

School of Social Sciences



Chicano/Latino studies majors provide expertise to public and private corporations who conduct business with and in Latin American communities.

Growing up in Los Angeles, I knew my culture as a daughter of Central American refugees was important, but I didn't know why or how. As a Chicano/Latino studies major, I am able to take courses on migration, Latino politics, film, and research which provides me with a comprehensive understanding of the Chicano/Latino community.

The major has also provided me the opportunity to study abroad in Mexico City, Mexico while conducting research for my honors thesis.

-Barbara Escobar
Chicano/Latino Studies Major

Chicano/ Latino Studies

What is Chicano/Latino studies?

The major in Chicano/Latino studies is designed to provide undergraduate students with an opportunity to examine the historical and contemporary experiences of Chicanos and Latinos. This diverse population includes people who trace their heritage to Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and many other Latin American and Caribbean nations.

The curriculum seeks to provide an awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of the language, history, culture, literature, sociology, anthropology, politics, social ecology, health, medicine, and creative (art, dance, drama, film, music) accomplishments in Chicano/Latino communities.

Topics of research in Chicano/Latino studies

The Chicano/Latino studies faculty at UC Irvine maintain expertise in a number of topics including, among others:

- Ethnic and Latino politics
- Immigration
- Racial, ethnic and minority relations
- Latino and Chicano literature
- Racialized sexualities

Through the Chicano/Latino studies honors program, you will have the opportunity to pursue cutting-edge research with our top notch faculty experts.

What can I do with a degree in Chicano/Latino studies?

With our ever shrinking global society, there are many career opportunities available for students with expertise in Chicano/Latino studies. Opportunities include:

- Service with national and international organizations seeking knowledge of American multicultural society and of Chicano/Latino peoples and cultures.
- Area specialist positions with state and federal government agencies.
- Careers in the private sector with corporations or private organizations with a significant portion business activities in the U.S. and Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, and other Latin American countries.
- Service and leadership positions in education, human services, law, health, journalism, and public policy within Chicano/Latino communities.

Students may also continue their education and pursue professional or graduate degrees. Employers and graduate or professional school admission officers understand many of their employees and graduates will one day work in communities with significant Chicano/Latino populations, and for this reason they give due consideration to applicants who have in-depth knowledge of Chicano/Latino culture.

Suggested curriculum for a Chicano/Latino studies major

Freshman¹ (12 to 16 units per quarter)

Lower Division Writing (two courses)
Chicano/Latino Studies 61, 62, 63²
General Education II or IV (three courses)
Spanish 2A³ or its equivalent
Social Science 3A
Social Sciences introductory course

Sophomore (16 units per quarter)

Social Science 10A-B-C or Math 2A-B-7
Social Sciences introductory course
General Education II or IV (three courses)
General Education VIII and IX

Junior (16 units per quarter)

Chicano/Latino Studies 101
Chicano/Latino Studies 102
Comparative Ethnic Studies Course
or Education 124 (one course)
Four upper division Chicano/Latino
Studies electives⁴
Three Chicano/Latino Studies electives
(two must be upper division)³

Senior (16 units per quarter)

Electives⁵

¹Students should move from a 12 to 16 unit work load sometime in first year, when comfortable with the change.

²These courses can meet the General Education VII requirement.

³Students are encouraged to continue their Spanish language education through Spanish 2C.

⁴Each course must be completed in a separate category selected from the following six: Literature, Arts, Media, Culture (Chicano/Latino Studies 110-129); History (Chicano/Latino Studies 130-139); Society, Labor, Politics, Law, Gender, Race, Ethnicity (Chicano/Latino Studies 140-159); Globalization, Transnationalism, Immigration, U.S.-Mexico Border (Chicano/Latino Studies 160-169); Health, Medicine, Psychosocial Dynamics (Chicano/Latino Studies 170-179); Educational Policy and Issues (Chicano/Latino Studies 180-189).

⁵Electives may include Independent Study courses (Chicano/Latino Studies 199). Students may obtain credit for one of these three courses through participation in a study abroad program in Mexico. Students must consult with the Program office for additional information regarding this option. Field research can meet the General Education IX requirement.

Opportunities in Chicano/Latino studies at UC Irvine

Explore the opportunities in Chicano/Latino studies at UC Irvine.

Honors Program

Are you looking for a challenge? The honors program in Chicano/Latino studies allows undergraduates to pursue field research and write an honors thesis on topics of their choice under the guidance of Chicano/Latino Studies faculty members. Research projects typically involve a combination of library and field research. Learn more online at www.socsci.uci.edu/clstudies/majorminor.

Chicano/Latino Studies Minor

Are you interested in Chicano/Latino studies but don't feel that a major is right for you? A minor may be just the answer! The minor in Chicano/Latino studies consists of six courses as well as a language requirement. Learn more online at www.socsci.uci.edu/clstudies/majorminor.

Certificate Program

The department offers three certificates in **history and culture**, **social policy and issues**, and **Chicano/Latino community in a global context**. Learn more online at www.socsci.uci.edu/clstudies/certificate_program.

Scholarship Opportunities

In addition to the UC Irvine and School of Social Sciences scholarship opportunities, the Chicano/Latino studies department offers several major specific scholarships to its undergraduate students. Learn more online at www.socsci.uci.edu/clstudies/majorminor.

Casa Cesar Chavez

This department-sponsored academic theme house provides residents with a variety of educational, social, and cultural activities. Learn more online at www.socsci.uci.edu/casachavez.

Undergraduate Counseling Office

The Social Sciences Undergraduate Counseling Office provides numerous services and special programs for undergraduate students including course planning, change of major requests, financial aid appeals, course substitutions, and information concerning honors, graduate and professional school, and careers and internships. Visit the Counseling Office online at www.socsci.uci.edu/ugs or call (949) 824-6803 today to set up an appointment.

Academic Resource Center

A great starting point for information about academic-related endeavors is the School of Social Sciences Academic Resource Center (SSARC) where students may obtain information about internships, graduate school, and prospective careers in a number of Social Sciences related fields. Visit the Academic Resource Center online at www.socsci.uci.edu/ssarc or call (949) 824-8322 today to set up an appointment.



*Pictured on front and at right:
Barbara Escobar, Chicano/Latino studies major,
studying in Mexico City.*