

**UC DAVIS**

**COLLEGE OF LETTERS  
AND SCIENCE**

**bold ideas brought to life**





## Envisioning a Brighter Future: The College of Letters and Science

**At the College of Letters and Science, we believe our best hope for a brighter future lies in the ideas and innovations we bring to life today, and in the lives they change for the better.**

The land-grant ideal, as framed in the Morrill Act signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln, expressed a commitment to access and impact based on the integration of liberal and practical education. That promise was powerful in 1862; it is even more relevant today. Our dedication to these principles—access to transformational educational opportunities and knowledge creation that changes our communities and our world—is at the heart of everything we do in the College of Letters and Science.

Just as our faculty are driving the conversation in their fields today, our students are poised to take up that charge tomorrow. We are preparing curiosity-driven leaders and innovators who are ready to think critically, solve problems creatively and work collaboratively to tackle urgent societal challenges and push discovery into uncharted territory.

The impact of that work comes to life daily in every corner of the college. You can see it in the leadership of the political science student emerging as a powerful voice in California's housing crisis, or in the ingenuity of the psychology professor whose study of music and memory suggests new possibilities for treating cognitive disorders like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

It shines in the discovery of the physicists who shed new light on the universe's expansion, and in the innovation of the literature scholars and media artists whose augmented reality video game is transforming how a new generation engages with Shakespeare. And it's reflected in the determination of the Russian émigré who overcame language barriers and health complications to earn her second bachelor's degree at the age of 84—and now is contemplating graduate study in history.

In all these ways and more, College of Letters and Science students, faculty and alumni are changing the world every day, and philanthropy makes a powerful difference in advancing that work. Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support.



## Bold Ideas for a Changing World

From ensuring access to clean drinking water and resolving international conflict, to mapping the cosmos, creating music and art for an interconnected world, and unlocking the mysteries of the human brain, the challenges we undertake locally and globally are increasingly complex and multidimensional.

These issues aren't confined to any single sphere, and their solutions won't come from any one discipline. They require cross-disciplinary teams of problem solvers and innovators who are able to approach these challenges from all sides and from divergent viewpoints.

This is exactly why **a liberal arts and sciences education is more relevant than ever**. It is a model with enduring impact in preparing broad-minded, multifaceted and intellectually curious graduates to apply their knowledge and talents in service to the public and global good.

The UC Davis College of Letters and Science is proudly rooted in this tradition. At the same time, we are **continuously reimagining this mission for a changing world**.

The world in which our students will graduate is shifting daily as global economic, technological and social changes transform how we live and work. Our focus is on empowering our students with a rigorous, experience-based education and a critical and creative toolset to lead the way forward—not only in the fields they have studied but in jobs, industries and disciplines that don't yet exist.

**We invite you to join us in realizing a bold vision for the future.** Together, we will ensure that every College of Letters and Science student graduates with the knowledge and experience to advance their profession to new heights, and with the agility to change as the world changes with them. Mentored by world-class faculty, and inspired by real-world opportunities that bring classroom learning to life, our graduates will be equipped to address tomorrow's challenges as 21st-century problem solvers and thought leaders.

## Driven by Curiosity

UC Davis and the College of Letters and Science are nationally renowned for the leadership of our faculty, the promise of our students and the power of our scholarly and creative achievements. While we take pride in this recognition, we believe **the best measure of our success is our impact**—the lives enriched and the possibilities created because of our ideas and engagement.

The College of Letters and Science is proud to educate **nearly half of all students** at UC Davis, consistently ranked among the best public research universities in the nation and the world.

We take even greater pride in serving as the academic core of a university renowned for its commitment to ensuring that its benefits are far-reaching and inclusive. In fact, UC Davis has been ranked among the leading U.S. colleges—public and private—**doing the most for low-income students**, and among the nation's top 10 universities for **research, social mobility and public service contributions**.

### The College of Letters and Science

#### An interdisciplinary powerhouse with far-reaching impact ...

- 110 undergraduate majors and minors and more than 30 graduate programs offer exceptional breadth of academic opportunity
- 50 countries where students can pursue global learning opportunities on all 7 continents
- 50% of Letters and Science students conduct independent research and creative projects outside the classroom
- 44% of undergraduates are first-generation students; 37% are from underrepresented backgrounds
- 900+ faculty including 17 members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and 39 Guggenheim Fellows

#### ...at the heart of a world-class public research university

- Ranked among the nation's top public universities (No. 5, *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education*, No. 11, *US News & World Report*)
- No. 3 among U.S. colleges doing the most for low-income students (*New York Times College Access Index*)
- No. 10 among top U.S. universities for research, social mobility and public service contributions (*Washington Monthly*)
- No. 5 among public universities doing the most for student outcomes and academic resources (*Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education*)





Together, these rankings tell a compelling story of our university's excellence, its profile and its impact. The College of Letters and Science is instrumental in achieving this success.

