Explorers Welcome!

WHAT DO YOU want your life to be? Do you have well-defined goals or are you figuring it all out? Are you passionate about a single subject or are you interested in trying a few options? Do you consider yourself a scientist, an artist, or a mash-up too unique to define? No matter how you answer any of these questions, the College of Letters and Science at UC Davis has your back.

We know there isn’t one academic answer that fits everyone. That’s why L&S offers more majors and minors than most other liberal arts colleges in the country. The vast majority of our programs are ranked in the top 50 with many in the top 25. But look beyond those excellent individual rankings and you’ll see a tapestry of excellence — the true and unique value of L&S: customizable education that builds holistic professionals. Our students are not only allowed to explore, they’re encouraged to do so — invited to combine areas of study, and create unique educational experiences that will help them live their most fulfilling lives.

Feeling too limited by a single major? Try adding a minor. Or a second major. Or both. Or create your own major. You are bound only by your curiosity.

We know this may sound… complicated. But rest assured, you don’t have to have it all predetermined on day 1. Nor do you have to figure it out on your own. Our extraordinarily talented student success team is eager to guide you through the options to help you carve an education path that works for you. And they’re very good at what they do.

At the College of Letters and Science at UC Davis, our motto is “Education Without Boundaries for a Life Without Boundaries.” From your first day as an Aggie, you are our partner. We provide the outstanding, custom-built education to prepare you for the life you want. You live that life on your terms. Deal?

Enjoy your journey through our majors catalog. We invite you to dream big, plan big, and act big. And most of all, enjoy the trip!

—ESTELLA ATEKWANA
DEAN, COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE

The College of Letters and Science offers over half of all undergraduate majors at UC Davis.

54 majors 62 minors

15,000 undergraduates have a major in our college

27% underrepresented minorities

37% first-generation

5:1 student to faculty/staff ratio

L&S has more than 900 faculty

Including 42 Guggenheim Fellows

50% of our students conduct independent research and creative projects beyond the classroom. Our instructors lead more than two dozen Study Abroad programs in more than 30 countries.

80% of all students who are double majors are in L&S

600 L&S students have a peer mentor
Your **Journey** Begins Here. Where You Take It is **Up to You**.

**Our Aggie Pathfinders Program**

LOOK INSIDE for a brief description of all 54 majors offered by the College. But if you haven’t yet landed on a major, you’re not alone — many first-year applicants don’t have it figured out.

Aggie Pathfinders is a program that provides a community-focused approach to assisting undeclared and undecided students with meaningful major and career exploration.

Aggie Pathfinders provides a small cohort experience for incoming College of Letters and Science first-year students who are exploring majors and careers with a path that promotes academic excellence, active community involvement, and peer mentorship. Entering undeclared students will be invited to join before enrollment.

**Participants Will Gain:**

- Exclusive access to academic resources and dedicated advising.
- A community with other students who are exploring majors and careers.
- Exposure to career competencies.
- Peer-to-Peer mentorship and access to quarterly social events.

**Explore Majors, Graduate in Four Years With Our Undeclared/Undecided Program**

**WE UNDERSTAND** how important it is for you to find a path to a career you will love. We also understand that we have a lot for you to choose from considering our college has four broad areas: social sciences, math and physical sciences, humanities, and the arts. We have over 110 majors and minors to explore! Let us help you narrow down the best options.

Apply as an Undeclared major and let us assist you in creating a dynamic and custom learning experience. The Undeclared Program offers targeted academic advising, major and career exploration workshops, and even an annual “Majors Fair.” Capitalize on your curiosity through major exploration as an Undeclared student. Join the Aggie Pathfinders (see above) program for an even more tailored experience!
Our Majors and Minors 2023-2024

- **African American and African Studies**
  African American and African Studies provides a deep engagement with African American, African Diaspora, and African cultures, societies, histories, and politics and their impact on the modern world. With a comparative understanding of the nature of African American, African Diaspora, and African societies, their struggles, and traditions of the past and present, graduates are prepared to work in situations requiring an appreciation of cultural diversity and awareness of social forces.

