

UCLA

Academic
Majors

EXPLORING YOUR
INTERESTS, SHAPING
YOUR FUTURE

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.



Bioengineering Assoc. Prof. Andrea Kasko focuses on the design of new materials for biomedical use.

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.



The Student Creativity Center in Engineering

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:

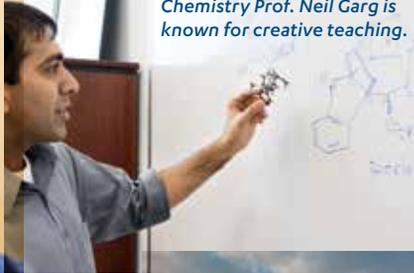
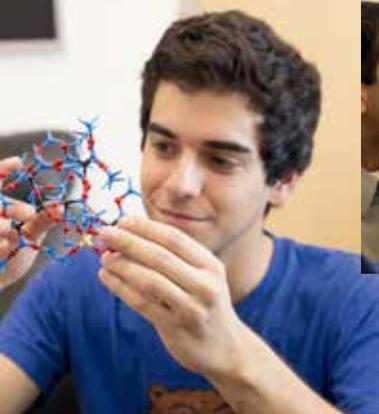
- Climate Science
- Engineering Geology
- Mathematics/Economics
- Physics
- Statistics

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

- Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
- Biomedical Research
- Earth and Environmental Science
- Geochemistry



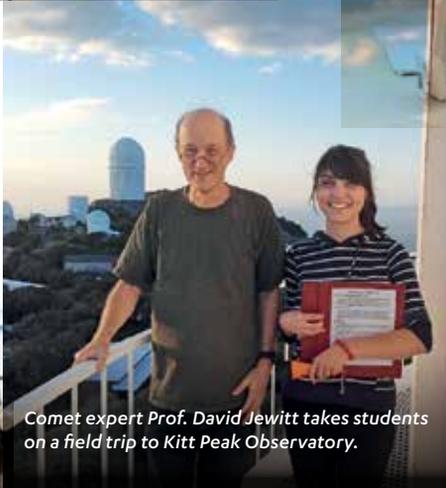
Astronomer, Nobel Prize winner and TED star Prof. Andrea Ghez



Chemistry Prof. Neil Garg is known for creative teaching.



The Concrete Lab is a research and instructional space for Civil and Environmental Engineering.



Comet expert Prof. David Jewitt takes students on a field trip to Kitt Peak Observatory.

Dean of Life Sciences and Prof. of Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology Tracy Johnson focuses on how cells alter gene regulation.

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.



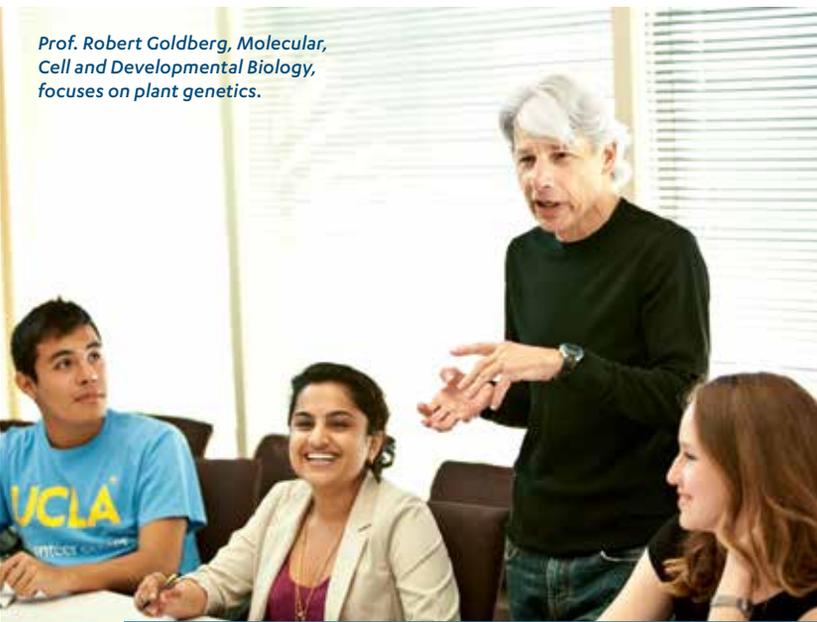
Students gain medical experience volunteering in Mexico.

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.



Nursing students in the simulation lab



Student organic garden



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**.



Darnell Hunt, dean of the Division of Social Sciences in the UCLA College, authors a much-quoted study on Hollywood diversity.

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.



Study pods in the Charles E. Young Research Library

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.



Prof. Lynn Vavreck, Political Science, studies presidential elections.

