

DISCOVER YOUR PATH

The Humanities
and Arts at
Stanford

Policy Advisor,

Creative Director,

Your roadmap to a fulfilling life and career

AND LOVE WHAT YOU DO



Photo by Richard Morgenstein

Dean's Message

My path to becoming a philosophy professor has been full of unexpected twists and surprising discoveries. I grew up in subsidized housing in the Bronx, New York, and was the first person in my family to go to college. My love of math took me from City College of New York to graduate school at MIT, where I thought I would focus on logic.

However, through encounters with great books and inspiring scholars, I became curious and interested in ethics and political philosophy. Today, I feel lucky to be able to work on topics like the nature and role of equality in a just society and the fair distribution of educational opportunity—which also allows me to be in conversation with my colleagues in economics, education, and political science.

Having taught at Stanford's School of Humanities and Sciences for more than 30 years, I encourage you to seize the incredible opportunity to embark on your own journey of discovery. As I hope you will discover in these pages, studying the humanities and arts will allow you to grapple with meaningful questions about yourself and the world around you, to explore ideas through new eyes, and to decide what you really care about as you shape your future. And it will prepare you for not just one career but rather many career opportunities and advancements during your life.

From learning and conducting research under the mentorship of world-class faculty to experiencing random and transformative collisions with bright minds across many disciplines, you will find that Stanford is a remarkable university to study the humanities and arts. The possibilities are boundless, and I wish you joy and adventure as you navigate this exciting time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Satz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debra Satz
Vernon R. and Lysbeth Warren Anderson
Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences
Marta Sutton Weeks Professor of Ethics in Society
Professor of Philosophy, and, by courtesy, Political Science

The School of Humanities and Sciences (H&S) is the foundation of a liberal arts education at Stanford. The school encompasses more than 45 departments and interdisciplinary programs. H&S is home to fundamental and applied research, where free, open, and critical inquiry is pursued across disciplines.

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EXPLORE

the humanities and arts at Stanford



Understand the past, question the present, and imagine the future

It's Monday morning and 100 undergraduates sit captivated in a darkened classroom as their art history professor brings a single projected slide of a Rembrandt painting to life.

Across campus, English, linguistics, and computer science scholars use digital tools to investigate how gender was portrayed across 19th-century literature. Meanwhile, a senior on the other side of the Main Quad begins writing the second chapter of her honors thesis on the ethical complications of California water laws.

Six thousand miles away, a classics professor and his students don masks and snorkels to explore ancient Mediterranean history through underwater archaeology. Back on campus later that evening, 30 students gather in their dorm lounge to talk to a creative writing professor about his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel set in North Korea.

Every day Stanford students and faculty bring the humanities to life as they explore the ideas, cultures, and peoples that shape the human experience. And studying the humanities and arts prepares students to build a good life and a better world in successful careers across the globe.

Are you a rising high school junior or senior?

Consider applying to the Stanford Summer Humanities Institute, a two-week residential program that allows you to tap into Stanford's excellence in the humanities, exploring texts and ideas at a profound level, writing college level papers, and communicating complex arguments in discussion sections. Live on Stanford's campus and immerse yourself in humanities research while working closely with Stanford faculty.

Policy Assistant, Software Engineer, Program Manager, Vice President of Operations, Senior UX Designer, Psychotherapist, Business Analyst, **Data Scientist**, Singer-Songwriter, Deputy Coordinator, Co-founder, Policy Advisor, Epidemiologist, Event Coordinator, Reporter, High School **Teacher**, Senior Editor, Learning Experience Designer, Team Lead, Director of Strategic Planning and Operations, **Founder and CEO**, Curator, Law Clerk, Emmy-Award Winning Actor, Novelist, Criminal Justice Fellow, **“SO WHAT**
are you going to do with that?”
Director of Public Relations, Editor, Coordinator, Recruiting Manager, Reporter, Community Organizer, Designer, Elementary School Teacher, Conservator, Policy Advisor, Director of Human Resources, Mayor, Head of Content and Marketing, Family Nurse Practitioner, Consultant Screenwriter, Vice President of Sales, Talent Manager, Poet, UX Designer, Director of Admissions, **Physician**, Head of Enterprise Initiatives, Realtor, Architectural Designer, Senior Product Manager, Recruiting Manager, **Music Director**, Doctoral Candidate, Reporter, Criminal Justice Fellow, Team Lead, Consultant, **Novelist**, Creative Director, Policy Assistant, Software Engineer, Curator, Vice President of Operations, **Program Manager**, Senior UX Designer, Psychotherapist, Singer-Songwriter, Senior Editor, Epidemiologist, **National Correspondent**, High School Teacher, Founder and CEO, Learning Experience Designer, Director of Strategic Planning and Operations, Assistant **Professor**, Emmy-Award Winning Actor, Assistant United States Attorney, Assistant United States **Attorney**, Physician, Communications Manager, Data Analyst, Director of Public Relations, Epidemiologist.