- **American Studies**
  American Studies examines cultural and ethnic diversity through national and transnational frameworks. In classes and small group seminars, majors study the intersections of race, gender, class, sexuality, disability, and other forms of social (in)justice through topics such as food, music, and the environment. Graduates are prepared for a broad range of careers, including journalism, law, medicine, environmental planning, library science, museum curatorship, and teaching.

- **Anthropology (A.B. or B.S.)**
  What makes humans human? The study of anthropology helps us learn about human biology, ecology, and social life—past and present—and provides a broad understanding of humans and societies. The anthropological perspective is excellent preparation for a wide range of occupations due to a growing need for critical thinking skills and people who can manage, evaluate, and interpret data on human behavior. Majors can choose from A.B. or B.S. degree options studying evolutionary anthropology, sociocultural anthropology, or a mix of both.

- **Applied Mathematics**
  Learn how to use mathematics to answer questions integral to the advancement of knowledge in scientific fields such as engineering, physics, economics, biology, and statistics. Majors can focus their studies on how math relates to topics in a specific science of their choice.

- **Applied Physics**
  A degree in Applied Physics provides a flexible set of skills applicable to a diverse array of careers, from oceanography and geology to law school, banking, and medicine. The major combines the principles of physics with practical expertise in one of seven specialties: atmospheric physics, chemical physics, computational physics, geophysics, materials science, physical electronics, or physical oceanography.

- **African American Studies**
  African American Studies examines the diverse and complex experiences of African Americans through literature, culture, history, sociology, politics, religion, and psychology. Drawing on multiple disciplines, this program develops skills in research, critical thinking, public speaking, and writing, while deepening an understanding of the richness and diversity of our nation. The major also offers opportunities to work directly with local and greater California African American communities.

- **Asian American Studies**
  Asian American Studies examines the diverse and complex experiences of Asian Americans through literature, culture, history, sociology, politics, religion, and psychology. Students can choose from a mix of degree options studying evolutionary anthropology, sociocultural anthropology, or a mix of both.

- **Art History**
  As the world becomes increasingly flooded with images, visual "reading" skills have become more important. A major in Art History develops critical thinking skills, providing an excellent grounding for professions as diverse as law, medicine, and business. The major draws on aspects of literature, history, critical theory, philosophy, anthropology, and cultural studies.

- **Art Studio**
  A major in Art Studio allows students to explore and expand their creative abilities, practice problem-solving, and cultivate aesthetic sensitivity and visual awareness. These skills and traits broaden students' perspectives for success in any career requiring creativity, artistic knowledge, and skill. Many alumni are professional visual artists, while others have built careers in teaching, arts management, marketing, and advertising.

- **Chemical Physics**
  Graduates will gain an in-depth understanding of the fundamentals of chemistry, focusing on areas at the interface of chemistry and physics, such as the experimental measurement and theoretical calculation of the behavior of atoms and molecules. Students will access important experimental tools like spectroscopy, which uses conventional or laser light to probe the atomic and molecular properties of matter.

- **Chemistry (A.B. or B.S.)**
  From the twitch of a muscle fiber to the silent explosion of a supernova, every happening in the universe is linked at an atomic level by the principles of chemistry. The A.B. degree offers students a substantive program in chemistry with the freedom to pursue a broad liberal arts education. The B.S. degree is certified by the American Chemical Society, and provides a strong foundation in experimental processes, instrumentation, and quantitative analysis. Students will be prepared to successfully pursue graduate training and careers in government, industry, and teaching.

- **Chicana and Chicano Studies**
  The Chicana/o Studies major explores the Chicano/Latinx experience through an analysis of class, race-ethnicity, gender and sexuality, and cultural expression. The major offers two tracks. The Cultural Studies track integrates literature, culture, and artistic expression. The Social/Policy Studies track emphasizes social theory, research methods, and studies in community and health issues. Students are expected to read, write, and speak Spanish.

