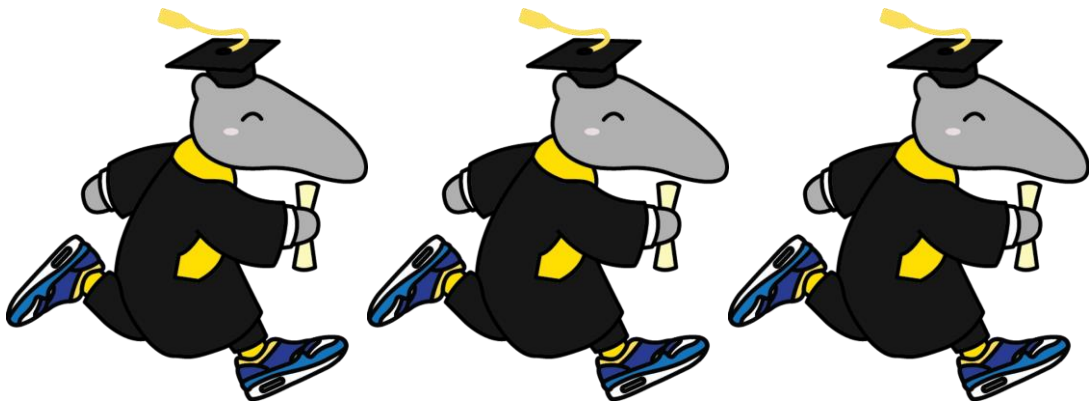




UCI Department of Chicano/Latino Studies

Information for Majors
(and the Major-Curious)



What is Chicano Latino Studies?

Chicano/Latino Studies emerged as a scholarly discipline in the late 1960s, as a result of youth and student activism in Southern California and across the U.S. during the Civil Rights era. The first programs, created at CSU and UC campuses across the state, were a response to Chicana student and activist demands that Chicana history, culture and contemporary social and political realities be represented and studied in higher education classrooms. A number of UCI's founding Chicano/Latino Studies faculty were active participants in the Chicano Movement of the late sixties and early seventies that led to the creation of this new academic discipline.

Today, UCI is home to the second-highest ranked Department of Chicano/Latino Studies in the nation. Our faculty includes award-winning scholars, artists and educators from the fields of History, Sociology, Political Science, Public Health, Literary Journalism, Cultural Studies and Psychology, all of whom conduct research on different aspects of Chicana/Latina experiences. Our multidisciplinary program is designed to provide our undergrad students with the opportunity to examine the wide range of experiences of Chicana@s and Latina@s in the United States, past and present. It also provides intensive training and step-by-step support in conducting social sciences and humanistic research on Chicana/Latina topics. Our major sets students up for success in graduate school and careers ranging from medicine, law, business, education and social services, politics and public policy, journalism and the non-profit sector. We also provide a unique pre-health pathway that prepares undergrads who aspire to improve the physical and mental health of Chicana/Latina communities to become exceptional candidates for medical school and other graduate health programs.



**Why Should You Major (or Double Major)
in Chicano/Latino Studies?**

Develop in-depth knowledge of the history, culture and contemporary experiences of the 65 million-strong U.S. Latinx community. This is valuable knowledge for anyone who intends to live and work in the United States, especially California, where Latinx people make up almost 40% of the state's population. For many of our students, ChcLat Studies also provides an opportunity to explore their own identities by learning more about their own family and community's experiences, struggles, and accomplishments.

Set yourself up for professional success. ChcLat graduates have launched successful careers in education, human services, law, health and medicine, journalism, public policy, as well as in business, state and federal government agencies, the non-profit sector and in academia. Our majors are uniquely competitive in fields where multi- and cross-cultural competence and knowledge of Chicanx/Latinx communities is required.

Leverage your cultural assets to prepare for a medical/healthcare career. We offer personalized guidance on how to complete pre-med requirements while earning a health-focused degree in Chicano Latino Studies, including our [Certificate in Social Determinants of Health in Latino Communities](#). Several of our faculty teach in UCI Medical School's Program in Medical Education for the Latino Community (PRIME-LC), a joint MD/Master's program that trains physicians to serve in under-resourced Latinx communities—so we are well equipped to support you in pursuing your dream of a medical/healthcare career.

Conduct original research and set yourself up as a competitive grad school applicant. All ChcLat majors complete a two-course "capstone" sequence in which they are guided step-by-step through designing, conducting and writing a paper based on original research. Most grad school applications require a writing sample, and those who submit work based on original research have a significant competitive edge.