Linda Yvette Chavez, '04,
Comparative Studies
in Race and Ethnicity
Screenwriter, Producer
Gentefied

I left Stanford with a degree in comparative studies in race and ethnicity (CSRE) with a focus in literature and the arts in communities of color. Most people back then said, “What the heck do you do with that?” Well, apparently you make a hit television series for Netflix that features Brown and Black faces and illustrates their joys, their challenges, their humor, and their vibrancy. In front of and behind the camera.

I will forever be grateful to my professors and CSRE for the foundation they gave me to live out my dreams. Thanks to them, I’m using my voice to infuse my art with my activism, and I couldn’t think of a better life path for me.

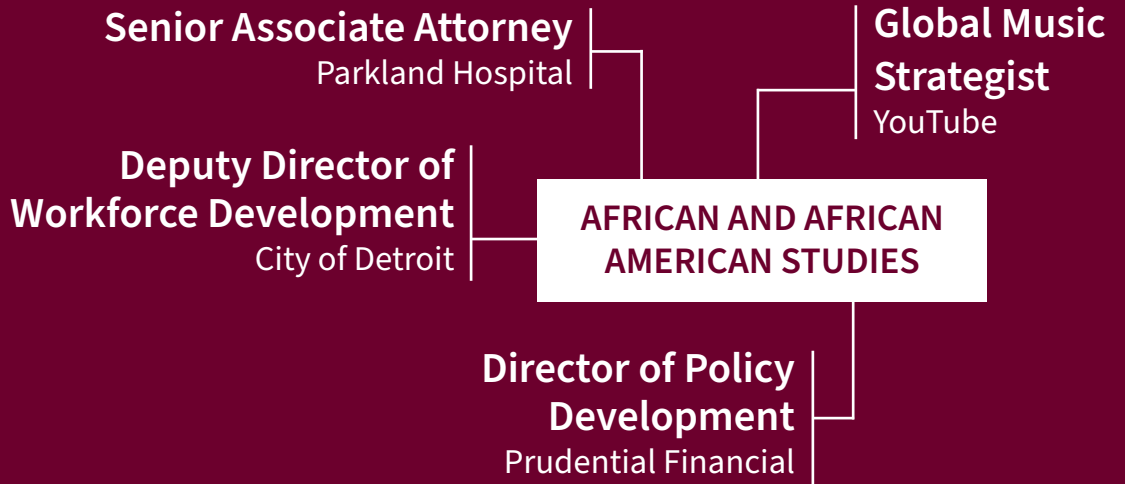
A humanities major equips you with transferable skills and a way of thinking that will allow you to excel in a wide variety of careers. This flexible approach will prepare you to navigate the uncertainties of the 21st-century workplace, which often requires frequent retraining and multiple career shifts over the course of a lifetime.

Many people assume that your college major prepares you for a specific kind of job, much like a law degree trains you to become a lawyer. By this thinking, a philosophy major would train you to become a philosophy teacher and perhaps little else. But this is not the case for Stanford alumni.

Employers in every industry want to hire innovative thinkers who can look at problems in new ways, express their ideas effectively, and work well in teams. Our humanities and arts alumni, regardless of major, embark on successful careers with these skills:

- Proficiency in researching and synthesizing vast amounts of information
- Dexterity with the creative process
- Historical consciousness: the ability to bring a long-term perspective to organizations and decisions
- Fluency in foreign languages
- The ability to analyze, evaluate, and construct complex arguments
- Clear and persuasive writing and verbal communication
- Storytelling and sharing information in compelling ways
- The ability to empathize and communicate effectively with people from different identities, organizational, cultural, ethnic, political, religious, and linguistic backgrounds
- The ability to weigh competing claims and form considered ethical judgments and decisions
- The ability to collaborate and work well in teams

Career Pathways of Some Recent Stanford Humanities and Arts Alumni





Because of my humanities coursework, I am able and excited to be and see full humans when I walk into any space, especially my classroom. My interdisciplinary coursework integrated into my African and African American studies degree has unleashed the critical, creative, and compassionate thinking and doing needed to navigate my student-centered and people-centered life.

