and humanities students alike. The annual Poetry Series includes readings by prize-winning UCLA student poets.

FOWLER. This cultural history museum explores global arts and cultures with an emphasis on works from Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Americas — past and present. Here, world arts and cultures majors take courses in Textiles of the World. Paid student interns help develop and implement school, family and public programs.

FILM AND TELEVISION ARCHIVE. In the U.S., UCLA’s archive is second in size only to the Library of Congress. But it’s not just for film buffs. It’s a rich cultural history resource that includes the Hearst Metrotone News collection, with 27 million feet of newsreel footage from 1914 through 1968. Undergraduates can view holdings for research papers or capstone projects.
The design/production sequence in Theater includes costume design.

Design | Media Arts students explore “form” in a studio class.

Grammy Award winner Jesús Guzmán teaches Music of Mexico (Ethnomusicology).
Prof. Rebeca Méndez teaches design.

A sampling of majors (see pages 14–15 for a complete list):

Art History
Design | Media Arts
English
Music
Philosophy
Theater

Majors of growing interest:
Architectural Studies
Asian Humanities
Ethnomusicology

Some intriguing minors in this area (see page 15 for a complete list):
Digital Humanities
Film, Television and Digital Media
Visual and Performing Arts Education

Professor and writer–director Dominic Taylor is a scholar of African American theater.
Shaping your UCLA experience

These brief profiles show the many paths alumni follow to successful careers. Choosing a major is just one step. Explore your interests using all of the available resources at UCLA: undergraduate research, internships, student groups, study abroad and student jobs.

ROSE O’NEILL B.A. ’00, M.B.A. ’05
MAJORED in communication studies, UCLA College
NOW co-founder of luxury candy brand Sugarfina; co-founder and general partner of Pure Imagination Brands, an investment fund supporting disruptive brands and the entrepreneurs who power them
BEFORE UCLA, grew up in Costa Mesa, California, where she enjoyed drawing, painting, crafts and sewing
AT UCLA, took communication classes that taught her what makes people tick and how they think
AFTER GRADUATION, earned an M.B.A. from UCLA Anderson School of Management and spent seven years as director of marketing for Barbie at Mattel, where she led a global unit that sold more than 50 million Barbie dolls annually

MICHAEL REYES B.A. ’14
MAJORED in English, minored in French and Francophone studies, UCLA College
NOW holds a Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of Texas, Austin, where he focused on Caribbean literature and African diaspora studies
BEFORE UCLA, left a violent public high school for Mexico. Finished school there, improved Spanish skills. Returned to the U.S. and obtained a G.E.D.
AT UCLA, entered as a transfer from Citrus College. Through the Civic Engagement program, interned at a literary agency. As a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, wrote an honors thesis exploring the theme of deserted islands as locations for producing social critique in literatures of the 12th and 18th centuries.

DREW Z. GREENBERG B.A. ’93
MAJORED in political science, UCLA College
NOW writer and co-executive producer of the ABC series Marvel’s Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.
BEFORE UCLA, read voraciously and wrote as a hobby; interested in medicine
AT UCLA, involved in peer counseling and as a Student Health Advocate. Most important lesson: learned to appreciate diversity while working on staff at the residence halls.
AFTER GRADUATION, took the MCAT but never went to medical school. Instead, earned a law degree and switched to the entertainment industry. Began to write for television: Buffy the Vampire Slayer, The O.C., Dexter and Star Wars: The Clone Wars.
LISA D. CAGNOLATTI  
B.S. ’83

MAJORED in chemical engineering, UCLA  
Samueli School of Engineering

NOW Executive in Residence, ASU  
W.P. Carey School of Business. Active in the community: board member,  
YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix, International Black  
Women’s Public Policy Institute and National College  
Resources Foundation.

BEFORE UCLA, a star student in math and chemistry  
at Inglewood High School. Discovered engineering  
through a UCLA program.

AT UCLA, a member of the National Society of Blacks  
in Engineering and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority; lived  
and worked at Sproul Hall; interned with IBM and  
Proctor and Gamble

AFTER GRADUATION, earned an MBA from Pepperdine  
University. Started as a team manager at Proctor and  
Gamble, moved to Southern California Gas Company as  
an energy sales engineer. Worked her way up the  
corporate ladder.