Earn credit advocating for Chicanx/Latinx communities locally, in Sacramento or Washington DC. For more information, visit <https://career.uci.edu/undergraduate/find-a-job/uci-internship-programs/>, <https://civicengagement.uci.edu/uccs/>, and <https://civicengagement.uci.edu/ucdc/>.

Earn academic credit for studying abroad in Latin America. For more information on UCEAP programs, visit <https://studyabroad.uci.edu/>. Financial aid is available for study abroad programs, too!

Live in Latinx-themed campus housing. Our department is affiliated with Casa Cesar Chavez, which provides residents with unique Latinx-themed learning experiences.

<https://housing.uci.edu/themes/arroyo-vista/>.

Apply for ChcLat scholarships and awards. For more information, visit

<https://www.chicanolatinostudies.uci.edu/undergrad/awards.php>.

How Do I Earn my B.A. in Chicano/Latino Studies?



Requirements for the Major:

1. Five core courses: CHCLAT 61, 62, 63, 101, 102W.
2. Spanish 2A or its equivalent. Many heritage speakers fulfill this requirement through AP credit or by testing out through the [UCI Academic Testing Center](#).
3. One comparative ethnic studies course that examines African American or Asian American communities in the U.S., selected from either:
 - a. [African American Studies \(AFAM\)](#);
 - b. [Asian American Studies \(ASIANAM\)](#) or;
 - c. [ChcLat 183/Education 124](#)
4. Three upper-division electives, one from each of the following categories:
 - a. Literature, Arts, and Media (CHCLAT 110-129);
 - b. History (CHCLAT 130-139);
 - c. Inequalities and Social Context (CHCLAT 140-189)
5. Four additional elective courses, three of which must be CHCLAT upper-division courses. Electives may include:
 - a. [The Honors Program \(CHCLAT H190A-B-C\)](#); three quarter sequence
 - b. [Independent Study Courses \(CHCLAT 199\)](#)

Requirements for the Minor:

- CHC/LAT 61, 62, and 63
- Three upper-division courses from CHC/LAT 100-189 (at least two taken at UCI)
- Spanish 2A or equivalent

For the most up to date information on major and minor requirements, as well as University and School requirements, refer to the UCI General Catalogue.

We Also Have a Certificate Program...

The UCI Department of Chicano/Latino Studies offers certificates recognizing the successful completion of a focused course of study in the following areas.

1. Chicanx/Latinx Art, Culture and Creative Expression

This certificate focuses on U.S. Latinx individual and collective art-making, popular culture production and creative expression, and how these practices influence and reflect Latinx experiences, identities and community formation.

2. Central Americans and the Diaspora

This certificate focuses on issues and policies affecting Central Americans and the Diaspora and their access to and participation in social institutions. Chc/Lat 161A:

3. Social Determinants of Health in Latino Communities

This certificate recognizes special expertise in the health and medical fields with special emphasis on cultural and structural competency with diverse Latino/a communities.

Each certificate requires the completion of three courses in its field with a grade of C or better (More information on certificate eligible courses [here](#)), and participation in three designated departmental or university events, seminars, or colloquia with a focus on Chicanx/Latinx communities. Applications and notices of events, seminars, and colloquia pertaining to each certificate will be posted online on our department

websites' Calendar of Events, on our social media, and on the events bulletin board on the 3rd floor of Social Science Tower (near the elevator). In order to receive participation credit, students must sign in at each event and submit a Certificate Colloquium Summary Form, [available here](#), to the department Undergraduate Director, within a week. Each course/event may only be counted toward one certificate. Upon completion of all requirements, students must submit the Certificate Application, [available here](#), and transcripts to the Undergraduate Director. Certificates will be presented at the department's annual spring quarter awards ceremony.



...We also have a Chicano/Latino Studies Honors Program!

The Honors Program allows undergraduates to pursue independent research and write an honors thesis on topics of their choice under the guidance of ChcLat faculty members.

Eligibility

- The program is open to all senior level Chicano/Latino Studies majors.
- Cumulative GPA of 3.3, with a 3.5 average in at least five ChcLat courses.
- Prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ChcLat 101 (Research in the Latino Community)

Step for Completing your Honors Thesis:

1. Before applying (Spring of Junior Year/early Fall Senior Year) - Review the ChcLat [Core Department Faculty](#) list and identify faculty of interest. Request a meeting to discuss potential opportunities to work with them on your honors thesis.

