What can I do with a major or minor in Chicana/o Studies?

With a major or minor in Chicana/o Studies you will be prepared to enter graduate school or contribute to the advancement of the social, cultural, personal and political well-being of your community as an educator, researcher, business leader, or community advocate.

The bachelor of arts degree in Chicana/o Studies is designed to meet the needs of students preparing for careers serving Chicana/o-Latina/o constituencies, careers such as public and business administration, marketing, public relations, education, politics, government and minority affairs, as well as careers in which the graduate would work in an international or multicultural environment. The degree is also designed to prepare students for graduate and advanced professional study in programs in which a knowledge of the history, language, and culture of this growing demographic would be an asset.

Among the strengths of the interdisciplinary Chicana/o Studies major is a focus on critical thinking and effective oral and written communication skills. These skills are developed across the program's curriculum, which incorporates the arts and literature, education, history, the various social sciences, and policy studies. The program's curriculum explores the dimensions of race, ethnicity, culture and identity, gender, and class in the United States, both historically and in contemporary times. It prepares students in an array of theories, methodologies, technologies, and teaching approaches that provide a thorough undergraduate education.

The curriculum focuses on the practical application of Chicana/o Studies for career development in selected professions and service to the community based on an understanding of the humanities, social sciences, and the arts. Chicana/o Studies provides an excellent preparation for students interested in teaching, especially in bilingual classrooms. It is also an exceptional major for graduate education in a range of professional and academic fields. Moreover, it provides an outstanding preparation for a variety of positions in community organizations, social and public service, and the private sector. In all, it is an ideal major of choice that provides a strong intellectual and critical foundation for success in a polyglot and multicultural world whose traditional disciplinary boundaries and forms of representation are being redefined in Chicana/o Studies.
BILINGUAL/BICULTURAL GRADUATES are more desirable in the workplace than ever before. Our degrees will provide you the knowledge, skills, and depth of understanding you need to become a life-long learner and to use the bicultural competency you gain in your chosen profession. A student with a major or minor in Chicana/o Studies increases their chances of securing a position and advancing in their chosen field. Although employment opportunities in regular classroom teaching and other careers have remained fairly constant, the number of positions for bilingual/bicultural graduates continues to increase. To learn more about the Chicana/o Studies Program and the many activities and programs we sponsor, check out our website: http://chicanostudies.csuci.edu/

CHICANA/O STUDIES is also an excellent major as preparation for postgraduate study in various professional schools, as the communities in which professionals work are increasingly diverse. Students can continue their studies for advanced degrees in law, with positions specializing in minority or barrio problems; social work, as a medical or psychiatric social worker in a minority community; public administration; librarianship; and, teaching or educational administration.