ANDREW CAMPION  
B.A. ’93

MAJORED in economics, UCLA College

NOW Chief Operating Officer, Nike, Inc. He’s also on the  
board of directors for Starbucks and the LA 2028 Olympic  
& Paralympic Games.

BEFORE UCLA, grew up in Whittier, California, and  
graduated from Whittier Christian High School

AT UCLA, became a member of Pi Kappa Alpha  
fraternity, played intramural volleyball and basketball,  
and went to nearly every football and basketball game

AFTER GRADUATION, earned a law degree and LLM  
in taxation. Worked about 11 years at The Walt Disney  
Company, where he held leadership roles in strategic  
planning, mergers and acquisitions, financial and  
operational planning, investor relations and tax. Earned  
his M.B.A. from UCLA Anderson in 2003, while at Disney.  
Joined Nike, Inc. in 2007.

NOLAN UNG B.S. ’13

MAJORED in biochemistry,  
UCLA College

NOW a graduate of David  
Geffen School of Medicine at  
UCLA, currently in the  
residency program in  
psychiatry at Harbor-UCLA  
Medical Center

BEFORE UCLA, public school  
student in the Inland Empire

AT UCLA, his undergraduate experience included doing  
health education in Tibet, working on the brain atlas,  
being a research assistant in a lab investigating diabetes  
and a research fellow in neurosurgery.

AFTER GRADUATION, earned a full-tuition UCLA  
Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship to medical school

CARMEN ARGOTE B.A. ’04

MAJORED in art, School of the Arts and Architecture

NOW an artist exhibiting in group and solo shows  
including As Above, So Below at New York City’s New  
Museum in 2019

BEFORE UCLA, grew up in the Pico-Union  
neighborhood of L.A. with her parents and sister

AT UCLA, entered as a transfer from Santa Monica  
College. Undergraduate work chosen for an exhibition  
in the Wight Gallery; also did a solo show.

AFTER GRADUATION, earned her M.F.A. from UCLA  
in 2007
UNDECIDED? YOU’RE IN GOOD COMPANY. About 1,500 students are “undeclared” at any given time, and many more change majors. Undeclared freshman applicants are welcome in Engineering and all divisions of the College of Letters and Science. The schools that do not consider undeclared applicants are Arts and Architecture; Music; Public Affairs; Theater, Film and Television; and Nursing.

MAJORS AND MINORS

Majors

College of Letters and Science
- African American Studies
- African and Middle Eastern Studies
- American Indian Studies
- American Literature and Culture
- Ancient Near East and Egyptology
- Anthropology
- Arabic
- Art History
- Asian American Studies
- Asian Humanities
- Asian Languages and Linguistics
- Asian Religions
- Asian Studies
- Astrophysics
- Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
- Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences/Mathematics
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Biophysics
- Business Economics
- Central and East European Languages and Cultures
- Chemistry
- Chemistry/Materials Science
- Chicana and Chicano Studies
- Chinese
- Classical Civilization
- Climate Science
- Cognitive Science
- Communication
- Comparative Literature
- Computational and Systems Biology
- Earth and Environmental Science
- Ecology, Behavior and Evolution
- Economics
- Education and Social Transformation
- Engineering Geology
- English
- Environmental Science
- European Languages and Transcultural Studies
- European Languages and Transcultural Studies with French and Francophone
- European Languages and Transcultural Studies with German
- European Languages and Transcultural Studies with Italian
- European Languages and Transcultural Studies with Scandinavian
- European Studies
- Geography
- Geography/Environmental Studies
- Geology
- Geophysics
- Global Studies
- Greek
- Greek and Latin
- History
- Human Biology and Society
- International Development Studies
- Iranian Studies
- Japanese
- Jewish Studies
- Korean
- Labor Studies
- Latin
- Latin American Studies
- Linguistics
- Linguistics and Anthropology
- Linguistics and Asian Languages and Cultures
- Linguistics and Computer Science
- Linguistics and English
- Linguistics and French
- Linguistics and Italian
- Linguistics and Philosophy
- Linguistics and Psychology
- Linguistics and Scandinavian Languages
- Linguistics and Spanish
- Linguistics, Applied
- Marine Biology
- Mathematics
- Mathematics, Applied
- Mathematics/Applied Science
- Mathematics, Data Theory
- Mathematics/Economics
- Mathematics, Financial Actuarial
- Mathematics for Teaching
- Mathematics of Computation
- Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics
- Middle Eastern Studies
- Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology
- Neuroscience
- Nordic Studies
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Physiological Science
- Political Science
- Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
- Psychobiology
- Psychology
- Religion, Study of
- Russian Language and Literature
- Russian Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Spanish and Community and Culture
- Spanish and Linguistics
- Spanish and Portuguese
- Statistics
- Individual Field of Concentration
- Undeclared Humanities
- Undeclared Life Sciences
- Undeclared Physical Sciences
- Undeclared Social Sciences