I urge you all to believe in yourself, your unique gifts, and your imagination. Do not allow a job to dictate your interests, but rather your interests to dictate the various jobs and career paths that you may take and create in a lifetime. Allow the humanities and arts to inspire you to live and create a full human experience for yourself and others.



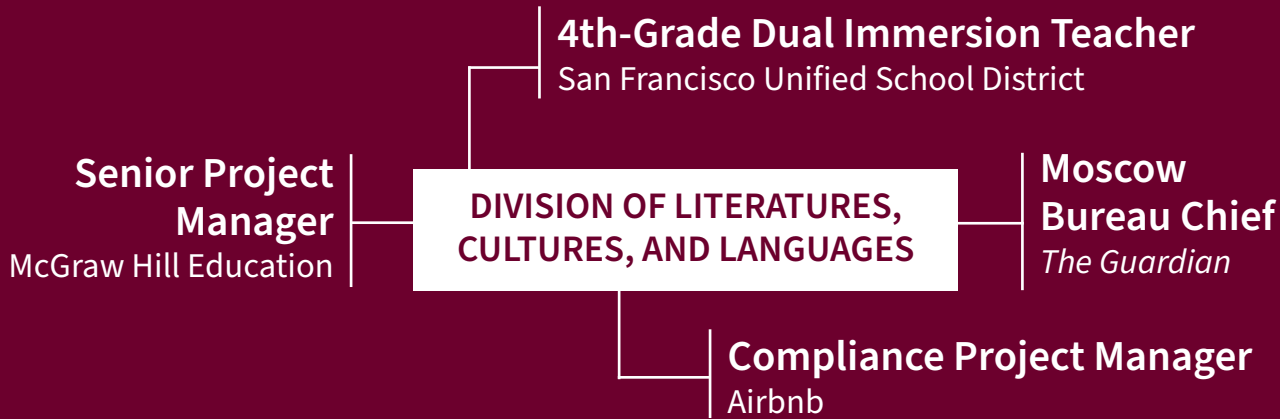
Darius White, '11,
African and African
American Studies
High School English Teacher,
St. Ignatius College Prep

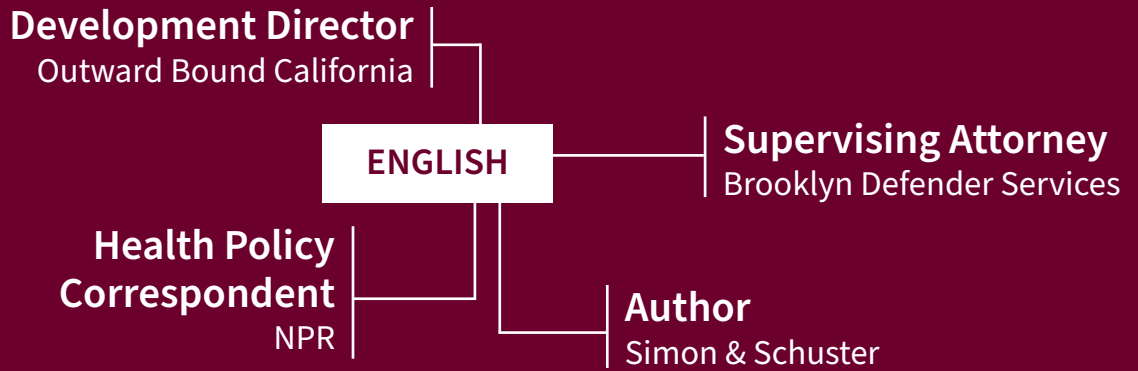


Mari Amend, '13,
Comparative Literature
Director of Development
and Communications,
At the Crossroads

Studying comparative literature allowed me the space to explore my different interests—fiction, folklore, oral history, and art and art history—while also deepening my understanding of narrative across cultures and writing.

This breadth and depth of knowledge created a strong foundation from which I draw daily in my career as a fundraising professional for a nonprofit that works with homeless youth. Working in communications for the last eight years, I've used the writing skills and powers of persuasion that I learned in my major to help raise significant support for social justice causes.







James Hohmann, '09, History
Columnist, *Washington Post*

My official *Washington Post* biography describes me as a “historian by training,” and I’m very proud of that. Studying history offered me both a framework through which to understand the world and an invaluable perspective on the broader sweep of history. I learned how to effectively marshal evidence to make an argument and how to connect dots and see patterns as a journalist.

History professors showed me that the world is not black and white, and they taught me how to think in shades of gray. I constantly need to weigh conflicting sources and accounts, and I must make judgment calls about who and what to trust more. In a world of oversimplification and falsehoods, my time at Stanford infused me with an appreciation for nuance and a devotion to getting even the smallest details right.

