

# CHICANA AND CHICANO STUDIES

## PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR

### High School Preparation

Recommended as part of or in addition to UC's "a-g" admission requirements:

**Writing and composition,  
Pan-American history and government,  
Literature,  
Social sciences,  
Spanish language.**

### Transfer Preparation

To make normal progress in the major, complete the following courses prior to transfer:

**One year of introduction to Chicano studies,**

**One year of college level Spanish or the equivalent demonstrated level of competence,**

Please see the UCSB *General Catalog* ([www.catalog.ucsb.edu](http://www.catalog.ucsb.edu)) or your school counselor for more information on course preparation. California community college students should see [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org).

UCSB introduced the Chicano Studies curriculum in 1969, thereby establishing one of the first such programs in the nation. In fall 2006 the name was changed to Chicana and Chicano Studies. Today, UCSB's Department of Chicana/o Studies continues to increase our awareness and understanding of the Chicana/o experience. Chicana and Chicano Studies majors will:

- Study the historical origins of Chicana/o culture;
- Analyze the contemporary Chicana/o experience through the use of critical theories and methodologies;
- Explore all facets of Chicana/o culture—its literature, oral traditions, art, music, history, sociology, politics, language, anthropology, and education.

The multicultural nature of the program, its interdisciplinary approach, and its opportunity for supervised community involvement through internships are unique and innovative features of Chicano Studies at UCSB.

## The Major

UCSB offers the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Chicana and Chicano Studies. Areas of faculty specialization cover a broad range of interdisciplinary areas. To prepare for upper-division course offerings, it is essential that students complete a year long introduction to Chicano Studies series which explores basic concepts in Chicana and Chicano Studies and offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Chicana/o communities. Students must also complete one year of university level Spanish, or demonstrate equivalent competency in the language before graduation. Students must also take a proseminar course in their junior or senior year.

The major requires completion of upper-division units (junior and senior level) selected from the following five areas:

- Global, Postcolonial & Border Studies;
- Literature, Culture & Representation;
- Politics, History and Community;
- Critical and Cultural Theory; and
- Gender and Sexuality Studies

The major's flexibility allows students to concentrate on those areas in which they are genuinely interested, and to plan their programs of study in accord with their academic and career goals. A department advisor works with Chicana and Chicano Studies students on an individual basis to help them plan appropriate programs of study.

Students also benefit from campus research units and library collections that are devoted to Chicana and Chicano Studies. The Center for Chicano Studies, one of the campus' 10 Organized Research Units (ORUs), supports research on Chicana/o history and contemporary Chicana/o issues, sponsors public events, and provides training opportunities for students interested in conducting research. The campus library houses the Colección Tloque Nahuaque which specializes in the field of Chicana/o studies. Its Chicano Archival Program contains collections of primary sources of major importance to the study of the Chicana/o cultural arts. The collection includes the papers of director and playwright Luis Valdez and the archives of the theater he

founded, El Teatro Campesino. The collection recently acquired the papers of artist, musician, and poet José Montoya, as well as the archives of the influential Chicano art activist group which Montoya co-founded in 1969 to express the ideals of the civil rights movement and the union-organizing efforts of the United Farm Workers Union. Additionally, the collection has acquired the papers of poet and writer Ana Castillo and the artist Alma Lopez. These acquisitions make UCSB the first university to include the visual arts in its Chicana/o collection, which is among the leading Chicana/o collections in the world.

### **Chicana and Chicano Studies and Careers**

Chicana and Chicano Studies, with its solid liberal arts foundation and interdisciplinary approach, prepares students for a wide variety of careers. The major also prepares students for graduate programs in ethnic-American studies as well as allied fields in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. With additional study or training, students can pursue professional careers of special importance to the Chicana/o community, such as education, law, medicine and the health services, and civil and social services. Students can also pursue careers in journalism, government service, and politics.

Students interested in literature and the performing arts may turn to writing and playwriting, editing and publishing, or theater production work. Flexibility within the major, as well as the double major option, allows students to develop programs of study that prepare them for specific career goals. For example, students pursuing careers in education can take various specialized courses in that area, while students pursuing careers in politics can double major in Chicana and Chicano Studies and political science.

Upon completion of the major, students who want to teach at the university, college, or community college level will be well prepared to begin their post-graduate studies in any of the areas noted above. Teaching at the high school (secondary) or elementary level requires a California teaching credential. The elementary credential offers a bilingual cross-cultural emphasis. Students interested in pursuing the secondary or elementary options should discuss their plans with the credential advisor in UCSB's Graduate School of Education early in their academic careers.

The Chicana/o Studies Department also offers a Master/Ph.D. program.

For further information on UCSB's Chicana and Chicano Studies major, please call or write to:

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