

Anthropology • Communication • East Asian Studies • Economics • History
International Relations • Linguistics • Middle East/South Asia Studies • Philosophy
Political Science • Political Science—Public Service • Psychology • Science and Technology Studies
Sociology • Sociology—Organizational Studies • Undeclared—Social Sciences • Other Major Options

Majors in the social sciences create a bridge between disciplines, drawing on both scientific research and liberal arts concepts to form a more complete perception of human nature. Communication, clarity and critical thinking are central to these programs, and students in the social sciences are well-equipped to understand contemporary politics, society, economy and thought in their historical and scientific contexts. Many of these majors will also give you the opportunity to develop useful quantitative skills and analysis.

SOCIAL SCIENCES MAJORS

Anthropology

What makes humans human? Anthropologists seek to answer this question by considering four fields of study: human society and culture; linguistics; archaeology; and biological anthropology. At UC Davis, anthropologists in each of these fields make important contributions toward our understanding of what it means to be human. Whether reconstructing ancient societies from archaeological evidence or analyzing diverse language patterns, anthropology bridges social and natural science to provide a fascinating perspective on humanity's origins and current condition.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 330 Young Hall, (530) 752-0745, www.anthro.ucdavis.edu.

Communication

What can we learn from a word, a gesture, a tone of voice? Methods of verbal and nonverbal communication vary from culture to culture and generation to generation; yet our fast-moving world demands that people of widely diverse backgrounds be able to express themselves clearly and understand each others' viewpoints. Communication majors analyze message delivery systems, cross-cultural communication, the role of the media and the effectiveness of public education campaigns from the interpersonal to societal levels.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 107 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-1221, communication.ucdavis.edu.

East Asian Studies

The countries of East Asia, especially China and Japan, are important actors in today's global culture and economy. Both societies maintain strong continuity with the past; yet both are also dynamic

forces working to shape the future. As a major in East Asian studies, you'll gain an understanding of this fascinating region through interdisciplinary studies that combine intensive work in an East Asian language with courses on the history, politics and culture of East Asian countries.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 108 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-4001, eastasian.ucdavis.edu.

Economics

Economics is the study of choices. How should a society choose to allocate and distribute its resources? Which needs should have the highest priority, and which are less important? Economists study how people use limited resources in an attempt to satisfy unlimited wants. They create scientific models to explain why people behave the way they do, and use these models along with observations of the world to analyze and explain resource use. Economists work in all areas of government and industry, in fields ranging from stock market analysis to sports marketing and banking regulation.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 1113 Social Sciences and Humanities Bldg., (530) 752-0741, www.econ.ucdavis.edu.

History

What can we hope to understand by studying the past? What relevance could the lives of people in ancient Egypt, medieval China or colonial India have to our modern world? The events, people, triumphs and mistakes of the past are the key to understanding the forces and factions at work today. As a history major at UC Davis, you will work with some of the country's foremost historical researchers and writers, whose areas of expertise span the ages and the globe.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 2261 Social Sciences and Humanities Bldg., (530) 752-0777, history.ucdavis.edu.

International Relations

In our fast-paced, increasingly interdependent world, the problems and policies of each nation have repercussions that are felt far beyond its borders. Whether the issue is climatic change caused by carbon dioxide emissions or the rights of workers in factories owned by transnational corporations, decision makers in government and industry must now consider how their actions will affect people around the globe. As an international relations major, you will draw from a variety of academic disciplines to gain a more complete picture of the issues and traditions that shape regions and nations.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 1270 Social Sciences and Humanities Bldg., (530) 752-3063, intlrel.ucdavis.edu.

Linguistics

Language, whether spoken or written, both unites and divides human beings culturally, ethnically, socially and personally. Linguists study the origin, structure, variation, use and historical development of language among different cultural groups. Because language so pervades our everyday lives, linguistics interacts with such diverse disciplines as neuroscience, psychology, computer science, literature, education and others.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 106 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-9933, linguistics.ucdavis.edu.

Middle East/South Asia Studies

The Middle East and South Asia are home to more than a quarter of the world's human population. They span an area of vital historical, cultural, economic, and

geopolitical significance and are the birthplace of major world religions, including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism. As a major in Middle East/South Asia Studies, you will have the opportunity to study the languages, history, and wealth of current topics in this fascinating and highly diverse region.

Questions? Contact the department at 220 Young Hall, (530) 754-4926, mesa.ucdavis.edu.

