

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

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 majors the opportunity to engage in the cultural research that is 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. Our newly transformed curriculum includes applied experience elements in all of our majors, increasing our graduate's practical perspectives on theoretical concepts.

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 seven departments: Art and Art History (with emphases in art history, studio art, and art education); Communications (with emphases in journalism, public relations, and digital media); English; (with

emphases in language, literacy, and teaching); History; Modern Languages and Literatures (Spanish); Music (with emphases in General Music and Music eEducation); Philosophy (with emphases in Ethics and Moral Reasoning; Law, Justice, and Social Policy; and Mind and World); Religious Studies (with an optional double-major concentration); and Theatre. The School of Arts and Humanities also coordinates a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with areas of specialization available in Ethnic Studies; Film Studies; and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

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 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. Our **Visual Arts** building opened in 2014, housing studios for ceramics, sculpture, painting and drawing, and digital 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 black-box **Arena Theatre** offers a more intimate venue for experimental works. The university **Amphitheatre** hosts several outdoor events each year, including the annual spring Bakersfield Jazz Festival.

Institutes

The School of Arts and Humanities houses 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, and Paul Rusesabagina, and Daniel Ellsberg. 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 (such as the Bakersfield Sound). Close collaboration with the Walter Stiern Library's **Historical Research Center** ensures students receive hands-on experience with original documents.

Executive Advisory Council

In our commitment to engage the community in our mission 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 in applied experiences such as internships and service learning.