School of Humanities

On This Page:

• Overview
• Humanities Degrees
• Honors at Graduation
• Humanities Commons
• Humanities Studio and Computing Facility
• Humanities Out There (H.O.T.) Program
• Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture

Georges Van Den Abbeele, Dean

143 Humanities Instructional Building
Undergraduate Counseling: 949-824-5132
Graduate Counseling: 949-824-4303
www.humanities.uci.edu

Overview

The School of Humanities promotes practical liberal arts for the 21st century. The School is internationally recognized for its outstanding programs in the main areas of humanistic inquiry: history; languages; philosophy; and literature, film, and the arts. With a faculty whose distinctions include two Pulitzer Prizes and numerous other national and international awards, the School offers 22 majors and 35 minors that include those in traditional disciplines, languages other than English, and interdisciplinary areas of study.

The core educational mission of the humanities is imparting to students tools of analysis that will allow them to understand, describe, and explain the world around them in a critical context. A liberal arts education in the humanities prepares students to examine a variety of written and visual forms and to communicate effectively. All Humanities students are introduced to writing, philosophy, history, visual culture, literature, and a language other than English. Students in Humanities majors are given the opportunity to conduct an intensive conversation with the traditions, both past and present; and as a result, develop the ability to understand and make sense of other people and their cultures. Humanistic inquiry equips students to enter the world as globally thinking citizens.

Because language is the humanist’s essential tool and the traditional medium of historical record, philosophical speculation, and literary creation and criticism, the School of Humanities places special emphasis on language and training in composition. The School offers programs in more than a dozen languages other than English. The serious study of language other than English is crucial to fostering critical thinking, objective self-reflection, and international awareness. The distinguished programs in creative writing, literary journalism, and the Program in Academic English/English as a Second Language are housed in Humanities. Humanities Core integrates the multi-disciplinary study of the humanities along with lower-division writing for majors who enter as freshmen.

Interdisciplinary study is an essential feature of the Humanities Honors Program as well as of many of the School’s undergraduate degree programs. Examples of undergraduate programs located in Humanities that cut across disciplinary boundaries are the majors in Global Cultures, Global Middle East Studies, and Religious Studies, and the interdisciplinary minors in Archaeology, Latin American Studies, and Medical Humanities.

Students majoring in the humanities are particularly well-prepared for careers in all fields that rely on analysis, judgment, and argument. Humanities students have moved into business, medicine, the law, education, politics, public policy, academia, new media and journalism. Employers in all sectors increasingly request college graduates who can communicate effectively across cultures, think critically, and have the ability to learn and adapt on the job. Employers can provide a specific form of technical training, but the School of Humanities provides the thinking and writing skills, as well as the social and emotional intelligence that allow graduates to excel in a wide range of professions.

Degrees

African American Studies B.A.
Art History B.A., M.A.
Asian American Studies B.A., M.A.
Chinese Studies B.A.
Classics B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Comparative Literature B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Culture and Theory M.A., Ph.D.
East Asian Cultures B.A.
East Asian Languages and Literatures  
  M.A., Ph.D.

English  
  B.A., M.A., M.F.A., Ph.D.

European Studies  
  B.A.

Film and Media Studies  
  B.A.

French  
  B.A.

Gender and Sexuality Studies  
  B.A.

German  
  M.A., Ph.D.

German Studies  
  B.A.

Global Cultures  
  B.A.

Global Middle East Studies  
  B.A.

History  
  B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Japanese Language and Literature  
  B.A.

Korean Literature and Culture  
  B.A.

Literary Journalism  
  B.A.

Philosophy  
  B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Religious Studies  
  B.A.

Spanish  
  B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Visual Studies  
  M.A., Ph.D.

Honors at Graduation

Campus criteria for honors at graduation are described in the section Honors Recognition. In addition to campus criteria, the School of Humanities uses cumulative GPA as the criterion for the awarding of Honors at Graduation. The official designation of Honors on the diploma and transcript will be based upon the candidate’s cumulative GPA and total units completed at the end of the final quarter.

Humanities Commons

Julia R. Lupton, Associate Dean for Research
1110 Humanities Gateway; 949-824-1662
http://www.humanities.uci.edu/commons/; HumCom@uci.edu (HumCom@uci.edu)

UCI’s Humanities Commons explores the scope of human experience by supporting faculty and graduate student scholarship, engaging in collaborative projects, and providing opportunities for campus-public partnerships. The Humanities Commons provides small grants to School of Humanities faculty for research expenses, conference programming, publication subvention, and conference travel. School of Humanities graduate students can apply for funding for dissertation research and for presenting collaborative conferences. In addition to serving as a liaison and coordinator for cross-campus and multi-campus projects, the Humanities Commons builds partnerships that engage the School of Humanities with community organizations and public institutions.

