ACADEMIC MAJORS
COLLEGE IS
A TIME OF
DISCOVERY AND
SELF-DISCOVERY

DECIDING ON YOUR MAJOR INVOLVES BOTH
Look inward to gauge your interests, academic strengths, and personal goals and look to UCLA to provide 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 and some majors, both new and familiar, that fall within them. Keep in mind that any major can lead to many different careers, so don’t limit yourself on the major or minor you pursue. Here, it’s not just about what you study but how you study it.

As you consider different majors, keep in mind that UCLA offers a multitude of ways for you to pursue more than one interest and expand your thinking while working toward your degree.

EXPLORING NEW FIELDS
During New Student Orientation over the summer, your advisor or counselor can help you choose courses that will introduce you to new academic fields and multidisciplinary majors, like disability studies. With 10-week fall, winter and spring quarters, you have a lot of flexibility to sample intriguing new subject areas.

SMALL SEMINARS AND INNOVATIVE COURSES
Our Fiat Lux seminars give groups of 10–20 students an in-depth look at compelling topics, like global migration and the psychology of food and eating. Clusters are small, yearlong courses taught by teams of faculty from different disciplines. While examining one current topic, Clusters expose freshmen to different schools of thought and approaches.

MINORS AND DOUBLE MAJORS
If you have a wide range of interests, a minor or a double major may be the way to go. Minors can complement your major while adding to your skills. For instance, one student majored in African American studies and minored in accounting; he was hired as a financial analyst before graduation.

Double majors let you earn a degree in two fields. They require a larger course load but can be worthwhile. One graduate, for example, double-majorred in business economics and Chinese to prepare for global business.

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 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.

INTERNSHIPS
From Silicon Beach to Hollywood, Los Angeles offers an array of internship opportunities for students pursuing all different majors. You can gain meaningful real-world experience and make valuable connections while translating your passions into career skills.

VOLUNTEERING, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MORE
By volunteering for groups like Mobile Clinic, L.A. Hacks and Bruin Consulting, you can explore your civic-minded interests and build a robust résumé. Startup UCLA offers programs including Bruin Impact and Summer Accelerator that hone your entrepreneurial skills. Student organizations offer another avenue for you to shape your UCLA experience.

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.

IMPACT YOUR WORLD

CARBON REMOVAL. Researchers at the Institute for Carbon Management are using novel technology developed at UCLA called SeaChange to leverage the ocean’s capacity for carbon removal. The electromechanical process creates green energy while removing billions of metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

BIOELECTRONICS. Bioengineering researchers at UCLA recently developed an ultra-thin, rechargeable fiber battery for potential use in wearable health-monitoring technologies. The zinc ion device is lightweight and environmentally friendly.

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.

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

Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
Biomedical Research
Climate Science
Data Science 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 and Data Science

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

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

Distinquished Prof. of Chemistry Neil Garg is known for creative teaching.

The Concrete Lab is a research and instructional space for Civil and Environmental Engineering.
CURIOUS ABOUT THE STUDY OF LIFE AND HEALING

If you like to explore the secrets of living organisms or you feel passionate about improving the quality of life for others, 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.

IMPACT YOUR WORLD

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.

HOSPITAL. UCLA’s health science schools are on the main campus — and so is Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, ranked the No. 1 best hospital in California and No. 10 in the world. 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.

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center is ranked No. 10 in the world.

Prof. Bob Goldberg, molecular, cell, and developmental biology, focuses on plant genetics.

Prof. Amy Rowat, integrative biology and physiology, teaches a course called Science and Food.

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

Student organic garden
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.

IMPACT YOUR WORLD
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 250 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.
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
Humanities majors embrace a wide range of careers, from business and academia to digital media content creation. Music major Sophia James wowed audiences on American Idol’s 18th season. She’s one of a long line of singers, actors and artists with degrees from UCLA.

IMPACT YOUR WORLD

MUSEUMS. With a focus on emerging artists, an extensive permanent collection and endless public programs, the Hammer Museum is a rich resource for art and humanities students. The Fowler Museum explores global arts and cultures — past and present — and offers paid student internships and courses like Textiles of the World.

PERFORMANCE. Students of the arts and humanities enjoy the Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA), which hosts dance, music, spoken word, theater and experiential programming by leading artists from around the globe. The Geffen Playhouse, known for its mix of classic and contemporary plays, new works and musicals, partners with UCLA as an educational resource to offer students countless internships, workshops, student tickets and college nights.

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 newreel footage from 1914 through 1968. Undergraduates can view holdings for research papers or capstone projects.
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 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, spent seven years as director of marketing at Mattel, where she led a global unit that sold over 50 million Barbies annually, before co-founding luxury candy brand Sugarfina, where she served as co-CEO for nearly eight years.

EZRA KLEIN B.A. ’05
MAJORED in political science, UCLA College
NOW hosts The Ezra Klein Show, a biweekly podcast. He’s also a political analyst, author, journalist with The New York Times and co-founder of Vox.
BEFORE UCLA, grew up in Irvine, California. His dad, a first-generation immigrant from Brazil, is a math professor and his mom, an artist.
AT UCLA, took classes from poli-sci professors, including Lynn Vavreck, the Marvin Hoffenberg Chair in American Politics and Public Policy, and interned for Washington Monthly in Washington, D.C.
AFTER GRADUATION, became a blogger for The American Prospect, then at The Washington Post, where he was also a writer. Left to launch Vox. In 2020, joined The New York Times, where he became an opinion columnist.