Philosophy

Philosophy seeks to address fundamental questions that recur in every culture, in every area of human thought. What is the nature of value, the good life, right conduct, knowledge, truth, language, mind, even reality? Many academic disciplines have sought to answer these questions, but through precise and systematic analysis, philosophers seek to uncover and respond to the underlying assumptions unrecognized in such answers.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 1238 Social Sciences and Humanities Bldg., (530) 752-0607, philosophy.ucdavis.edu.

Political Science

What is the proper role of government in a democratic society? What rights do citizens have and how should those rights be protected? Political scientists study the complex, intertwined forms of government and their effects on citizens, businesses and institutions. As a political science major at UC Davis, you'll enjoy the unique advantage of having California's state capital just a short drive away. Internships and study programs in Sacramento and at the UC Washington Center in Washington, D.C. give you the chance to enrich your studies with firsthand experience.

Questions? Contact an adviser at (530) 752-0966, ps.ucdavis.edu.

Political Science—Public Service

Are you interested in how laws and regulations get made? Who influences public policy? If you choose this major, your curriculum will help you focus specifically on how policy is formulated, implemented, evaluated and interpreted. Or focus on a specific area of policy, such as urban or environmental policy. You'll also complete a required internship with a political, governmental or non-profit organization related to your interests.

Questions? Contact an adviser at (530) 752-0966, ps.ucdavis.edu.

Psychology

Ever wonder why you retain certain experiences, while others are lost to memory? How society influences our personality and behavior? Find out the answers as a psychology major at

UC Davis. Psychology is an interdisciplinary program that examines both the social and scientific bases of behavior. You'll be able to choose between a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis in biology or math, and study areas of psychology including personality/social psychology, psychobiology, perception/cognition and developmental psychology.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 141 Young Hall, (530) 752-1882, psychology.ucdavis.edu.

Science and Technology Studies

Is there any part of your social, personal, medical, or political world that is not complicated and challenged by science and technology? Science and technology studies is a new major created to address the complex issues of how science, technology, medicine, and engineering have developed and continue to develop within societies and cultures. STS is a fully interdisciplinary program drawing from disciplines such as anthropology, economics, environmental science and policy, and sociology to understand, interpret, and intervene in our changing world. As an STS major, you can design your studies to follow your interests and prepare for a career in law, medicine and health care, environmental justice, bioethics and science or technical writing.

Questions? Contact or visit an adviser at 1238 Social Sciences and Humanities Bldg., (530) 752-9621, sts.ucdavis.edu.

Sociology

Cooperation and conflict are present in every human relationship, from the bond between married couples to the interactions of socioeconomic classes and ethnic groups. Sociologists study the patterns of group behavior that influence individual action. As a sociology major at UC Davis, you can tailor your major to suit your long-term personal goals, whether they include law school, a career in social services or in-depth work with business organizations.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 1282 Social Sciences and Humanities Bldg., (530) 752-0782, sociology.ucdavis.edu.

Sociology—Organizational Studies

This major develops a broad understanding of the political, social and economic organizations that comprise modern society, using a sociological perspective to guide inquiry. As a multidisciplinary study, this major prepares students for a variety of career options, particularly in the field of management, and may also lead to graduate study.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 1282 Social Sciences and Humanities Bldg., (530) 752-0782, sociology.ucdavis.edu.

Undeclared—Social Sciences

If you'll be entering UC Davis as a freshman and you're undecided on your major, consider the College of Letters and Science's undeclared—social sciences option. You'll benefit from professional guidance as you investigate possible majors and develop new personal strengths. Visit the Counseling Center for personal interest assessment testing, or use the Internship and Career Center's computerized career assessment tools to help you find majors that align with your interests.

Questions? Contact an adviser at (530) 752-0392, advising.ucdavis.edu.

Other Major Options

The College of Letters and Sciences offers an individual major for students who want to forge their own academic path. Students with strong interests in more than one academic discipline may wish to consider a double major. All UC Davis colleges offer academic minors, as well.

The individual major program is designed for the student with multiple interests and educational goals not satisfied within the limits of an already established undergraduate major. The program essentially integrates courses from two or more specialization areas. The major is designed by the student and is subject to approval by faculty advisers and appropriate college committees.

Another approach to individualized academic planning that allows a student to combine two or more interests is the minor program. For most students, the minor either complements the major and/or covers a field of study significantly different from the major. The minor is certified on the student's transcript.

The double major program is still another alternative, but one which leaves even less time for elective courses. The double major requires approval by the appropriate faculty advisers and dean, and students must show that there is a significant difference between the disciplines and requirements of both majors involved. Cross-college majors can be developed with majors in two different colleges.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 200 Social Science & Humanities Bldg., (530) 752-0392, advising.ucdavis.edu.

Want to hear from students and faculty in these majors? Visit admissions.ucdavis.edu/majors for that and more.

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