GRADUATE STUDIES

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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APPLICATION DEADLINES: gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/applicationdeadlines

ART (STUDIO)
(530) 752-0105
artstudio.ucdavis.edu/programs_grad.html

M.F.A.
The two-year Master of Fine Arts degree offers students the opportunity to develop their studio practice while exploring the resources of a large university. Housed in individual studios near the center of campus, students can work closely with faculty in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramic sculpture, photography, video and electronic arts. Interdisciplinary practice is encouraged. Seminars and elective courses provide enrichment in art history and theory, performance, cultural and environmental studies, and new technology. The program culminates in an exhibition of the student’s work. This exhibition, or on-site installation in the case of site-specific works, should reflect in its depth and quality the student’s assimilation of traditional and contemporary visual culture.

ART HISTORY
(530) 752-0105
arts.ucdavis.edu/art-history

M.A.
This program offers personal attention from faculty and a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary training. Faculty teach the theory of art historical interpretation, the methodology of art historical research and writing, and specialized fields. These fields include the art and architecture of ancient Mediterranean societies, early and modern China, early and modern Islamic societies, early modern Italy, and Europe and America from 1750 to the present; critical theory; and the histories of photography, architecture and urban design, collecting, and museums. Also available are excellent on- and off-campus libraries and museums. This is a gateway degree ideal for careers in museums and galleries, arts administration, publishing, community college teaching, and further study in top Ph.D. programs. The program welcomes applicants with previous undergraduate/graduate degrees in fields other than art history, although such applicants should have taken some courses in art history.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
(530) 752-5799
complit.ucdavis.edu/graduate

Ph.D., M.A.

Although an M.A. degree may be obtained while pursuing a Ph.D. degree, only Ph.D. applications will be accepted.
The comparative literature graduate program enables students to study several literatures in their original languages in a theoretically and historically informed context and from an interdisciplinary and multicultural perspective. Comparative literature at UC Davis provides students the opportunity to create an individual program tailored to their unique interests and goals. Individually supervised instruction and specially designed qualifying exams permit students to pursue their interests in depth and with great flexibility. At a time when colleges and universities are seeking greater flexibility in hiring, the degree in comparative literature offers the advantage of qualifying students to teach in two or more literatures and languages, as well as in general programs such as comparative literature, world literature, critical theory and the humanities.

CULTURAL STUDIES
(530) 752-1548

Ph.D., M.A.

Although an M.A. degree may be obtained while pursuing a Ph.D. degree, only Ph.D. applications will be accepted.

Cultural studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of culture and society that highlights how sexuality, race, ability, citizenship, gender, nationality, class and language organize embodied identities, social relations and cultural objects. Drawing on faculty from a wide range of disciplines and intellectual interests, the program cuts across the humanities, social sciences, the law school, and agricultural and environmental studies. With the close guidance and supervision of a faculty committee, students in the program pursue interdisciplinary research in areas such as studies of comparative and critical race, ecocriticism, disability studies, fashion, queer theory, traditional and digital media, popular culture, science and technology, Marxist theory, travel and tourism, food, physical and cognitive abilities, cultural geography, transnational culture and politics, globalization, religion, rhetoric, performance, human rights, social justice, borders and migration, militarization and security, arts and activism, and critical theory.

DESIGN
(530) 752-8710
arts.ucdavis.edu/design

M.F.A.
The two-year M.F.A. program in design blends focused research and creative practice with an understanding of key design issues in history, theory, research methodology, and sustainable design practices. The program emphasizes creative ability, interdisciplinary and multicultural projects, and socially responsible design. Collaborations with other departments are highly encouraged. Areas of faculty expertise include: exhibition design; interior architecture, including lighting and furniture design; textile and fashion design; and visual communication, including graphic and multimedia design. Course of study includes theory, criticism and studio practice, and culminates in the presentation of an individual thesis project. This thesis, a body of work accompanied by substantial written and visual documentation of the design process underlying the concepts in the work, reinforces the program’s goals of preparing graduates to teach design at the college level and to conduct independent, scholarly research in design.

DRAMATIC ART
(530) 752-8710
arts.ucdavis.edu/theatre-and-dance

M.F.A.
The two-year program in dramatic art is designed to provide a course of rigorous, advanced training and practice that enables mid-career artists to explore and
expand areas of expertise in order to develop artistically and professionally. With the focus firmly on interdisciplinary practice, the M.F.A. offers artists the opportunity to create and realize new dimensions of classical, contemporary and experimental performance. A collaborative curriculum of interdisciplinary seminars and workshops covers a full spectrum of performance practices, including acting, directing, choreography and design. The faculty mission ensures that graduates are prepared to develop their craft in new directions. Outside these courses, students are expected to pursue studies that will augment their specialties with the aim of perfecting new skills while expanding their range.