GINA PRINCE-BYTHEWOOD B.A. ’91
MAJORED in film and television, School of Theater, Film and Television
NOW a screenwriter and director, most recently of The Woman King starring Viola Davis; on Time magazine’s list of the 100 most influential people of 2023
BEFORE UCLA, saw movies on weekends with her parents, played basketball and ran track in Pacific Grove, California, where she grew up
AT UCLA, planned to become a soap opera writer, but was overcome with the feeling that she was meant to direct when she was carrying equipment for a student film
AFTER GRADUATION, wrote for TV series including A Different World and A Different World; planned to become a soap opera writer, but was overcome with the feeling that she was meant to direct when she was carrying equipment for a student film

LISA D. CAGNOLATTI B.S. ’83
MAJORED in chemical engineering, UCLA Samueli School of Engineering
NOW Retired Chief Customer Officer, Southern California Edison; Non-Profit Board President, philanthropist
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.

BRYANT NG B.S. ’00
MAJORED in molecular, cell and developmental biology, UCLA College
NOW head chef and co-owner of award-winning restaurant Cassia in Santa Monica, California; co-founder of L.A. Chefs for Human Rights (LACHR)
BEFORE UCLA, grew up peeling shrimp and washing dishes at his parents’ and grandparents’ restaurants in Los Angeles
AT UCLA, loved his major classes and planned to go into medicine. Eventually discovered his true passion, cooking. Now he applies principles he learned in lab class to creating recipes.

CARMEN ARGOTE B.A. ’04
MAJORED in art, School of the Arts and Architecture
NOW an artist whose work has appeared in group and solo shows in venues including the L.A. Convention Center, the Hammer Museum and New York City’s New Museum
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 at the Wight Gallery; also did a solo show.
AFTER GRADUATION, earned her M.F.A. from UCLA in 2007.
### 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 | Applied Linguistics | Arabic | Art History | Asian American Studies | Asian Humanities | Asian Languages and Literatures | Asian Religions | Asian Studies | Astrophysics | Astronomics | Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences | Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences/Geosciences | Biochemistry | Biology | Biophysics | Business Economics | Central and East European Languages and Cultures | Chemistry | Chemistry/Materials Science | Chinese and Chicanas Studies | Chinese | Classical Civilization | Climate Science | Cognitive Science | Communication | Comparative Literature | Computational and Systems Biology | Data Theory | Disability Studies | Earth and Environmental Science | Ecology, Behavior and Evolution | Economics | 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 Studies | Gender 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 Philosophy Linguistics and Psychology Linguistics and Spanish Marine Biology Mathematics Mathematics, Applied Mathematics/Applied Science Mathematics/Economics Mathematics, Financial Actuarial Mathematics for Teaching Mathematics of Computation Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology Neuroscience Nordic Studies Philosophy Physics Physiological Science Political Science Portuguese and Brazilian Studies Psychology Russian Language and Literature Russian Studies Sociology Southeast Asian Studies Spanish Spanish and Community and Culture Spanish and Linguistics Spanish and Portuguese Statistics and Data Science Study of Religion 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 Industry Musicology Lucid School of Public Affairs Public Affairs Samuel School of Engineering Aerospace Engineering Bioengineering Chemical Engineering Civil Engineering Computer Engineering Computer Science Computer Science and Engineering Electrical Engineering Materials Engineering Mechanical Engineering Undeclared School of Education & Information Studies Education and Social Transformation School of the Arts and Architecture Architectural Studies | Art | Dance | Design | Media Arts | World Arts and Cultures | Individual Field of Concentration School of Nursing Nursing Prelicensure School of Theater, Film and Television Film and Television Theater Individual Field of Concentration 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 declare 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. 7. This major is listed under the College of Letters and Science in the UC Application. Applicants are admitted to pre-major status until prerequisites are completed. 8. 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. 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. List of majors and minors accurate at the time of printing. Please visit admission.ucla.edu/majors for the most up-to-date listings.
WHEN CHOOSING A MAJOR, YOU MAY FIND THAT YOU’RE NOT SURE WHERE TO BEGIN. MAYBE YOUR FAMILY HAS THE ANSWER, OR YOUR FRIENDS OR TEACHERS. OR MAYBE YOUR PATH SHOULD BE BASED ON YOUR INTERESTS AND SKILLS. PERHAPS NONE OF THAT’S AS RELEVANT AS YOUR PERSONALITY. REST ASSURED, ANY OR ALL OF THOSE COULD LEAD YOU TO THE RIGHT ANSWER AS LONG AS YOU ALSO LISTEN TO YOUR HEART, FOR THAT IS YOUR MOST TRUSTED ADVISOR. AND WHEN YOUR HEART JOINS FORCES WITH OUR HEART, YOU ARE SURE TO BECOME A FORCE OF NATURE AT UCLA.