2. Fall of Senior Year - Enroll in Chc/Lat H190A and write a proposal. Field work for the project may begin during this quarter.
3. Winter of Senior Year - Enroll in Chc/Lat H190B. Begin or continue your research.
4. Spring of Senior Year - Enroll in Chc/Lat H190C. Finish writing your senior honors thesis. Graduate with Honors!



And Now, a Message from our Chair...



Dr. Glenda Marisol Flores
Chair, Chicano/Latino Studies

Chicano/Latino Studies is one of the best majors and minors at UCI—it's a true hidden gem in the School of Social Sciences. As a former anteater, I'm proud to have been a major and now a faculty member in this exceptional department. Once an Anteater, always an Anteater!

Our department is unique. We're the only multidisciplinary department in the School of Social Sciences, and we're ranked among the top in the country. The classes you'll take with us bring together fields like sociology, psychology, political science, history, and literature—giving you a well-rounded and solid education. It opens doors to all kinds of careers: law, education, counseling, healthcare, social work, business, and beyond.

The first time I encountered a course that explored the variation of Latino experiences in the U.S.—and their interactions with other groups—was in college. It was eye-opening. I couldn't help but ask: *Why didn't I learn this sooner?* A lot of us feel that way. The Chicano/Latino Studies department is a place where you can finally learn the full story—including your own—and see how it all fits into what's happening today. Learning about the past helps us understand the present—and imagine a better future.

We are living in a moment in history that presents many challenges to our communities. Lately, I've had a song from the bicultural band, [La Santa Cecilia](#), stuck in my head. Music, dance, and storytelling are powerful—and they are a big part of our curriculum as well. These media allow us to express who we are, stay strong, and keep moving forward. Across California—from cities like Los Angeles, Santa Ana and Santa Maria to the Central Valley and beyond, young people are standing up for their families and communities.

In the past, many of us were pressured to assimilate and told to leave our cultures at home. But today, you'll see professionals of Mexican, Central American, and Caribbean heritage proudly embracing their roots—using their language and background as cultural capital to improve education, healthcare, and social outcomes.

How do they do this? That's what you'll learn in Chicano/Latino Studies! Expressing Latinidad may be received differently depending on where you are, but many people are

proudly holding onto or reclaiming their heritage despite ongoing discrimination. Reconnecting or expressing Latinidad looks different for everyone. It might mean taking courses that reflect your identity, supporting causes you believe in, or taking to the streets to stand up for justice—as Chicano/Latino communities have historically done. Whatever path you choose, I urge you to find a form of engagement that feels right and meaningful to you.

Students who majored in Chicano/Latino Studies at UCI have gone on to become successful physicians, psychologists, immigration attorneys, school counselors and board members, social workers, teachers, and digital media experts, and more. They consistently give back, honoring the sacrifices made by their families and communities. You can see some of our [undergraduate alumni](#) stories here. Their success began with the classes they engaged with, the mentors they met, and the community they built with our award-winning faculty and experts.

I have the honor of serving as the Chair (*the capitán*) of Chicano/Latino Studies and guiding us through uncharted waters. As a proud UCI alum connected to the Humanities, Social Sciences, and the School of Medicine, I hope all of our students—graduate and undergraduate—will embrace multidisciplinary as well. I believe in crossing boundaries and learning from different fields. It makes us stronger thinkers and better problem-solvers. Most of us are already doing this every day—moving between cultures, languages, and roles at school, home, and work. That ability to navigate and adapt is a real superpower. And it will help shape the kind of leader you become.

Están en su casa. You're home.

You belong here, and I can't wait to see where your journey takes you.

Profesora Flores
Chair, Chicano/Latino Studies

Un Mensaje De Nuestra Directora

Estudios Chicanos/Latino (Chicano Latino Studies) es una de las mejores carreras y especializaciones que se ofrecen en la UCI; una verdadera joya escondida en la Facultad de Ciencias Sociales. Me enorgullece que escogí esa carrera cuando fui una *Anteater* (oso hormiguero) y que ahora soy profesora en este mismo excepcional departamento. ¡Una vez *Anteater*, una *Anteater* para siempre!

