Degree Areas
- Institute of Arts and Humanities
- History
- Literature
- Music
- Philosophy
- Theatre and Dance
- Visual Arts

Initiatives
- Institute for Practical Ethics
- Analytical Writing Program
- Arts and Community Engagement
- Preparing Accomplished Transfers to the Humanities

Foundational Transferable Enduring

- We teach students to think critically, express creatively and communicate clearly — skills favored by employers.
- We are listed among the top 23 in subject area rankings (U.S. News & World Report Global University Rankings).
- We help students make sense of the world and imagine the future.

“*The cornerstone of a comprehensive public university, the arts and humanities instill the foundational, transferable and enduring habits of the mind that ensure success in all walks of life.*”

Cristina Della Coletta
Division of Arts and Humanities Dean
Degree Areas

Institute of Arts and Humanities
Equipping students to analyze and speak about the past, present and future with creativity and insight, the Institute of Arts and Humanities is home to multiple undergraduate majors and minors in regional, ethnic, and thematic studies that address the needs of an increasingly complex world.

African American Studies Minor • Chicano and Latinx Studies Minor • Chinese Studies Major, Minor • Classical Studies Major, Minor • European Studies Minor • German Studies Major, Minor • Italian Studies Major, Minor • Middle East Studies Minor • Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies Major, Minor • Japanese Studies Major, Minor • Jewish Studies Major, Minor • Transnational Korean Studies Minor • Global South Studies Major, Minor

History
The Department of History emphasizes critical thinking, good writing, effective argumentation and the analysis of historic material, leading to careers in diverse fields: finance, law, journalism, education and more.

History Major • History Minor

Literature
Gathering together scholars, critics and writers committed to research and debate, the Department of Literature supports the multilingual study of the connections and conflicts between cultures and society.

Literatures in English • Literatures in Spanish • Writing • World Literature and Culture

Music
Providing a unique environment where composers, performers, improvisers and scholars engage with the most vital ideas and newest technologies, students in the Department of Music push the boundaries of contemporary music.

Music Major • Music Minor • Music Humanities Major • Interdisciplinary Computing and the Arts

Philosophy
The Department of Philosophy lives at the intersection of science, technology, health, social sciences, and the arts and humanities by offering four areas of emphasis for students.

Philosophy Major • Philosophy Minor • Bioethics Minor • Cognitive Science • Science Studies

Theatre and Dance
Innovative, eclectic and interdisciplinary: the Department of Theatre and Dance is committed to sustaining a diverse group of students who become alumni that make significant professional contributions in film, television and theater.

Theatre Major • Theatre Minor • Dance Major • Dance Minor • Theatre and Dance Double Major

Visual Arts
Recognized for its distinctive combination of artists, critics, theorists and scholars, the range of activities for students in the Department of Visual Arts goes beyond the library and classroom, into studios, galleries and performance spaces.

Art History Theory and Criticism Major • Media Major • Studio Major • Speculative Design Major • Visual Arts Minor • Interdisciplinary Computing and the Arts

Division Initiatives

Institute for Practical Ethics
The Institute for Practical Ethics develops and promotes research on issues facing the public today, with an emphasis on engagement between ethicists, scientists, and policymakers with the aim to close the gap between the rapid pace of innovation and society’s ability to responsibly deal with tough questions.

Analytical Writing Program
The Analytical Writing Program is designed to help students master the critical thinking, reading and writing skills that will enable them to succeed at the university and in their professional lives.

Arts and Community Engagement
Arts and Community Engagement’s goal is to connect students, faculty, alumni, staff and the greater community in a variety of performance, program and academic activities that highlight art as a means of fostering broader cultural dialogue and civic engagement.

Preparing Accomplished Transfers to the Humanities
PATH is a collaborative program between the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) and UC San Diego to provide guidance to transfer students studying arts and humanities.

The Division at a Glance
• 1,540 undergraduates
• 435 Ph.D. and MFA graduate students
• 373 academic, instructional and research faculty
• 23,000+ alumni