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.

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*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 Student Creativity Center in Engineering

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

Chemistry Prof. Neil Garg is known for creative teaching.

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

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.

Students gain medical experience volunteering in Mexico.
Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center is ranked No. 3 in the nation.

Prof. Robert Goldberg, Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology, focuses on plant genetics.

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

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

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


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

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.
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
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.
ALUMNI CAREER PROFILES

LISA D. CAGNOLATTI  
B.S. ’83

**MAJORED** in chemical engineering, UCLA Samuei 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
**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
- Art History
- Asian American Studies
- Asian Caucasian Studies
- 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
- 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
- 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 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/Applications
- 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

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**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.
Civil Engineering  
Computer Engineering  
Computer Science  
Computer Science and Engineering  
Electrical Engineering  
Materials Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering  
Undeclared  

**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 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  
- 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.