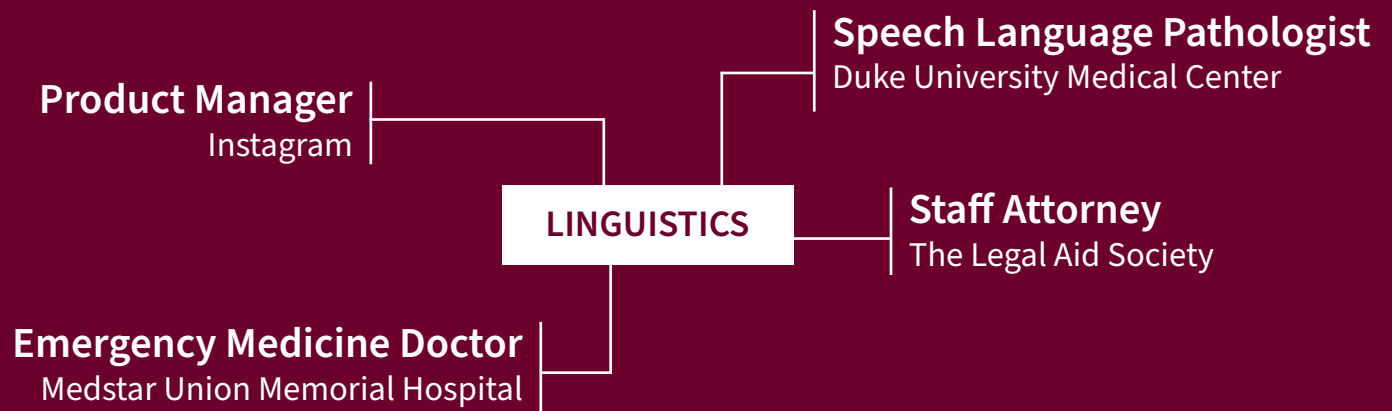


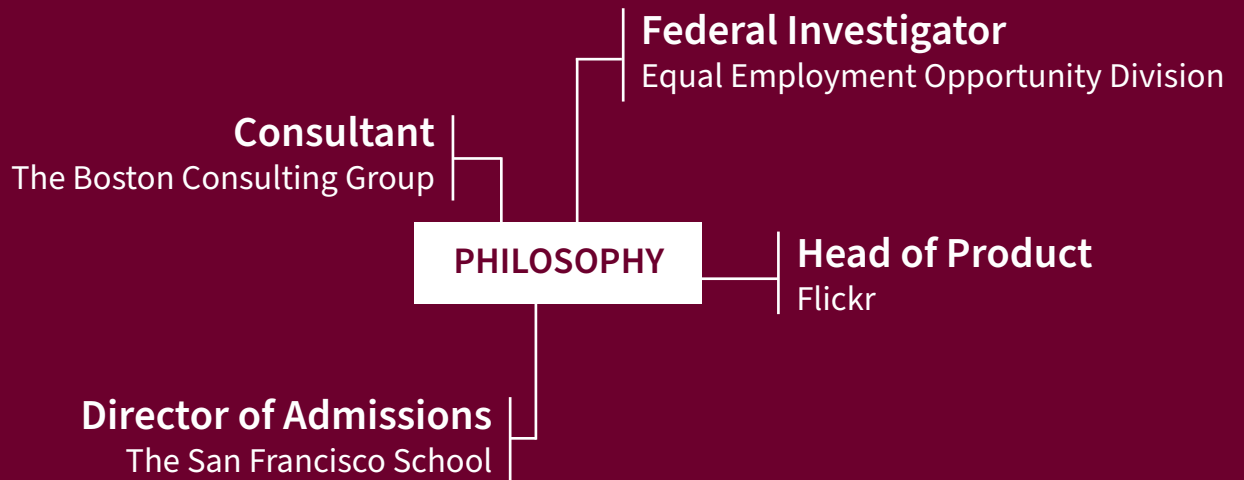
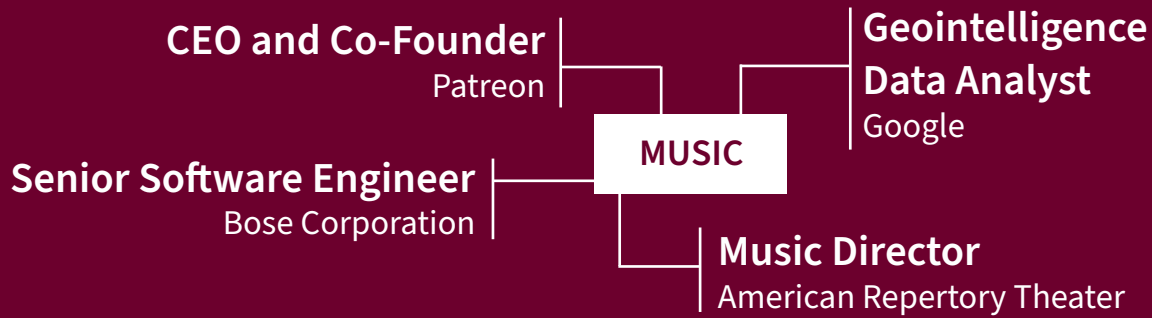