The college's exceptional breadth and depth of academic programs offer nearly **limitless possibilities for cross-disciplinary learning, scholarship and innovation**, preparing students to work creatively and collaboratively across fields.

Members of our faculty are widely recognized as national and international leaders in their fields, generating new discoveries that change

what we know, what we think, and how we experience the world in fields as disparate as pharmaceutical chemistry, arts and design, cognitive science, theoretical math and physics, and East Asian languages and cultures.

Collectively, our programs make a **powerful difference in the communities we serve**, from world-class collections that bring cutting-edge art and cultural exhibitions to new audiences, to policy-shaping research centers that advance solutions to urgent challenges in global migration, data science, water management and more.

## Realizing the Vision

Philanthropic support from our alumni and friends advances every aspect of the college's mission, enhancing research and creative excellence, creating transformative experiences that prepare leaders for a changing world and amplifying the impact of our engaged scholarship and creativity.

**Now, we welcome your partnership as we embark on a campaign effort focused on elevating every element of this mission even further.**

The College of Letters and Science has identified the following strategic priorities to **deepen our impact and expand our reach**. We invite you to join us in:

- 1 Advancing research and innovation in key college programs
- 2 Growing our ranks of world-class faculty
- 3 Supporting graduate student excellence that prepares tomorrow's leaders
- 4 Transforming the educational experience to bring classroom learning to life for our students
- 5 Fostering a culture of academic mentorship
- 6 Amplifying the impact of academic departments across the disciplines

**Together, we will enrich lives both locally and globally, and prepare our future leaders to point the way forward.**





## ADVANCING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN KEY COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Our ingenuity, passion and drive for solutions fuel a flourishing campus culture of **innovation, creativity and service to society**. The priority initiatives below represent college programs that draw on the expertise and insights of scholars across the disciplines to break new ground in research and creative fields, and create transformative student opportunities.

### Arts Renaissance

Respected around the world, the Art Studio program at UC Davis has a long history of outstanding faculty, students and graduates. In collaboration with the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, the college has a unique opportunity to reimagine our arts education programs. With the support of philanthropic partners, our goal is to launch new programs, a new curriculum, reinvigorated student recruitment efforts, a robust visiting artist program, and new facilities to house, nurture and grow our arts education and student programming.



### Brain, Data, Digital Personality and Decision Sciences

Leveraging broad-ranging faculty expertise including renowned strengths in the Center for Mind and Brain, psychology and cognitive sciences, and a newly created data studies program, the college is launching a collaborative effort focused on transforming how we gather and use data, expanding our understanding of the mind and brain, and rethinking decision-making in an ever-changing world. Endowments that support research, student fellowships, and the creation of innovation space will realize the full promise of this initiative.

## Design Futures

As the only comprehensive design department within the University of California system, and with a strong foundation of interdisciplinary collaboration, the design department is committed to leading a national conversation about the diversity and impact of design. Drawing on unique assets including a leading-edge cinema and digital technologies department, a hacker lab, and performing and visual arts programs, the department is poised to shape the future of design innovation, given the resources to support faculty research, graduate education and other key priorities.

### Chemistry and Physics Innovations

Naming opportunities to enhance our chemistry facilities will play a vital role in elevating the world-class research that takes place within them. Strategic priorities include new classrooms, rooms for consultations, a visualization center equipped with interactive video capabilities, a modern lobby space and a highly visible research lab.

Within our highly ranked physics department, our Center for Quantum Mathematics and Physics (QMAP) is at the forefront of fundamental research. Philanthropic support—including endowed funding to provide postdoctoral fellowships and sponsor a seminar series, conferences and public lectures—will be key to enhancing the department's and QMAP's programs.

### Philanthropic Opportunities:

- **Arts Renaissance:** Endow distinguished faculty, education, and visiting artist programs
- **Brain, Data, Digital Personality and Decision Sciences:** Support cross-disciplinary programs and research
- **Design Futures:** Launch forward-looking, solution-driven design programs that work across arts and technology fields to improve the quality of life for all people and the planet
- **Chemistry and Physics Innovations:** Fund groundbreaking discoveries, both applied and theoretical
- **C. N. Gorman Museum:** Help fund a new museum site and create endowments to enhance collections
- **Global Tea Initiative:** Endow faculty positions, lectures, fellowships and research funds







### C.N. Gorman Museum

For more than 40 years, the C.N. Gorman Museum has reflected the vibrancy of contemporary Native American and Indigenous fine art. Now, the museum is planning to relocate to a new campus home in Nelson Hall, adjacent to the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden. This new building will join the Manetti Shrem Museum and the Mondavi Center as a cornerstone of the flourishing Arts District that showcases UC Davis' commitment to excellence in the arts. The new space will also elevate our teaching and research mission, amplify our impact on our diverse audiences and showcase the cutting edge of artistic excellence among sovereign nations, tribes and indigenous communities worldwide.