**ENGLISH**
(530) 752-2281
english.ucdavis.edu/graduate
Ph.D., M.A.
The Department of English offers students the chance to pursue a literature Ph.D. in fields from the British Middle Ages and colonial America to global/postcolonial and U.S. contemporary literatures, with further strengths in literature and science, literature and environment, literary theory, translation, and gender studies. Faculty members’ interdisciplinary interests and affiliations with other programs complement the program’s grounding in traditional genres and methods of literary analysis as well as emerging methodologies. This wide range also characterizes the M.A. degree in creative writing—students take workshops in both poetry and fiction, as well as literature seminars. The department’s commitment to ongoing mentoring of scholarship and teaching is reflected in the success of program graduates. For the past several years the department has helped place students in tenure-track jobs at institutions nationwide—from research universities to liberal arts colleges.

**FRENCH**
(530) 752-2239
frenchanditalian.ucdavis.edu/graduate-program-french
Ph.D., M.A.
The French graduate program provides graduate students with a strong base of historical coverage, spanning from the Middle Ages to the present, including Francophone studies. The department also offers a strong emphasis on past and recent developments in literary and critical theory that influence French scholarship. Faculty interests such as linguistics, comparative literature, critical theory, film studies and women’s studies ensure that students are exposed to interdisciplinary approaches and are invited to integrate these perspectives into their program. The doctoral program is distinguished by individualized study and intensive collaboration between faculty and students. The department prides itself on its strong tradition of mentorship, which encourages students to develop a truly unique course of research. In addition, the department provides its graduate students with numerous academic and teaching opportunities.

**GERMAN**
(530) 752-2239
german.ucdavis.edu/graduate-program
Ph.D., M.A.
The German department offers comprehensive programs in German language, literature, culture, philosophy, theory, media studies and film that span all periods from the Middle Ages to the present. The program’s distinguished faculty members conduct research in areas as diverse as literary history and analysis, gender studies, critical theory, film studies, intellectual history, and linguistics. It is also possible and encouraged to combine the Ph.D. program in German with interdisciplinary designated emphases in critical theory, classics, feminist research and second language acquisition. Graduates have obtained faculty positions at colleges and universities across the nation, such as Duke University, Emory University, Brandeis University and Washington University, St. Louis.

**LINGUISTICS**
(530) 752-3464
linguistics.ucdavis.edu/graduate-program
Ph.D., M.A.
The Ph.D. program is supported by a wide array of faculty and encompasses numerous research areas. Linguistics at UC Davis distinguishes itself from programs at other UC campuses by offering an area of emphasis in second language acquisition and development, or SLAD, which responds to a growing need for researchers trained to investigate issues of multilingualism and the acquisition and teaching of nonnative languages. Other possible areas of emphasis include language and society, language and mind/brain, and language structure and theory. The M.A. program prepares students to teach English to speakers of other languages, or TESOL, and provides them with a strong background in formal and descriptive linguistics.

**HISTORY**
(530) 752-9141
history.ucdavis.edu/graduate
Ph.D., M.A.
Although an M.A. degree may be obtained while pursuing a Ph.D. degree, only Ph.D. applications will be accepted.

UC Davis offers advanced study in the fields of United States; medieval, early modern and modern Europe; China and Japan; Middle East and/or South Asia; Latin America; and Africa. Other areas of specialization include borderlands; critical theory; cross-cultural women’s and gender history; economic and labor history; empires; environmental history; ethnicity, race and nationalism; law, culture, and society; mass, popular, and folk cultures; mobilities; religion and history; science, technology and medicine; and Middle East, North African and South Asian Studies. In addition to taking courses in the major field, students take an advanced historiography course, courses in a minor field of study, and a course outside of the major and minor fields. After the first year of study, students complete a yearlong research seminar course culminating in a major research paper and a departmental conference. The program generally offers multiyear funding to admitted students through a combination of fellowships, teaching assistant positions, reader positions, and graduate student researcher positions. The program also has a strong record of securing external and internal fellowship support.

**MUSIC**
(530) 752-5537
arts.ucdavis.edu/music
Ph.D., M.A.
The program of study includes composition/theory, musicology, ethnomusicology, and conducting. Composition/theory emphasizes theory, analysis and composition. Musicology embraces the historical study of musical works, their composers, and the cultures in which they figure, welcoming traditional and contemporary modes of inquiry and emphasizing the acquisition of literary technique and style in the scholarly genres (public papers, articles and books, digital media). Ethnomusicology offers rigorous training in the intellectual history of the field, theory, fieldwork, ethnography, and transcription, with faculty expertise in music of the Americas (African
American, Latin and Native American music) and Asia (Korea and Indonesia). Conducting (M.A. only) emphasizes advanced techniques necessary to lead the major orchestral and choral repertoire: issues of contemporary music materials, rehearsal technique, musical analysis and performance practice. All students are encouraged to take part in performance groups sponsored by the department.

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES
(530) 752-3237
nas.ucdavis.edu/graduate-program
Ph.D., M.A.

The Ph.D. and M.A. programs in Native American studies prepare Native American and indigenous scholars and non-Native allied scholars to contribute to a more compassionate, critically conscious, and socially just society in which indigenous understandings, histories, and cultures of the Americas are not only validated but recognized as significant to the overall understanding of who we are as human beings on this planet. Our unique interdisciplinary and hemispheric approach includes attention to the increasing diaspora of indigenous peoples throughout the Americas, and calls upon the authority of native intelligence (native knowledge, voices, texts) to address the issues that concern native peoples, including the creative strategies for continuance they have developed over the centuries.