Humanities Studio and Computing Facility

The Humanities Studio/Academic Resources & Technology (formerly Humanities Instructional Resource Center) and the Humanities Computing Facility (HCF) share space in Humanities Hall and provide comprehensive technology support for instruction, research, and faculty and staff development.

The Humanities Studio services and facilities include video and audio libraries, and audiovisual equipment. HCF includes the computer labs, fee-based laser printing, support for wireless networking in the Humanities quad, and computing consultation. Both facilities provide technology-related research and development assistance for faculty, and both graduate and undergraduate students. HCF houses two PC labs, one Macintosh lab, and one drop-in lab (with both Macs and PCs). The facility has more than 100 stations. HCF also provides a wide range of computer services (scanning, document conversion, workshops, and more).

Both HCF and Humanities Studio labs provide a wide variety of instructional resources such as multimedia applications and development stations, foreign language word processing, Web browsing (including support for non-Roman alphabets), language learning materials, among others. The labs are available to Humanities students, instructors, and staff for class instruction and drop-in purposes.

Thanks to a partnership between Graham Arader and Georges Van Den Abbeele, Dean of the School of Humanities, Humanities Studio is currently home to $1 million worth of historic art from Arader’s historic art collection. The art is available for viewing throughout the Humanities Studio. The artwork features natural history watercolors, woodcuts, engravings, lithographs, chromolithographs, and maps dating from the 16th to 19th centuries.

Arader has devoted more than four decades to building a comprehensive gallery of natural history artwork, including hand-colored aquatints and lithographs by John James Audubon and other important ornithological, zoological, and botanical artists. Arader has confirmed that Audubon’s works continue to be his most sought-after pieces. For more information, or to schedule an art-viewing in advance, please contact the Operations Manager of Humanities Studio, at 949-824-6344.
Additional information may be obtained by visiting the Humanities Studio website (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/hirc), the HCF Computer Consulting Office, 4000 Humanities Gateway, 949-824-7609, or the Humanities Studio main offices, 269 Humanities Hall, 949-824-6344.

**Humanities Out There (H.O.T.) Program**

Humanities Commons, Humanities Gateway 1st Floor
949-824-1948

H.O.T. is an outreach program between UCI’s School of Humanities and local cultural institutions, such as public libraries and museums. The program consists of a quarterly series of pedagogical and public humanities training sessions. Undergraduate students in the program volunteer at the quarter’s chosen field site, supervised by faculty and advanced graduate students in the humanities.

Requirements for undergraduates include attending at least five training sessions at UCI; attending at least two workshops in the field; weekly electronic journal entries; and a three- to five-page paper with an academic focus. Undergraduates can earn two or four units of H.O.T. credit each quarter through HUMAN 195.

**Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture**

Touraj Daryaee, Director
1118 Humanities Gateway
949-824-3638
http://www.humanities.uci.edu/persianstudies/
sjcp@uci.edu (sjcp@uci.edu)

The Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture is devoted to the study of Iran and the Persianate world. Drawing on the strengths of the entire campus, the Center focuses on interdisciplinary research projects that bridge the arts, humanities, engineering, medicine, and the sciences. The Center sponsors events such as lectures, performances, and film screenings that draw a campus and community audience throughout the year.

Courses, including language, literature, history, music, and culture at the undergraduate and graduate levels, are the backbone of the Center’s academic and pedagogical mission. These academic courses are offered by affiliated faculty and administered by different units. The Humanities Language Learning Program offers courses on Persian language. Courses in ancient, medieval, and modern Persian history are administered by the Department of History. Courses on modern Persian literature and the literature of Iranian diaspora are offered through the Department of Comparative Literature. And courses on Persian music are housed within the Department of Music. A list of courses and information on the Persian Studies minor is available on the minor’s website (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/persianstudiesminor).

**Requirements for the Bachelor’s Degree**

All students must meet the University Requirements.

**School Requirements**

1. Satisfactory completion of HUMAN 1A-HUMAN 1AS-HUMAN 1B-HUMAN 1BS-HUMAN 1C-HUMAN 1CS taken for letter grades in the freshman year.

Transfer students in all majors in the School of Humanities may substitute for the Humanities Core appropriate course work as described on the School of Humanities website (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/undergrad/academics/core.php). No overlap is permitted between the Humanities Core substitution and a student’s departmental/major requirements.

