Academic Majors

EXPLORING YOUR INTERESTS, SHAPING YOUR FUTURE

Zerry Barr, Anthropology

Saul Lincoln, Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics
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 and sensors to make water treatment plants self-regulating. A cross-disciplinary Grand Challenges team of all-star faculty is committed to making Los Angeles 100 percent sustainable in energy, water and biodiversity 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 are involved with many NASA missions, from Dawn to Mars 2020 to the Europa Mission. Undergraduate students are designing and building the ELFIN satellite to conduct research into space weather, which powers the Northern Lights (anticipated launch 2018).

Here’s a sampling of majors. See pages 14–15 for a complete list.

Biochemistry
Electrical Engineering
Computer Science
Applied Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering

These majors are of growing interest:

Statistics
Physics
Mathematics/Economics
Engineering Geology

A few of the intriguing minors in this area. See page 15 for a complete list.

Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
Biomedical Research
Earth and Environmental Science
Geochemistry
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. 7 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 Mountain Reserve, used for research and internships. Ongoing studies focus on how flora and fauna have recovered from a 1993 fire.

Here’s a sampling of majors. See pages 14–15 for a complete list.

**Biology**
**Psychology**
**Psychobiology**
**Physiological Science**
**Nursing**

These majors are of growing interest:
**Cognitive Science**
**Neuroscience**
**Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology**
**Human Biology and Society**

A few of the intriguing minors in this area. See page 15 for a complete list.

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

**Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center is ranked No. 7 in the nation.**

**Prof. Tracy Johnson, Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology, focuses on how cells alter gene regulation.**

**Student organic garden**

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

**Prof. Amy Rowat, Integrative Biology and Physiology, teaches a course in Science & Food.**

**Student with medical experience volunteering in Mexico.**

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**Students with medical experience volunteering in Mexico.**

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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.

These majors are of growing interest:
African American Studies
American Indian Studies
Asian American Studies
Chicana and Chicano Studies
Communication Studies
Gender Studies

A few of the intriguing minors in this area. See page 15 for a complete list.
Civic Engagement
Entrepreneurship

Here’s a sampling of majors. See pages 14–15 for a complete list.

Business Economics
Political Science
Economics
Sociology
History
Public Affairs

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

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

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

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

Study pods in the Charles E. Young Research Library.
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 India Carney wowed audiences on The Voice. She’s just 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.

Here’s a sampling of majors. See pages 14–15 for a complete list.

English
Philosophy
Theater
Art History
Music
Design | Media Arts

These majors are of growing interest:
Ethnomusicology
Linguistics

A few of the 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.

JESSICA WILLISON B.A. ‘13 AND ANN WANG B.A. ‘13

MAJORED in Communication Studies (Willison) and International Development (Wang), College of Letters and Science

NOW co-founders of socially conscious start-up Enrou, an online marketplace

BEFORE UCLA, went to high school together in the Inland Empire

AT UCLA, Willison did an editorial internship at fashion publication Refinery29; Wang worked in the Alumni Scholarships Program and at the Volunteer Center.

AFTER GRADUATION, they completed a 10-week StartUp UCLA course for entrepreneurial students and recent graduates. That prepared them to compete at the Forbes Under 30 Summit, where they won the “$400,000 Pressure Cooker” pitch competition to fund their business venture. Winners of the UCLA Alumni Award for Recent Graduate Achievement.

DREW Z. GREENBERG B.A. ‘93

MAJORED in Political Science, College of Letters and Science

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, Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science

NOW Active in the community: board vice president of YWCA of Greater Los Angeles and board member, 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.

MICHAEL REYES B.A. ‘14

MAJORED in English, minoried in French and Francophone Studies, College of Letters and Science

NOW, as a Ford Fellow, pursues a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at University of Texas, Austin. Academic focus 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.

ANDREW CAMPION B.A. ‘93

MAJORED in Economics, College of Letters and Science

NOW Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Nike, Inc. His wife is also a Bruin, Shelby Campion ’95.

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 Made in L.A. 2018 at the UCLA Hammer Museum. Her LA Metro commission is permanently installed at the 17th Street station in Santa Monica.

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.

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 Studies
Asian Religions
Asian Languages and Linguistics
Art History
Arts and Humanities
Arts and Technologies
Asian Studies
Asian Languages and Linguistics
Asian American Studies
Art History
Armenian Studies
Arabic and Islamic Studies
Arts History
Asian American Studies
Asian Humanities
Asian Languages
Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
Astrophysics
Asian Religions
Asian Languages and Linguistics
Asian American Studies
Art History
Armenian Studies
Arabic and Islamic Studies
Arts History
Asian American Studies
Asian Humanities
Asian Languages
Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
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Arabic and Islamic Studies
Arts History
Asian American Studies
Asian Humanities
Asian Languages
Aerospace Engineering
Bioengineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Computer Engineering
Computer Science
Computer Science and Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Materials Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Undeclared
Herb Alpert School of Music
(see pp. 10–11)
Ethnomusicology
Global Jazz Studies
Music (Composition, Performance)
Musiology
Luskin School of Public Affairs
(see pp. 8–9)
Public Affairs*
School of Nursing
(see pp. 6–7)
Nursing Prelicensure
School of Theater, Film and Television
(see pp. 10–11)
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 Only freshman-level applicants may apply as undeclared.
4 Open to junior-level applicants only (60 semester/90 quarter units completed by transfer)

Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science
(see pp. 4–5)

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
Psychology*
Religion, Study of
Russian Language and Literature
Russian Studies
Scandinavian Languages and Cultures
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*
School of the Arts and Architecture
(see pp. 10–11)
Architectural Studies
Art
Design | Media Arts
World Arts and Cultures
Individual Field of Concentration*

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
Central and East European Studies
Chicana and Chicano Studies
Civic Engagement
Classical Civilization
Cognitive Science
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
European Studies
Evolutionary Medicine
Film, Television, and Digital Media
Food Studies
French
Gender Studies
Geochronology
Geography
Geography/Environmental Studies
Geology
Geophysics and Planetary Physics
Global Health
Global Studies
Greek
Hebrew and Jewish Studies
History
History of Science and Medicine
International Migration Studies
Iranian Studies
Israel Studies
Italian
Labor and Workplace Studies
Latin
Latin American Studies
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies
Linguistics
Literature and the Environment
Mathematical Biology
Mathematics
Mexican Studies
Middle Eastern Studies
Musicology
Music Industry
Neuroscience
Philosophy
Portuguese
Public Affairs
Public Health
Religion, Study of
Russian Language
Russian Literature
Russian Studies
Scandinavian
Science Education
Social Thought
Society and Genetics
South Asian Studies
Southeast Asian Studies
Spanish
Spanish Linguistics
Statistics
Structural Biology
Systems Biology
Teaching Secondary Mathematics
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.