- **Chinese**
  A major in Chinese is the gateway to the world’s most widely spoken language and to the modern culture of almost one-fourth of the world’s population. By studying in small classes with highly skilled instructors and advanced educational technology, students will develop competency in written and spoken Mandarin, even with no prior knowledge of Chinese. Students can also further their knowledge of China’s literary and cultural heritage through study abroad in China, Taiwan, or Hong Kong.

- **Classical Civilization**
  Classics is the study of the language, literature, and culture of the peoples surrounding the Mediterranean from roughly 1500 BCE to 300 CE, with ancient Greek and Latin as the two primary languages of investigation and instruction. The discipline tackles issues of truth, beauty, identity, morality, gender, sexuality, democracy, race, and religion. It examines how the modern world still structures itself on myths from the past, and it asks how we deal with the legacies handed down to us. Students develop skills for careers in academia, journalism, television, publishing, museum work, teaching, and law.
Cognitive Science (A.B. or B.S.)
Understanding human behavior is a core strength in many professions, providing a wide range of career paths for the Cognitive Science degree-holders. Classes draw from psychology, biology, computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, and philosophy to examine how the mind determines behavior. Students interested in artificial intelligence, linguistics, education, and brain and health sciences careers will want to explore this major.

Communication
Communication majors study communication processes at the individual, interpersonal, organizational, and societal levels. They analyze message delivery systems, the role of the media, and the effectiveness of public education campaigns. A special focus of the program is research into bridging cross-cultural communication gaps.

Comparative Literature
From Aesop’s Fables and Lady Murasaki’s early Japanese novels to the contemporary work of writers such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, comparative literature majors explore a broad range of genres, styles, and themes. This major sharpens analytical and writing skills as students focus on the national literatures of their choice. Students may choose to specialize in a particular genre, historical period, or movement.

Data Science
A collaborative effort between the College of Letters and Science and the College of Engineering, the data science major will prepare students to collect, manage, and analyze data, to consider the ethical and societal impacts of data science, and to communicate their discoveries effectively. Three foundational tracks focused on statistics, mathematics, and computer science are offered. The principles of data science are taught in a wide variety of disciplines, and student research and internship opportunities abound.

Design
The Design major combines artistic skill and training with experience in practical and commercial applications. The Design program is the only comprehensive academic design unit in the University of California system, delivering a research-focused curriculum that fully integrates design history, theory, and criticism with design thinking, making, writing, visual literacy, and creative practice.

East Asian Studies
East Asian countries play important roles in today’s global culture and economy. Majors in East Asian Studies gain an understanding of this region through interdisciplinary studies that combine work in an East Asian language with courses exploring aspects of the culture and societies of East Asia. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the Study Abroad Program to gain firsthand experience in China and Japan.

Economics
Economics majors are well prepared to succeed in careers requiring both knowledge of financial concepts and keen analytical abilities. The curriculum encompasses instruction in deductive reasoning and analysis of models to help understand economic theory, strategies, tactics, policies, and consequences. At the same time, students are trained in modern methods of empirical and data analysis that are needed in the business and professional world.

English
Students who major in English have unlimited career options. English majors develop an excellent background in critical thinking, and learn to conduct research, analyze information, and deliver effective arguments in writing. The flexibility of the major accommodates individual interests, with students focusing on critical histories and methods, creative writing, and multicultural literature, or the relation of literature to disciplines such as environmental humanities or game studies.

French
The French major cultivates critical thinking, historical awareness, effective written and oral expression, and sensitivity to cultural difference. The curriculum in French encompasses a wide array of courses in literature from the Middle Ages through the 21st century, as well as theoretical and applied linguistics, and the history and culture of nearly all geographic regions of the French-speaking world. French majors pursue careers in fields such as teaching, law, journalism, medicine, government, translation services, and the travel industry.

Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies
Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies draws on elements of several disciplines to examine how factors of gender, sexuality, race, and class affect society on multiple levels. The program introduces students to relevant social issues, fosters critical thinking, develops strong verbal, writing, and research skills; and encourages social advocacy. The major is ideal for careers in counseling, clinical psychology, social services, education, media, or politics, and establishes a useful foundation for graduate school.