**Kat Li, '09, Linguistics,
MA, '11, Psychology**
Chief Operating Officer (COO), Height

Studying linguistics forces you to confront your own preconceived notions and assumptions and turn them on their heads with conflicting evidence. I learned to approach problems descriptively, not prescriptively, which is a lesson I've carried into the workplace and beyond.

In the tech industry, where disruption is the norm and not the exception, being able to critically examine—and challenge—established standards is incredibly important. This skill has benefited me time and time again.





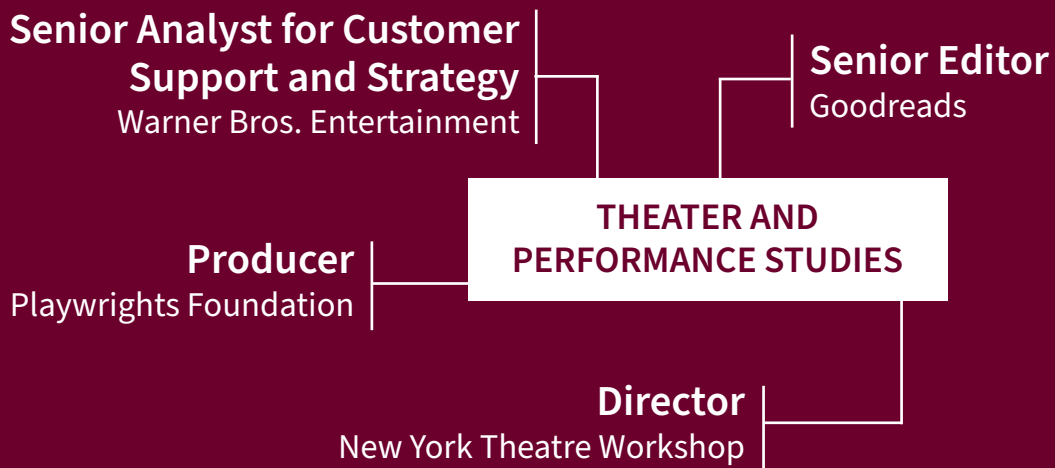


Engineering is truly a patchwork of humans building on top of each other, and I’ve grown to appreciate how precarious our shared project really is. For example, we are supposed to follow the design specifications—a lengthy document describing the intended operation of our machine. Inevitably the writers can not foresee some edge case, and we the engineers are left to answer some deeply philosophical questions. “What did the authors intend?” “What is the purpose of this machine?” “Were there some constraints the authors had that we no longer have?”

Our only recourse is to start from some axioms and use our best judgment. Electrical engineering taught me how to build a circuit, but religious studies taught me how to build a circuit with other people.



Julian Peña, ’17, Religious Studies and Electrical Engineering, MS, ’19, Electrical Engineering
Physical Design Engineer, Apple



Learn more about where Stanford undergraduate alumni are working now:



humsci.stanford.edu/humanities-careers

STUDY

what you love

and open new doors

What humanities fields are taught at Stanford?

Stanford offers classes in a variety of humanities subjects that you may not have encountered in high school, from philosophy to film and media studies.

Even subjects that may seem familiar, like English, history, and foreign languages and literatures, are taught in a very different way at the college level. Take time during your first two years to explore these fields and discover those that speak to you.

Did you know?

Stanford has more than 200 faculty teaching in the humanities and arts.