Philanthropic support will bring this vision to life, establishing the Gorman Museum as a renowned destination for Native American and Indigenous contemporary art, as a catalyst for lifelong learning and creative achievements, and as a inspiration to the next generation of museum leaders.

### Global Tea Initiative

Just as UC Davis shaped the international conversation about wine, we are ideally positioned to approach tea in a new and truly comprehensive way. With the support of philanthropic partners who share our vision, we are poised to create the world's first center for the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary study of tea.

The Global Tea Initiative for the Study of Tea Culture and Science draws on the expertise of scholars and educators across the sciences, humanities and social sciences—fostering collaborations that explore tea's influence on virtually every sphere, from ceramics to gender roles, trade and commerce, and health practices all over the world.

Our vision is to create an international hub where cross-disciplinary research, symposia, lecture series, classes and exhibitions come together under one roof to advance knowledge about this globally significant beverage.

## 2

## GROWING OUR RANKS OF WORLD-CLASS FACULTY

In a college distinguished by its commitment to making the world a better place, our faculty act as critical catalysts in advancing this mission. **Endowed faculty positions play a vital role in enhancing the college's stature and amplifying our impact.**

Endowed chairs and professorships are a decisive tool in attracting and retaining stellar faculty who will generate innovative research, make life-changing discoveries and educate future leaders. As scholars of international standing, the holders of endowed chairs attract research funding and draw top faculty colleagues and students from around the world. Junior faculty and graduate students who are mentored by endowed chairs often take scholarship and innovation in new directions, shaping the future of their fields.

### Philanthropic Opportunities:

- Endow chairs and professorships that recruit and retain renowned faculty of distinction





## 3

## SUPPORTING GRADUATE STUDENT EXCELLENCE

UC Davis' graduate students are tomorrow's leaders in academia, industry, the arts, government and beyond. **Scholarships and fellowships make a critical difference in attracting, supporting and empowering dedicated students** who are committed to making a difference as the next generation of innovators in their fields.

Graduate fellowships attract more of the best and brightest, and help to ensure that these exceptional scholars receive the best education possible.

Philanthropic support for fellowships and research funds gives graduate students the gift of time to focus on their own research and career development without needing to take on extra jobs to pay for it. Fellowships also broaden the pathways of opportunity toward pursuing an advanced degree, making graduate school more affordable for promising scholars from low- and middle-income families or from backgrounds that have been underrepresented in academia.

### Philanthropic Opportunities:

- Endow graduate student fellowships that attract and support scholars of exceptional promise
- Create graduate research funds that advance groundbreaking discovery and innovation



## 4 TRANSFORMING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE: BEYOND THE CLASSROOM INITIATIVE

The College of Letters and Science prepares dynamic thinkers who are ready to collaborate across disciplines to create new knowledge and drive innovative solutions.

**Hands-on experiences that bring classroom learning to life** encourage students to engage deeply with real-world challenges that prepare them to compete successfully and contribute meaningfully in their careers.

The college is committed to creating a path for every student to access these life-changing experiences. Beyond the Classroom programs provide students in every major with unique opportunities to deepen their disciplinary knowledge through internships, service learning, clinical opportunities, professional development, travel abroad, global engagement and field research. From an archaeological dig that led to a job offer in the California State Parks, to an internship with the Anti-Defamation League that launched a career in civil rights, recent graduates consistently point to this real-world experience as a critical element in their professional success.

### Philanthropic Opportunities:

- Fund programs that ensure lifelong student success, including internships, mentorships, field study and undergraduate research opportunities
- Support global learning initiatives and study abroad scholarships for all students
- Create professional development opportunities that align with liberal arts and sciences education





## 5 FOSTERING A CULTURE OF MENTORSHIP: FACULTY OF DISTINCTION INITIATIVE

The college is home to distinguished faculty members across more than 50 disciplinary fields. By investing nearly \$100 million in the last decade in recruitment, seed funding and academic infrastructure renovations, the college has made a powerful commitment to enhancing the culture of academic excellence that supports our faculty.