Geology (A.B. or B.S.)
Geology is the study of Earth, and in particular its history, structure, and the processes that have molded our planet and its biosphere. These planetary processes are viewed through the prism of “deep time,” a perspective unique to geoscientists. In addition, all students explore applied aspects of the geosciences, such as oil and water, earthquakes, river restoration, and climate change. Students pursuing the B.S. degree may choose between three tracks: General Geology, Geochemistry/Petrology, or Quantitative/Geophysics.

German
From Marx, Nietzsche, Brecht, and Kafka to Beethoven and Mozart, the influence of German language and culture reaches far beyond the boundaries of Germany itself. German majors explore the myriad aspects of the German-speaking world in courses designed to cultivate a deep understanding of society and institutions beyond the language. Opportunities abound for internships and study abroad.

History
Historians know that modern culture and conflict can only be understood by turning to its historical roots. The events, people, triumphs, and mistakes of the past are key to understanding the forces and factions at work today. History majors work with some of the country’s foremost historical researchers and writers, whose areas of expertise span the ages and the globe.

International Relations
International Relations majors draw from a variety of academic disciplines to gain a more complete picture of the factors that shape regions and nations. Students can choose between one of four tracks: World Trade and Development; Peace and Security; Global Environment, Health, and Natural Resources; and Peoples and Nationalities. International Relations majors embark on exciting careers in the federal government, international or nongovernmental organizations, and companies conducting business internationally.

Italian
Italian majors study the people, culture, history, linguistics, film, and literature of Italy, as well as its contemporary society, and explore how these influences have shaped our view of the world. Most classes are small and provide individual attention from instructors. An Italian major can lead to careers in medicine, law, business, international relations, teaching, or graduate work in almost any field.

Japanese
A major in Japanese gives students the chance to learn a different language, explore cultures in depth, and think critically and creatively about the world around you, all while acquiring skills and knowledge for a successful career in the global arena. Students gain a firm grounding in both spoken and written Japanese and can explore a diverse range of literature and culture courses taught in English—everything from traditional poetry to modern fiction and contemporary popular culture.

Linguistics
Language is one of the most important factors separating humans from other animals. It both unites and divides us culturally, ethnically, socially, and personally. Linguists study the structure, variation, and use of language among different cultural groups. Linguistics draws on many disciplines, including psychology, anthropology, computer science, literature, neuroscience, and education. Many graduates pursue advanced degrees or careers in computer science, teaching, lexicography, bilingual-bicultural education, and curriculum development.

Marine and Coastal Science
The interdisciplinary Marine and Coastal Science major highlights the terrestrial-marine interface, coastal issues, and human impacts on the marine environment. The emphasis of Oceans and the Earth System concentrates on our changing oceans in the context of Earth history, including climate change, paleoceanography, ecological shifts, conservation, and marine policy.
Mathematical Analytics and Operations Research
A major in Mathematical Analytics and Operations Research is ideally suited to students with an interest in business or economics. Businesses have a critical need for scientifically trained analysts who can use mathematical models to interpret big data, analyze markets, and forecast trends. Majors gain skills in developing reliable models for forecasting, decision-making, and long-term planning. Careers in this field can be found in virtually every industry, from finance to entertainment to education.

Mathematical and Scientific Computation
Mathematical and Scientific Computation majors attain advanced knowledge of computer science, specifically programming, as well as a solid foundation in mathematics. Students learn how to model or analyze complicated systems or problems in areas such as earthquakes, economics, and biology. The major has two emphases: Computational and Mathematical Biology, and Computation and Mathematics. This major provides entry to many careers, including teaching, operations research, systems analysis, computing, actuarial work, insurance, and financial services.