2. College-level course work equivalent to UCI’s sixth quarter of study (2C level, or for Latin or Greek, one 103 and one 104, or two 103s or 104s) in a language other than English or equivalent competence. The final course must be taken for a letter grade and passed with a grade of C or better. NOTE: Please refer to the course listings in the Catalogue (http://catalogue.uci.edu/allcourses/) for information regarding required prerequisites for the 2C level language courses, or Latin or Greek 103 or 104.

Unless otherwise specified, courses taken to satisfy major, minor, and school requirements must be a minimum of 4 units each. Unless otherwise specified, no more than one independent or directed group study course may be petitioned toward major or minor requirements. Unless otherwise specified, all courses taken to satisfy major and school requirements must be taken for a letter grade.

Quarterly consultation with a faculty advisor is recommended.

**Maximum Overlap Between Major Requirements**: In fulfilling degree requirements for multiple majors, a maximum of two courses may overlap between any two majors.

**Maximum Overlap Between Major and Minor Requirements**: In fulfilling minor requirements, a maximum of two courses may overlap between a major and a minor. No course overlap is permitted between minors.

**Normal Progress in the Major**: School of Humanities majors are expected to take at least one course required for their major program each quarter as well as make progress toward the completion of the School’s language other than English requirement.

**School Residence Requirement**: At least five upper-division courses required for each major must be completed successfully at UCI. Completion of a minor program is optional; however, for certification in a minor, at least four upper-division courses required for the minor must be completed...
successfully at UCI. See individual major and minor requirements for specific courses and how participation in the Education Abroad Program (EAP) can affect the residence requirement. Exceptions are considered on a case-by-case basis and decided in consultation between the appropriate department or faculty member and the Associate Dean of Humanities for Curriculum and Student Affairs.

**Internship Policy.** In most cases, Humanities students are not allowed to earn credit for off-campus internships. However, if a department or program determines that the internship is academically appropriate and promotes the student’s academic goals, the student may take the internship as Independent Study and unit credit will be given. The sponsoring department or program and the instructor will in all cases require a substantial academic product, such as a paper, growing out of the internship.

A student who wishes to seek approval for an off-campus internship and earn course credit must file an Independent Study form with the department/program of the sponsoring faculty. A student who wishes to apply approved credit toward degree requirements, other than elective units, must also petition for approval from the Humanities Undergraduate Study Office, prior to beginning the internship.

UCI approved internship courses are applied to major requirements as specified by individual major requirements.

**Change of Major.** Students who wish to change their major to one offered by the School of Humanities should contact the Humanities Undergraduate Counseling Office for information about change-of-major requirements, procedures, and policies. Information is also available at the UCI Change of Major Criteria website (http://www.changeofmajor.uci.edu).

**Undergraduate Programs**

The following majors are offered:

- African American Studies, B.A.
- Art History, B.A.
- Asian American Studies, B.A.
- Chinese Studies, B.A.: Classics, B.A.
- Comparative Literature, B.A.
- East Asian Cultures, B.A.
- English, B.A.
- European Studies, B.A.
- Film and Media Studies, B.A.
- French, B.A.
- Gender and Sexuality Studies B.A.
- German Studies, B.A.
- Global Middle East Studies, B.A.
- Global Cultures, B.A.
- History, B.A.
- Japanese Language and Literature, B.A.
- Korean Literature and Culture, B.A.
- Literary Journalism, B.A.
- Philosophy, B.A.
- Religious Studies, B.A.
- Spanish, B.A.

The following minors are offered:

- African American Studies
- Archaeology
- Art History
- Asian American Studies
- Asian Studies
- Chinese Language and Literature
- Chinese Studies
- Classical Civilization
- Comparative Literature
- English
- European Studies
- Film and Media Studies
- French
- Gender and Sexuality Studies
- German Studies
- Global Cultures
- Global Middle East Studies
Greek
History
Humanities and Law
Italian Studies
Japanese Language and Literature
Japanese Studies
Jewish Studies
Korean Literature and Culture
Latin
Latin American Studies
Literary Journalism
Medical Humanities
Persian Studies
Philosophy
Queer Studies
Religious Studies
Russian Studies
Spanish

Humanities Undergraduate Study

Yong Chen, Associate Dean for Curriculum and Student Services
143 Humanities Instructional Building
949-824-5132
http://www.humanities.uci.edu/undergrad/

The academic counselors in the Humanities Undergraduate Counseling Office, located in 143 Humanities Instructional Building, help all undergraduate students within the School with their academic planning. The office also provides academic counseling for students wanting to change their major to one offered in the School, add a minor provided by the School, and also assists freshmen and sophomores who are interested in the humanities but who have not yet chosen a major in the School. Students who expect to pursue graduate study will receive advising from this office, but should consult with appropriate faculty members to ensure proper preparation.