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):

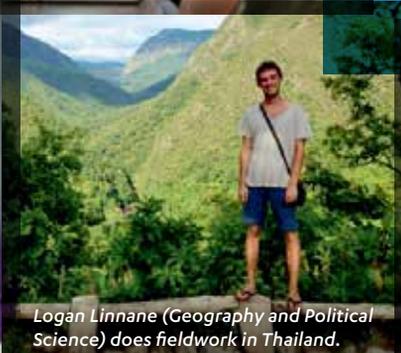
- Civic Engagement
- Entrepreneurship



Erica Henderson (International Development) and Melanie Mah (Psychology) participate in Quarter in Washington.



Prof. Ananya Roy, Urban Planning, Social Welfare and Geography, researches poverty and inequality.



Logan Linnane (Geography and Political Science) does fieldwork in Thailand.



Prof. Tim Groeling, Communication Studies, focuses on political communication and new media.

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.

Ostin Music Center



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



Prof. Rebeca Méndez teaches design.



Grammy Award winner Jesús Cuzmán teaches Music of Mexico (Ethnomusicology).



The design/production sequence in Theater includes costume design.

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

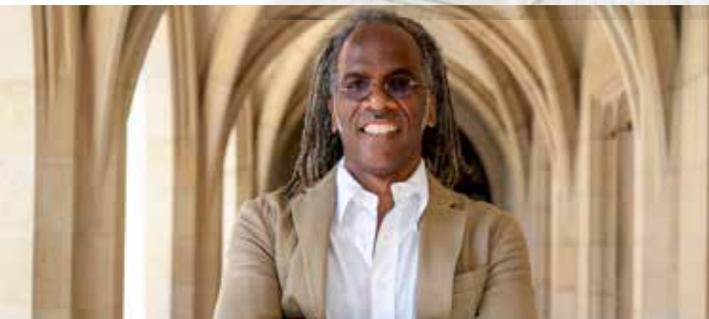
- Art History
- Design | Media Arts
- English
- Music
- Philosophy
- Theater

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.

Photo by: Amika Chakrabarti/Daily Bruin



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.



ROSIE 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.



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



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.



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

Majors and Minors

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

College of Letters and Science

African American Studies
 African and Middle Eastern Studies¹
 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 Studies¹
 Astrophysics
 Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
 Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences/
 Mathematics
 Biochemistry
 Biology²
 Biophysics
 Business Economics^{1,2,3}
 Central and East European Languages
 and Cultures
 Chemistry
 Chemistry/Materials Science
 Chicana and Chicano Studies
 Chinese
 Classical Civilization
 Climate Science
 Cognitive Science¹
 Communication^{2,5}
 Comparative Literature
 Computational and Systems Biology¹
 Earth and Environmental Science
 Ecology, Behavior and Evolution²
 Economics^{1,2,3}
 Education and Social Transformation¹
 Engineering Geology
 English²
 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 Studies¹
 Geography
 Geography/Environmental Studies
 Geology
 Geophysics
 Global Studies^{1,2}
 Greek
 Greek and Latin
 History¹
 Human Biology and Society^{1,2}
 International Development Studies^{1,2}
 Iranian Studies
 Japanese
 Jewish Studies
 Korean
 Labor Studies
 Latin
 Latin American Studies¹
 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 Biology²
 Mathematics¹
 Mathematics, Applied¹
 Mathematics/Applied Science¹
 Mathematics, Data Theory¹
 Mathematics/Economics²
 Mathematics, Financial Actuarial²
 Mathematics for Teaching¹

Mathematics of Computation¹
 Microbiology, Immunology and
 Molecular Genetics^{1,2}
 Middle Eastern Studies
 Molecular, Cell and Developmental
 Biology²
 Neuroscience²
 Nordic Studies
 Philosophy
 Physics
 Physiological Science²
 Political Science^{1,2}
 Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
 Psychobiology^{1,2}
 Psychology^{1,2}
 Religion, Study of
 Russian Language and Literature
 Russian Studies
 Sociology^{1,2}
 Spanish
 Spanish and Community and Culture
 Spanish and Linguistics
 Spanish and Portuguese
 Statistics¹
 Individual Field of Concentration⁴
 Undeclared Humanities⁶
 Undeclared Life Sciences⁶
 Undeclared Physical Sciences⁶
 Undeclared Social Sciences⁶

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

Computer Engineering
 Computer Science
 Computer Science and Engineering
 Electrical Engineering
 Materials Engineering
 Mechanical Engineering
 Undeclared⁶

School of the Arts and Architecture

Architectural Studies⁵
 Art
 Dance
 Design | Media Arts
 World Arts and Cultures
 Individual Field of Concentration⁴

School of Nursing

Nursing Prelicensure

School of Theater, Film and Television

Film and Television
 Theater
 Individual Field of Concentration⁴

- 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.

*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.

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

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



UCLA

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