Mathematics (A.B. or B.S.)
RANKED 13th
Mathematics is the study of abstract structures, space, change, and the interrelations of these concepts. Mathematicians work to address some of science’s most pressing questions, bridging gaps between disciplines and considering problems in their purest, most theoretical form. Mathematics alumni have pursued careers in operations research, systems analysis, computing, actuarial work, insurance, and financial services. Others have entered graduate study in mathematics or in fields such as law, engineering, and economics.

Medieval and Early Modern Studies
The centuries between 300 and 1500 CE are called the Middle Ages. Many of our social institutions and cultural practices have their roots in this period. Majors examine the medieval origins of our political, legal, and religious systems, trace the development of artistic and literary styles, and explore the impact of non-Europeans on medieval Europe. Preliminary courses include medieval history, art history, religion, and philosophy, along with a three-course sequence on medieval culture. Later, students may select from courses in dramatic art, music, and political science.

Middle East/South Asia Studies
The Middle East/South Asia Studies major focuses on the comparative study of these two critical regions and their historically intertwined cultures and economies. Students take courses within a variety of disciplines, including but not limited to: anthropology, art, comparative literature, film, history, music, political science, and religious studies. Students will receive a strong foundation in the regional languages, with at least two years required in Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi/Urdu, Persian, or another approved regional language. This major provides an excellent background for careers in business, government, international development, teaching, and translation.

Music
Music is an essential part of life. We challenge our majors to hone their musicianship while developing critical thinking skills. Students can choose to specialize in performance, composition, or theory/history/ethnomusicology. They can also choose to build their own path through the major. Performance opportunities include the orchestra, chorus, band, and a variety of diverse music ensembles, as well as the opportunity to study with one of 25 instrumentalists.

Native American Studies
Native American Studies offers the opportunity to understand and learn from the history and traditions of the indigenous peoples of North, Central, and South America. Drawing from the philosophy, politics, social values, and arts of native cultures, the major provides insight into a diverse population of people. Native American Studies provides excellent preparation for graduate studies in fields such as teaching, law, business, human services, health, tribal administration, social work, and human resources management.

Pharmaceutical Chemistry
The demand for pharmaceutical chemists is high and is anticipated to grow. The major in Pharmaceutical Chemistry provides students with an in-depth understanding of the processes and societal issues surrounding the design and development of pharmaceuticals. Students in this major will learn how drugs work; study drug synthesis, design, and delivery; and explore ethical issues surrounding pharmaceutical development. Graduates are prepared for careers in industry and also gain a solid foundation to pursue professional or graduate programs in the health fields.

Physics (A.B. or B.S.)
RANKED 18th
From subatomic particles to galaxies with billions of stars, Physics majors study what the universe is made of and how it works. Students learn about our present understanding of the universe and join faculty in research that ranges from the very smallest distances associated with elementary particle physics, to nanophysics and superconductivity, and on to the structure and evolution of the entire universe. Students may choose a B.S. with astrophysics specialization.

Political Science
RANKED 15th
Political scientists study the complex, intertwined forms of government and their effects on citizens, businesses, and institutions. Majors develop research, analytic, and communication skills valuable in careers such as teaching, law, management, government, urban planning, journalism, politics, and administration. Political Science majors at UC Davis are only minutes from California’s state capital. Internships in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., provide firsthand experience in government agencies and other political organizations.

Political Science: Public Service
RANKED 16th
Majors in Political Science – Public Service focus on how policy is formulated, implemented, evaluated, and interpreted. Students may also focus on a specific area of policy, such as urban or environmental policy. Every student in this major must complete an internship with a political, governmental, or nonprofit organization.

Psychology (A.B. or B.S.)
RANKED 9th
Psychology examines both the social and scientific bases of behavior. UC Davis is home to many leading researchers in the field of psychology. Students can choose an A.B. or B.S. degree and take classes in five core areas: Social/Personality Psychology; Psychobiology; Perception, Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience; Developmental Psychology; and Quantitative Psychology. Many psychology majors have entered graduate or professional school in medicine, psychology, and social work. Graduates also pursue careers in counseling, business, education, health sciences, research, and technology.
Religious Studies
The major in Religious Studies explores and analyzes the written and oral traditions of many of the world’s religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and African religions. Students learn to describe, compare, and interpret the beliefs and practices of religious traditions, and study how religion has shaped human behavior in matters such as family life, ideas of right and wrong, sexual roles and relations, relations between individuals and society, and artistic expression.