The academic counselors are especially knowledgeable about University regulations, requirements in and outside the School, course content, options to major, and other matters that may present difficulties. For the first two years, students in Humanities are encouraged to explore the various disciplines represented in the School. During that time the academic counselors are prepared to help the undeclared student keep options to a major open, plan a coherent program of humanistic study, and reach an eventual decision about the major.

Generally each major stipulates a one-year course that is both an introduction to the discipline and a prerequisite to the major itself. Students who plan wisely will construct programs that include a good number of such courses.

NOTE: In many undergraduate courses in the School of Humanities, additional meetings between individual students and the instructor may be required. Many courses are composed of both lectures and required discussion sessions.

Undergraduate students in the School of Humanities participate in the affairs of the School in a number of ways: by serving on committees in various departments, by sitting with the faculty in its meetings, by participating as mentors for new Humanities majors, by acting as peer tutors for various beginning language classes, and by working as peer academic advisors in the Undergraduate Counseling Office.

Humanities Peer Mentor Program

The Humanities Peer Mentor Program is designed to address some of the academic, cultural, and social needs of freshmen in the School of Humanities. While all new Humanities freshmen will benefit from participation in the program, it is particularly useful for new first generation college students. It has a goal of developing leadership skills in both the mentors and the protogees. The program features two-tiered mentoring, with successful upper-division students mentoring small groups of new students, and the student mentors in turn working with faculty and staff. Another focus of the program is to encourage and assist the student mentors to go on to graduate school.

Participants attend workshops on topics such as communication styles, study skills, procrastination and time management, and studying abroad, as well as take part in a variety of more social events. They also keep journals in which they express their ideas and raise issues for their mentors. Call 949-824-5132 for additional information.

Humanities Honors Program

Jayne Lewis, Director
143 Humanities Instructional Building
949-824-5132; www.humanities.uci.edu/undergrad/opportunities/honors.php
The Honors Program within the School of Humanities is a two-year, upper-division program designed to challenge exceptional students from all majors by providing special opportunities for intellectual growth in an interdisciplinary setting. Honors students benefit from small seminars, individual faculty attention, peer support, and the chance to pursue independent research. They think deeply about the meaning and value of humanistic inquiry and thus actively shape its future while honing their skills as thinkers, writers, and citizens of the world.

Humanities Honors students complete a two-part course of study. In their junior year, students take three quarters of an interdisciplinary Proseminar (HUMAN H120) organized around a single topic or problem, such as crime and punishment, state and civil society, the development of religion in the West, or the self, nature, and the American dream. The sequence is designed to compare and contrast modes of analysis and critical thinking in several disciplines in the Humanities, such as history, literary studies, and philosophy. In a small seminar setting, students are encouraged to become reflective about their own chosen disciplines.

In their senior year, students take a sequence of courses beginning in the fall with a Senior Honors Seminar (HUMAN H140), and continuing in the winter and spring with the Senior Honors Thesis (HUMAN H141) and the Senior Honors Colloquium (HUMAN H142W), in which they complete an independent research project under the direction of a faculty member on a topic chosen by the student. A prize is awarded for the year’s outstanding thesis.

In both sequences, the Honors students benefit from their close association with exceptional scholars and the challenge and support of their intellectual peers.

Students interested in learning how the Humanities Honors Program will fit into their regular courses of study are encouraged to contact the Humanities Undergraduate Study Director; telephone 949-824-5132.

**Campuswide Honors Program**

The Campuswide Honors Program is available to selected high-achieving students from all academic majors from their freshman through senior years. For more information contact the Campuswide Honors Program, 1200 Student Services II; 949-824-5461; honors@uci.edu; or visit the Campuswide Honors Program website (http://honors.uci.edu).

**Study Abroad Center**

The Study Abroad Center, which includes the UC Education Abroad Program (EAP) and the International Opportunities Program (IOP), assists students in taking advantage of the many worldwide opportunities that exist for study, work, internship, volunteering, and research. School of Humanities majors and minors can benefit from a broader perspective of their fields by studying for one year at a university in such countries as China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, Spain, or the United Kingdom through UCEAP. Students can also augment their exposure to other cultures with programs sponsored through IOP. Visit the Study Abroad Program website (http://www.studyabroad.uci.edu) or an academic counselor for additional information.