Nuestro departamento es extraordinario. Somos el único departamento multidisciplinario de la Facultad de Ciencias Sociales y estamos entre los mejores del país. Las clases que tomarás con nosotros combinan ramas como la sociología, la psicología, las ciencias políticas, la historia y la literatura, lo que te brinda una formación integral y sólida. Preparación que te abre las puertas a todo tipo de profesiones: Derecho, Educación, Consejería, Atención médica, Trabajo social, Comercio y más.

La primera vez que encontré un curso que exploraba la diversidad de las experiencias latinas en Estados Unidos y sus interacciones con otros grupos fue en la universidad, algo verdaderamente revelador. No pude evitar preguntarme: ¿Por qué no aprendí esto antes? Muchos pensamos lo mismo. El Departamento de Estudios Chicanos/Latinos es un lugar donde finalmente puedes conocer la historia latina completa, incluyendo la tuya propia, y ver cómo todo encaja con lo que sucede hoy en el país y el mundo. Aprender sobre el pasado nos ayuda a comprender el presente e imaginar un futuro mejor.

Vivimos en un momento histórico que presenta muchos desafíos para nuestras comunidades. Recientemente una canción de la banda bicultural *La Santa Cecilia* me ha quedado grabada en la mente. Nuestras músicas, danzas y literaturas son de mucho valor y forman parte importante de nuestro plan de estudio. Nos permiten expresar quiénes somos, mantenernos firmes y seguir adelante. En toda California, desde ciudades como Los Ángeles, Santa Ana y Santa María hasta el Valle Central y más allá, los jóvenes apoyan a sus familias y comunidades. En el pasado, muchos de nosotros fuimos presionados para asimilarnos y se nos dijo que dejáramos nuestra lengua y cultura "en casa." Pero hoy día, verás a profesionales de ascendencia mexicana, centroamericana y caribeña abrazando con orgullo sus raíces, utilizando su idioma y sus antecedentes como recursos para mejorar la educación, la atención médica y las condiciones sociales.

¿Cómo lo hacen? Pues bien: ¡Eso es lo que aprenderás en Estudios Chicanos/Latinos! Expresar latinidad puede tener diferentes interpretaciones según donde estés, tu lugar de

residencia, pero muchas personas se aferran o reclaman con orgullo su herencia a pesar de la discriminación constante. Reconectar o expresar latinidad es algo diferente para cada persona. Puede significar tomar cursos que reflejen tu identidad, apoyar causas en las que crees o manifestarte en defensa de la justicia, como lo han hecho históricamente las comunidades chicanas/latinas. Sea cual sea el camino que elijas, te animo a encontrar una forma de participación que te resulte importante y conveniente.

Los estudiantes que se especializaron en Estudios Chicanos/Latinos en la UCI se han convertido en exitosos médicos, psicólogos, abogados de inmigración, consejeros escolares y miembros de juntas directivas, trabajadores sociales, maestros, expertos en medios digitales, y mucho más. Estos profesionales constantemente contribuyen a la comunidad a la vez que honran los sacrificios de sus familias y comunidades. Puedes ver algunas de las historias de nuestros exalumnos de licenciatura. Su éxito comenzó con las clases en las que participaron, los maestros que conocieron y la comunidad que construyeron con nuestro galardonado profesorado y expertos.

Tengo el honor de capitanear el departamento de Estudios Chicanos/Latinos y servir de guía por aguas inexploradas. Como orgullosa exalumna de la UCI, vinculada a las Humanidades, las Ciencias Sociales y la Facultad de Medicina, espero que todos nuestros estudiantes, sean de licenciatura o de posgrado, también adopten la multidisciplinariedad. Creo firmemente en trascender fronteras y aprender de diferentes ramas del conocimiento. Nos hace pensadores más fuertes y mejores solucionadores de problemas. La mayoría de nosotros ya lo hacemos a diario: cambiando a menudo de cultura, idioma y roles en la escuela, el hogar y el trabajo. Esa capacidad de navegar y adaptarse es una verdadera y poderosa fuerza, que nos ayudará a moldear el tipo de líder en el que te convertirás.

¡Estás en tu casa! Aquí perteneces. ¡No puedo esperar a ver hasta dónde llegas en tu viaje!

Profesora Flores

Directora, Estudios Chicanos/Latino

Questions? Contact ChcLat Undergraduate Director Profesora Anita Casavantes Bradford at acasavan@uci.edu or visit <http://www.chicanolatinostudies.uci.edu>.