Humanities and Arts Departments and Programs

① African and African American Studies

② American Studies

③ Art and Art History

④ Classics

⑤ Comparative Studies in
Race and Ethnicity

- Asian American Studies
- Chicana/o-Latina/o Studies
- Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity
- Jewish Studies
- Native American Studies

⑥ East Asian Languages and Cultures

- Chinese
- Japanese
- Korean
- East Asian Studies

⑦ Division of Literatures, Cultures,
and Languages

- Comparative Literature
- French and Italian
- German Studies
- Iberian and Latin American Cultures
- Slavic Languages and Literatures

⑧ English

⑨ Feminist, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies

⑩ History

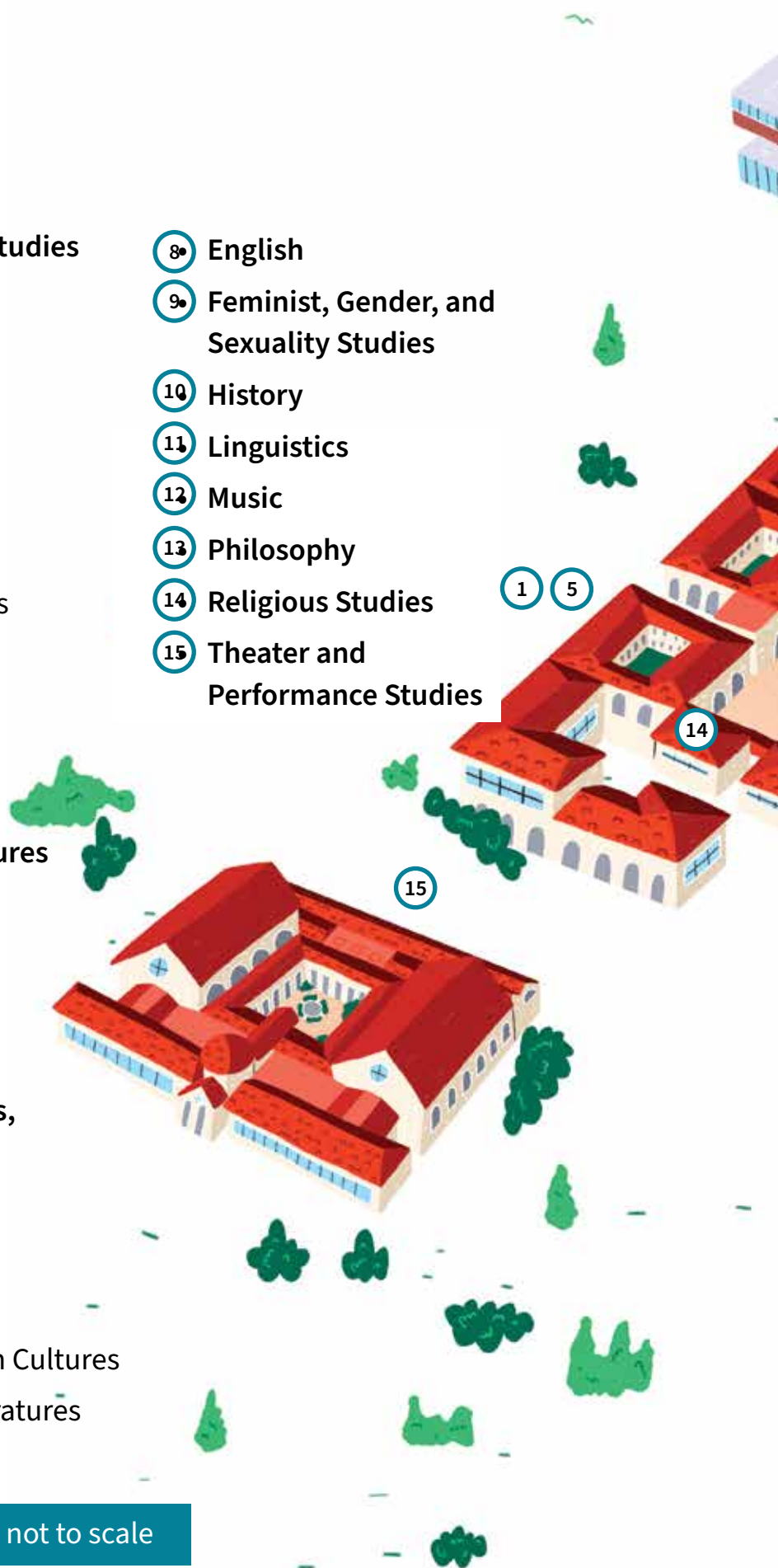
⑪ Linguistics

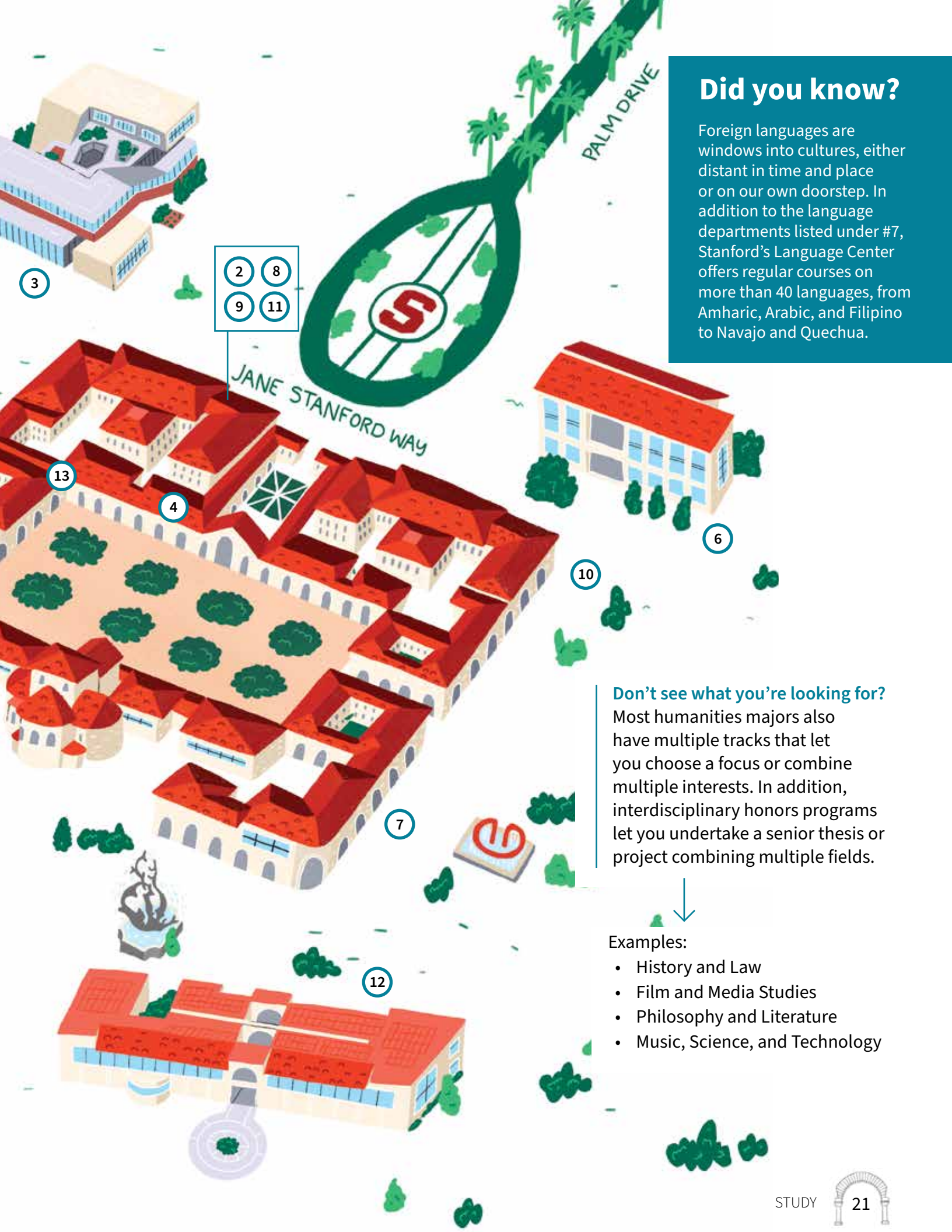
⑫ Music

⑬ Philosophy

⑭ Religious Studies

⑮ Theater and
Performance Studies





Did you know?

Foreign languages are windows into cultures, either distant in time and place or on our own doorstep. In addition to the language departments listed under #7, Stanford's Language Center offers regular courses on more than 40 languages, from Amharic, Arabic, and Filipino to Navajo and Quechua.

Don't see what you're looking for?

Most humanities majors also have multiple tracks that let you choose a focus or combine multiple interests. In addition, interdisciplinary honors programs let you undertake a senior thesis or project combining multiple fields.

Examples:

- History and Law
- Film and Media Studies
- Philosophy and Literature
- Music, Science, and Technology

DISCOVER

**yourself and
the world**

What is your purpose? What is a book? What does it take to make a computer speak and understand? What aspects of language are uniquely human? Can literature tell the truth? **Who owns the past?** What is a revolution? How do we understand the undocumented past? **Is morality objective?** How did globalization unfold? Where does environmentalism come from? How did our laws develop? Why do we read? **How do visions of the future shape the way we think about the present?** How

Starting Points

We all come to college with views shaped by where and how we've grown up and our current moment in history. Humanities and arts courses will help you learn to see the world from many different perspectives, build understanding of others, and give you opportunities to reflect on meaning and purpose in your own life and the world at large.