Sociology
Sociologists study how globalization, labor markets, educational systems, political institutions, and culture are embedded in and shape everyday life. Sociologists analyze how cooperation and conflict, action, and interaction are differentiated by social stratification; seek to discover the forces that unite and separate social groups; determine conditions that lead to a transformation of social life; and examine forces for social change. Alumni often pursue careers in law, business and nonprofit management, and social services.

Sociology: Organizational Studies
The Organizational Studies emphasis within the Sociology major provides a broad understanding of the political, social, and economic organizations that make up modern society. Whether thinking about the structure of government bureaucracies, legal systems, economic markets, educational systems, or workplaces, Organizational Studies offers an interdisciplinary vantage from which to understand the contemporary world.

Spanish
Spanish majors study Hispanic, Latinx, and Chicana/lititories and cultures in Spanish. Many Spanish majors are native speakers of Spanish; majoring in Spanish expands their knowledge of the language’s global impact. Other majors learn Spanish as a second language because they know that by 2050 the U.S. will be the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. Alumni enjoy careers in many fields, including business, government, teaching, medicine, and law.

Statistics (A.B. or B.S.)
Statistics provides majors with the skills needed to address quantitative, data-based problems. Statistics majors learn some of the most exciting and relevant uses of statistical data today, applying their knowledge to fields such as the biological and social sciences, engineering and technology, business and finance, law, health, and education.

Theatre and Dance
Participation is a unique focus of the Theatre and Dance major. Majors focus their studies on acting, directing, stagecraft, or dance, and gain experience planning, producing, and bringing performance to the stage. Alumni are stage-managing Broadway plays, acting in Hollywood films and commercials, and performing voiceovers for animated movies and TV shows. Others are pursuing advanced degrees or teaching. Many have entered fields such as arts management and marketing.

Minors
Most of the College’s majors can also be pursued as a minor. In addition, the following subjects are offered as minors only:

- Arab Studies
- Arabic
- Environmental Geology
- Film Studies
- Geophysics
- Global Studies
- Greek
- History and Philosophy of Science
- Human Rights
- India and South Asia Studies
- Iran and Persian Studies
- Jewish Studies
- Latin
- Latin American and Hemispheric Studies
- Linguistics for Language Teachers
- Luso-Brazilian Studies
- Medical Humanities
- Museum Studies
- Oceanography
- Professional Writing
- Sexuality Studies
- Social and Ethnic Relations
- War-Peace Studies
**Student Ambassadors**

Ambassadors of Letters and Science (ALAS) is a group of exceptional student leaders who are enthusiastic about sharing their experiences at UC Davis and representing the College. They host visitors to campus, facilitate informational sessions, and lead tours. Ambassadors are eager to answer your questions and tell you more about life as an Aggie. Learn more at lettersandscience.ucdavis.edu/ambassadors.

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**Peer Mentor Program**

The Peer Mentor Program in the UC Davis College of Letters and Science matches both first-year students and transfer students with current undergraduates within the College.

Students connect with peer mentors through the Mentor Collective system, have optional monthly meets to build campus and community relationships, and have access to success guides to assist with the transition to campus and college life. Students are matched with their mentors based on their academic goals, common interests and backgrounds.

Mentors assist mentees with the navigation of campus resources, offer helpful advice, and build meaningful connections with their peers and the greater campus community.

Learn more at lettersandscience.ucdavis.edu/peer-mentor-program

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**Get to Know Us**

**UC Davis College of Letters and Science:** lettersandscience.ucdavis.edu

**Majors and Minors:** lettersandscience.ucdavis.edu/majors-minors

**UC Davis Majors Blog:** ucdavis.edu/majors/blog

**How to Apply:** ucdavis.edu/admissions/undergraduate/apply

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