The Chicano & Latino Studies Program incorporates the arts and literature, cultural studies, history, various social sciences, and policy studies. You’ll explore the dimensions of race, ethnicity, culture and identity, gender, and class in the United States, both historically and in contemporary times. As a Chicano & Latino Studies major, you’ll take courses offered in two broadly defined fields of study, humanities and social science. Humanities content includes courses that focus on creating awareness for Chicana/o culture, while social science courses emphasize contemporary Chicana/o issues as they relate to the larger society.

The B.A. degree in Chicano & Latino Studies will help you prepare for careers serving Chicana/o-Latina/o constituencies and for graduate and advanced professional study in programs in which a minority affairs focus would be an asset. The program allows you the flexibility of pursuing work in related fields, such as Latin American studies, Spanish studies, Women’s studies, and American studies.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study Chicano & Latino Studies at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts highlight the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also
where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.

Student Experiences

Learning Abroad Options in Chicano & Latino Studies: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

Learn more about study abroad for Chicano & Latino Studies majors.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

The first year of college is the hardest; you’re getting used to the culture, the workload, and you’re trying to make friends. Living Learning Communities help alleviate some of this challenge by creating a community within a community. CASA SOL is an LLC for first-year Latinx and Chicana/o/x students, and it provides them with the framework needed to be successful in college and beyond.

Read more about CASA SOL, and learn more about applying to the Living Learning Community.

- CASA SOL Living Learning Community
- La Raza Student Cultural Center
- Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence
Undergraduate Research: Turn Curiosity into New Knowledge

The Department of Chicano & Latino Studies creates many opportunities for both quantitative and qualitative study through regular coursework and one-on-one collaborations with faculty in directed studies courses. We also provide research opportunities through collaborations with our various community partners in Chicano-Latino serving organizations. The University has funding opportunities available for students who propose projects through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), which encourages students to work closely with faculty members on collaboratively-designed research projects.

Internships: Gain Valuable Experience in the Twin Cities and Beyond

Did you know? CLA Career Services has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.

Meet Our Faculty

Teaching the history of a nation from a single perspective neglects the experiences, hardships, and triumphs faced by groups that don’t fall within the majority. Associate Professor Jimmy Patiño worked with Minneapolis Public Schools to create a Chicano and Latino history course to address this issue and pass down knowledge to the next generation of scholars.

Read more about Professor Patiño's work.
Did you know there are 87 museums and archives across the US that house Mexican American art? Department Chair Karen Mary Davalos didn’t know that either, but her research is working to create a portal that will make Mexican American art more accessible for everyone.

Read more about Professor Davalos' work.

Meet Our Alumni

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.”

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman
You might also explore

American Indian Studies
Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature
Global Studies
Sociology
Spanish and Portuguese Studies
Spanish Studies

Associated Careers

Child, Family, and School Social Workers; Community Organizers and Activists; Elementary, Middle, and High School Teachers; News Analysts, Reporters, and Correspondents; Public Interest Advocates; Public Interest Lawyers

Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information

TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any
of the topics below!

- Course plans before transferring
- Estimated time to graduation
- Career preparation in CLA
- Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
- Connecting with major/minor departments