Herb Alpert School of Music
- Ethnomusicology
- Global Jazz Studies
- Music (Composition, Education, Performance)
- Music History and Industry
- Musicology

Luskin School of Public Affairs
- Public Affairs

Samueli School of Engineering
- Aerospace Engineering
- Bioengineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
Minors

Accounting  
African American Studies  
African and Middle Eastern Studies  
African Studies  
American Indian Studies  
Ancient Near East and Egyptology  
Anthropology  
Applied Developmental Psychology  
Arabic and Islamic Studies  
Armenian Studies  
Art History  
Asian American Studies  
Asian Humanities  
Asian Languages  
Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences  
Bioinformatics  
Biomedical Research  
Brain and Behavioral Health  
Central American Studies  
Central and East European Studies  
Chicana and Chicano Studies  
Classical Civilization  
Cognitive Science  
Community Engagement and Social Change  
Comparative Literature  
Conservation Biology  
Digital Humanities  
Disability Studies  
Earth and Environmental Science  
East Asian Studies  
Education Studies  
English  
Entrepreneurship  
Environmental Engineering  
Environmental Systems and Society  
Ethnomusicology  
European Languages and Transcultural Studies  
European Languages and Transcultural Studies with French and Francophone  
European Languages and Transcultural Studies with German  
European Languages and Transcultural Studies with Italian  
European Studies  
Evolutionary Medicine  
Film, Television and Digital Media  
Food Studies  
Gender Studies  
Geochemistry  
Geography  
Geography/Environmental Studies  
Geology  
Geophysics and Planetary Physics  
Geospatial Information Systems and Technologies  
Gerontology  
Global Health  
Global Studies  
Greek  
Hebrew and Jewish Studies  
History  
History of Science, Technology and Medicine  
International Migration Studies  
Iranian Studies  
Israel Studies  
Labor Studies  
Latin  
Latin American Studies  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Studies  
Linguistics  
Literature and the Environment  
Mathematical Biology  
Mathematics  
Mathematics for Teaching  
Mexican Studies  
Middle Eastern Studies  
Musicology  
Music Industry  
Neuroscience  
Philosophy  
Pilipino Studies  
Portuguese and Brazilian Studies  
Professional Writing  
Public Affairs  
Public Health  
Religion, Study of  
Russian Language  
Russian Literature  
Russian Studies  
Scandinavian  
Science Education  
Social Data Science  
Social Thought  
Society and Genetics  
South Asian Studies  
Southeast Asian Studies  
Spanish  
Spanish Linguistics  
Statistics  
Structural Biology  
Systems Biology  
Theater  
Urban and Regional Studies  
Visual and Performing Arts Education

*Public Affairs is listed under the College of Letters and Science in the UC application. Applicants are admitted to pre-major status in the College of Letters and Science until prerequisites are completed.

1 Applicants are admitted to pre-major status until prerequisites are satisfactorily completed.
2 Transfer applicants should note that demand for this major significantly exceeds space available at the transfer level.
3 Transfer students who are admitted to a major outside the Department of Economics are not permitted to transfer into one of the economics majors.
4 Not open to entering students
5 Open to junior-level applicants only (60 semester/90 quarter units completed by transfer)
6 Only freshman-level applicants may apply as undeclared.

List of majors and minors accurate at time of printing. Please visit admission.ucla.edu/majors for the most up-to-date listings.