Over the past decade, the college has hired more than 200 new faculty members—an increase of 30%. To ensure a **robust and supportive environment to foster the success of our newest faculty members**, particularly those at an early stage in their careers, the college has spearheaded the Faculty of Distinction initiative: a comprehensive mentorship program to support their professional development and advance their research efforts with named faculty fellowships.

### Philanthropic Opportunities:

- Establish a faculty mentoring program with rotating faculty fellowships for our early-career faculty members



## 6

## AMPLIFYING THE IMPACT OF ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

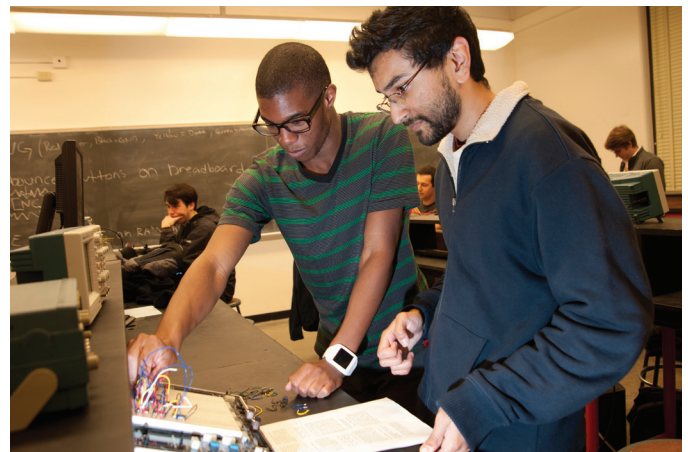
The college's remarkable breadth and depth of disciplinary strengths are among its most powerful assets, creating transformative possibilities for students and valuable opportunities for collaboration across fields.

To **advance the work and deepen the impact of each of our departments and programs**, we are working closely with department chairs and faculty to increase collaboration and identify shared priorities and opportunities for growth, and enhance opportunities to engage alumni and university friends in these efforts.

Funding to support research funds, undergraduate scholarships and community outreach will play a vital role in expanding the reach of the college's strengths across its departments and programs.

### Philanthropic Opportunities:

- Establish faculty research funds
- Create undergraduate scholarships
- Endow lecture series and sponsor guest speakers







## An Invitation

Making the world a better place through our ideas, our innovations and our discoveries is the enduring mission that drives UC Davis as a world-class public research university. The liberal arts and sciences are central to that mission, working at the intersection of disciplines to create vital knowledge that informs every field of inquiry and shapes every facet of public life.

The College of Letters and Science is committed to bringing our best ideas and our best thinking to age-old problems and emerging challenges alike, while unlocking new fields of inquiry and inspiring new ways of looking at and engaging with the world around us.

Our alumni and friends have always been, and will always be, at the heart of this vision of leadership. It is with your partnership and support that we can bring these ideas and

innovations to life—translating them into real-world impact that changes lives and fosters stronger, healthier and richer communities.

Thank you for embarking on this journey with us, and for all that you make possible for the next generation of leaders whose bold ideas will create a brighter future.

### For more information please contact:

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## Ways of Giving

We respect that, for each donor who wishes to provide significant philanthropic support, there are personal, financial and gift planning aspects to consider. We are committed to working with you to realize your philanthropic vision and develop the gift plan that best meets your needs. At your request, we can also work with your tax and financial advisors. Following are various gift types and their associated benefits.

You may wish to consider a mix of gift types to help you achieve both your philanthropic and financial objectives.

### Cash Gifts

- Are the simplest and most popular giving method
- Can be tax deductible in the year they are given

### Gifts of Securities

- Include stocks, mutual funds and bonds
- Can avoid capital gains taxes
- Can provide an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of long-term, appreciated securities

### Gifts of Real Property

- Include land, farms, personal residences, and rental or commercial property
- Can avoid capital gains tax on appreciated assets
- Can provide an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of long-term, appreciated property
- Can eliminate property expenses and taxes
- Can provide continued use for life through a retained life estate gift

### Bequests and Living Trusts

- Establish the UC Davis Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate
- Can provide an estate tax deduction equal to the value of the gift
- Offer flexibility by allowing you to provide for family first

### Retirement Plan Gifts

- For current gifts, utilize the IRA Charitable Rollover provision (*for donors aged 70½ and older*)
- Name the UC Davis Foundation as a beneficiary
- Can eliminate income tax on the plan distributions
- Preserve the plan's full value for gift purposes

### Life Income Gifts

- Include charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities
- Can provide potential tax savings on income, estate and capital gains
- Generate income for you and/or your loved ones for a fixed period of time or until your passing
- Distribute the remaining assets to the UC Davis Foundation