**Language Other than English Placement and Progression**

The following policies apply to all UCI students taking language other than English courses.

**Language Other Than English Progression.** Within the beginning and intermediate language instructional sequences (1A-B-C and 2A-B-C, and for Latin and Greek 1A-B-C and 100) students must earn a grade of at least C (or Pass) in order to advance to the next level of instruction, unless an exception is permitted by the appropriate course director and the Associate Dean of Humanities for Curriculum and Student Services. A student may not go back and take a lower-level course for credit once a more advanced level has been completed with a passing grade. Nor may a student be enrolled in more than one level of the same language at the same time (for example, a student may not enroll in language 2B and 2C concurrently).

**Language Other Than English Placement.** Placement tests are required for the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Spanish (for students with no previous college course work), and Vietnamese. Contact the UCI Academic Testing Center for information; telephone 949-824-6207; email: testcenter@uci.edu (testoff@uci.edu); or visit the Testing Center website (http://www.testingcenter.uci.edu). Placement tests are recommended but not required for French and German language courses. The purpose of placement testing is to ensure success in UCI language courses.

For languages other than English which are not listed above (and for French and German if the placement test is not taken), students entering UCI with previous high school language training are placed as follows: in general, one year of high school work is equated with one quarter of UCI work. Thus, students with one, two, three, or four years of high school language other than English will normally enroll in 1B-, 1C-, 2A-, or 2B-level language courses, respectively.

Students should enroll in language courses as specified above. Students who opt to “go back” one quarter will earn credit (i.e., a student with three years of high school language other than English may opt to take 1C instead of 2A). If it has been five or more years since the last high school course, the student may begin at 1A for credit. Exceptions must have the approval of the appropriate course director and the Associate Dean of Humanities for Curriculum and Student Services. Transfer students will not receive credit for repeating at UCI language other than English courses for which they received credit upon matriculation to UCI even if they are placed by testing into the equivalent of a previously taken course.

**Language Other Than English Advanced Placement Credit.** Students cannot earn units or grade points at UCI in courses from which they have been exempted on the basis of Advanced Placement credit. However, since Advanced Placement awards a maximum of 8 units for scores of 4 and 5, students may elect to take 2C or the equivalent for credit.
Native Speakers of Languages Other Than English. A native speaker of a language other than English, is defined by the University as someone who attended the equivalent of secondary school in another country where the language of instruction was other than English. Students with prior background in a language other than English should consult the UCI Academic Testing Center to see if a placement test is available to demonstrate competence in that language. If an appropriate means of evaluating competence in a non-English language of instruction does not exist, satisfactory completion, with a C average or better, or equivalent, of one year of formal schooling at the 10th-grade level or higher in an institution where the language of instruction is not English will meet the School of Humanities Language Other Than English requirement equal to second-year language. Appropriate documentation and translation, when necessary, must be presented to substantiate that the course work was completed. For some majors offered by the School of Humanities, students may be exempted from taking third-year language study in that language. In this case, the student must substitute appropriate upper-division courses in the major to replace the number of exempted courses. For example, if a native speaker of French is exempted from FRENCH 100A and FRENCH 100B, that student must replace those two courses with two other upper-division French courses offered by the Department of European Languages and Studies.

Repeating Deficient Foreign Language Other Than English Grades. First- and second-year language other than English courses and third-year language other than English composition courses are sequential and each is prerequisite to the next. This is generally true also of fourth-year Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. Students wishing to repeat a deficient grade in one of these courses must repeat it prior to continuing on to the next level of the language. A student may not go back and retake a lower-level course for credit once a more advanced level has been completed with a passing grade.

Graduate Programs

Humanities Office of Graduate Study

Yong Chen, Associate Dean for Curriculum and Student Services
179 Humanities Instructional Building
949-824-4303

The School of Humanities offers graduate degrees in a wide range of disciplines, as well as in interdisciplinary programs. The School’s graduate programs are generally aimed at those pursuing a Ph.D., with the Master’s degree awarded along the way. Exceptions include the Summer M.A. program in the Department of English, the M.A. program in the Department of History, and 4+1 M.A. programs (B.A. and M.A in five years) in Art History and Asian American Studies. In addition, the Department of English administers the M.F.A. in Creative Writing (Fiction/Poetry).

The School of Humanities houses five graduate emphases that may be pursued in conjunction with study toward the doctorate: Asian American Studies, Critical Theory, Feminist Studies, Latin American Studies, and Visual Studies.

Graduate students participate in the affairs of the School of Humanities by serving as representatives on various departmental, schoolwide, and campuswide committees.