School of Arts and Humanities
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Mission of the School of Arts and Humanities

- Committed to excellence in teaching and scholarship
- Dedicated to enlightenment and enrichment of our communities
- Devoted to freedom from ignorance and intolerance in our societies
- Engaged in connecting the arts and humanities to the everyday life of the community

The School of Arts and Humanities is dedicated to providing all CSUB students with the cultural knowledge to appreciate what has gone before, and with the skills to put that knowledge to use in creating better communities for themselves and their families in the 21st century. The School also provides its 1,000 majors the opportunity to engage in the cultural research crucial to understanding human complexities in a fully interdependent global economy.

Because the arts and humanities have nothing less than the human experience as their subject matter, students who develop their critical, creative, and communication skills are able to analyze the constantly changing situation, to respond to the realities of their environment in creative ways and to communicate their ideas to a broad spectrum of people.

Students majoring in the fine and performing arts (art, music, theatre), the communications fields (communications, English, and modern languages), and the fields of humanistic inquiry (literature, history, philosophy, and religious studies) make intellectual curiosity a habit and lifelong learning a natural pursuit. Grounded in the traditions of their fields, majors also acquire skills to contribute to the contemporary arts and humanities in ways that value the entrepreneurial spirit and encourage philanthropic values. In this way, our students contribute to their own success, while passing on that success to others.

Academic Programs

The School of Arts and Humanities offers nine undergraduate Bachelor of Arts degree programs in eight departments: Art (with emphases in art history, studio art, and art education); Communications (with emphases in journalism, public relations, and digital media); English; History; Modern Languages and Literatures (Spanish); Music (with emphases in General Music and Music Education); Philosophy (with General, Graduate School, and Pre-Law emphases); Religious Studies (with an optional double-major concentration); and Theatre.

In addition to minors in all of these fields (including such sub-fields as English Literature, Linguistics, Children’s Literature, French, Theatre Technology, and Theatre for Youth), the School also offers certificate programs in Communications (journalism, public relations, and digital media), Chicano/a Studies (an interdisciplinary concentration), and English (writing and children’s literature).

Single-subject teaching credential programs are offered in Art, Music, English, Social Science (through the History department), and Spanish.

The Master of Arts degree is also offered by English, History, and Spanish.

Facilities

The School of Arts and Humanities houses a growing number of facilities in support of the visual and performing arts. The Todd Madigan Gallery regularly features exhibitions of student, regional, and international artists, and provides students with curatorial and gallery experience in arts management. The Doré Theatre hosts an excellent series of student and faculty performances, in addition to lectures and performances by world-renowned and emerging musicians, scholars, and theatre artists. The university Amphitheatre hosts several outdoor events each year, including the spring Bakersfield Jazz Festival. In 2013 we will break ground on a new Art Center, which will offer students state-of-the-art studio and workshop space for ceramics, sculpture, painting/drawing, and digital art.

Institutes

The School of Arts and Humanities sponsors several institutes. The Kegley Institute of Ethics provides a unique opportunity for students to do internships in practical ethics and for the community to engage with prominent public figures on the challenging issues of the day; the 2010-11 Kegley lecturers have included Carlos Fuentes, Andrei Codrescu, and Paul Rusesabagina. The Institute for Religion, Education, and Public Policy explores the diversity of religious belief in our area and the intersection between private spiritual practice and public policy. The Public History Institute preserves the regional memory of the Southern San Joaquin Valley by collecting and archiving oral histories pertaining to the rich multicultural heritage surrounding the oil and gas industries, agriculture, and the music industry (especially the Bakersfield Sound). The PHI sponsored the 2009 conference entitled “Oildale and Beyond,” featuring Bakersfield natives Gerald Haslam and Merle Haggard, and will host a year-long interdisciplinary celebration of the 75th anniversary of the publication of The Grapes of Wrath, which was set in Kern County. The Children’s Art Institute offers local children year-round opportunities to explore their creativity through summer classes and ongoing activities both on the CSUB campus and in area schools.
Executive Advisory Council
In our commitment to engage the community in the mission of the School of Arts and Humanities, we welcome the support of the Arts and Humanities Executive Advisory Council, a group of business and non-profit leaders with an appreciation for the importance of CSUB and its beneficial effect on the cultural economy of the region. The Council advises the Dean of the School in matters concerning the interests of the community, helps shape the future of the curriculum and its degree programs, and advocates for the interests of the School in the community, including its efforts in raising money, developing resources, and placing students.