At both the M.A. and Ph.D. levels, students have opportunities to develop their teaching skills through teaching assistant and associate instructor positions. At the master’s level, we prepare students for practice-oriented work; teaching in tribal colleges or other community colleges; and/or for pursuit of a Ph.D. in Native American studies or a related field. At the Ph.D. level (and all levels) we offer a course of study designed to train, strengthen and enlarge the critical mass of scholars doing original research within the field of Native American studies.

PERFORMANCE STUDIES
(530) 754-6973
performancesudies.ucdavis.edu
Ph.D., M.A.

Although an M.A. degree may be obtained while pursuing a Ph.D. degree, only Ph.D. applications will be accepted.

The program offers a Ph.D. in studies of performance focusing on the history, theory and literature of performance and its relation to cultures past and present, in four distinct strands: interactive medias, embodiments, cultures/ecologies and text/history. Training students for scholarly research, academic work and a wide range of career choices, the program’s definition of performance embraces a variety of human activities. This rigorous, strongly interdisciplinary program encourages students to develop original dissertation research that explores and questions the artistic, social and political ramifications of performance and the performative.

Interactive Media—Historical and theoretical study of socially and technologically mediated performative communication in film, radio, television, music and sound, digital media, human and animal movement, the Internet, writing and print, labor, politics, and activism.

Embodiments—Embodied performance encourages scholarship on bodies as sociocultural, political, physiological, psychological, and virtual entities in performance and performative contexts past and present. It is relevant to students and scholars of history, sociology, theatre and dance, religious, cultural, critical race and gender and ethnic studies.

Cultures/Ecologies—Culture as a learned collective process of becoming that engages the traditional past with the contemporary “new,” is augmented by the increasing awareness that global environmental interdependence can bind beyond cultural differences. It encourages a perspective of culture and ecology that allows critical engagement with paradigms of performance.

Text/History—The history of the production and reception of dramatic texts and performance practices. It situates performance texts in political, social and historical contexts in transcultural settings, from the ancient, to the early modern and the contemporary world.

PHILOSOPHY
(530) 752-0607
philosophy.ucdavis.edu/graduate-program
Ph.D., M.A.

The graduate program in philosophy is a small, collegial and supportive program with a largely analytic orientation. The faculty specializes in a variety of areas, including history of philosophy (both ancient and modern), metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of science (especially biology), philosophy of mathematics, philosophical logic, ethics, meta-ethics, and social and political philosophy. The program has both M.A. and Ph.D. tracks. Students who aim to complete a Ph.D. should apply directly to the Ph.D. track, even if they have not yet earned an M.A. in philosophy. Ph.D. students may earn the M.A. in the course of working toward the Ph.D. Students who do not aim to complete a Ph.D. in philosophy should apply for admission to the M.A. track.

SPANISH
(530) 752-5799
spanish.ucdavis.edu/en/graduate-program
Ph.D., M.A.

The Spanish graduate program is one of the top Spanish departments in the nation. According to the annual Academic Analytics survey, the program is currently ranked No. 1 in scholarly productivity. The program offers comprehensive training in Iberian and Latin American, including Portuguese and Brazilian, literatures and cultures, as well as Hispanic linguistics. The faculty’s intellectual and teaching philosophy is geared toward incorporating new theoretical and scholarly models, especially cross-disciplinary methods, without ceasing to pay attention to national literatures. The Ph.D. program requires coursework in the history of the Spanish language and in literary or linguistic scholarship, and competence in two foreign languages other than Spanish. Faculty members bring a strong interdisciplinary focus to scholarship and teaching and participate actively in a variety of other programs at UC Davis, including: graduate groups in linguistics and in cultural studies, programs in the humanities and in film studies, the Hemispheric Institute on the Americas, and the Davis Humanities Institute, through which faculty and graduate students are involved in research clusters focused on early modern studies, language and social contexts, Latin American cultural studies, Medieval studies, queer studies, and studies in performance and practice. Some faculty members are also affiliated with the designated emphases in feminist theory and research, critical theory, second language acquisition, Native American studies, and performance studies.
Although an M.A. degree may be obtained while pursuing a Ph.D. degree, only Ph.D. applications will be accepted.

This graduate group offers advanced opportunities in the study of religion. Students receive classical training in the literatures of particular religious traditions, and they are encouraged to understand these traditions at the intersection of contemporary thematic and regional phenomena. Students have the opportunity to concentrate primarily on one of three regional specializations: American religious cultures, Mediterranean religions and Asian religions. An additional regional specialization typically serves as a secondary area of competence. Students further shape their scholarship through intensive engagement in one of the following thematic specializations: values, ethics and human rights; modernity, science and secularism; visual culture, media and technology; language, rhetoric and performance; body and praxis; theory and method.

This curriculum guides students through a rigorous course of study, providing the breadth and depth necessary to produce exciting, rigorous scholarship at forefront of the field of religious studies.