Take classes in these subjects and you'll never run a meeting, write a memo, walk through a museum, read a novel, or engage in a debate in the same way again. These ideas, texts, and works of art will stay with you and enrich your life forever.

How should you pick humanities classes? Where should you start?

- For the most part, humanities classes have few prerequisites, and you have the freedom to enroll in whatever interests you. You will also get a chance to be in small, interactive lectures and seminars and form close working relationships with faculty from the beginning of your time here.
- You will have ample time to fulfill the rigorous requirements for your chosen humanities major in your junior and senior years, so take time in your first two years to explore.

Here are some ideal starting points for exploring each subject:

- **Apply for an Introductory Seminar.** These small, hands-on seminars are a great way to leap right into an interesting subject, work closely with faculty members, and build friendships with students who have similar interests.
- **Enroll in a Humanities Gateway Course.** These frosh-friendly courses are taught by engaging professors from each department, and they provide comprehensive introductions to the fundamental issues and questions in each discipline.
- **Check out the Humanities Core.** This curated set of interdisciplinary courses explores traditions, texts, and intellectual history around the world, focusing on how global cultures are shaped by encounters with other peoples and ideas.
- **Enroll in Dangerous Ideas,** a one-unit lecture series that showcases big ideas and dynamic teachers from across our humanities departments.
- **Academic Advising's Frosh-Friendly Courses** web page maintains a list of additional classes that departments have identified as great places for frosh (or any undergraduate student) to start learning about a new field.



Talk to these people to learn more:

- Your undergraduate advising director
- Your Stanford Newcomer Guide
- Student service officers in each department
- Undergraduate peer mentors in many departments
- During fall quarter, ask your humanities professors for course recommendations for the winter and spring. Take advantage of office hours, and don't be afraid to email faculty about whose work you want to learn more.



Green Library

First-year Requirement

COLLEGE (Civic, Liberal, and Global Education)—Taught by faculty from across disciplines, COLLEGE is Stanford’s new first-year core curriculum requirement. The core offers students a shared intellectual experience and the opportunity both to engage deeply with civic responsibility, self reflection, and global perspectives and to grasp the value of a liberal education.

The first two courses in the new COLLEGE curriculum are particularly well-suited for students with interests in the humanities. COLLEGE 101, *Why College? Your Education and the Good Life*, explores the philosophical foundations of a liberal education. And COLLEGE 102, *Citizenship in the 21st-Century*, engages with ancient and modern challenges to self-governing communities. Both courses are delivered in a discussion seminar.

Starting in 2022, undergraduates can satisfy the COLLEGE requirement in their first year either by taking two quarters of select COLLEGE courses or by participating in [ESF](#), [ITALIC](#), or [SLE](#).

Education as Self-Fashioning (ESF)—Offered only in fall quarter, ESF provides an opportunity for you to think carefully and reflectively about education and what role you want a liberal education to play in your life at Stanford and beyond. You will shape your education aspirations in dialogue with fellow students and faculty across a wide range of disciplines.

Each week consists of a faculty-led seminar discussion, two writing-intensive class sessions, and a lecture by a prominent speaker on the nature and meaning of a liberal education.

Did you know?

ESF, SLE, and ITALIC fulfill Stanford’s writing requirements and also count toward general education breadth requirements.





Integrated Learning Environments

Combine living and learning by choosing to participate in one of these optional residence-based academic programs for first-year students.

Structured Liberal Education (SLE) is sometimes considered the small liberal arts college experience within Stanford, encouraging students to live a life of ideas in an atmosphere that emphasizes critical thinking and interpretation. SLE focuses on great works of philosophy, religion, literature, and art, beginning with the ancient world and ending with the modern period. The SLE curriculum emphasizes artists and intellectuals who introduced new ways of thinking and new ways of creating that have often overthrown or deeply changed tradition.

Around 90 students live together in the two houses of East Florence Moore Hall, and all parts of the course lectures, discussion sections, and film screenings take place in the residence. The experience provides students with a strong sense of the history of ideas that have shaped our world—and helps them build a special intellectual and social community that carries on beyond their first year.

Immersion in the Arts: Living in Culture (ITALIC) is a yearlong program that explores the importance of the arts in our collective understanding of the world. It invites students to examine art from all angles: its definition, its value, the way it challenges and inspires us, socially and personally. Students are part of a tightly knit arts community, living together in Stern Hall's Burbank House residence. All lectures, sections, workshops, and guest talks take place in a cluster of specially designed on-site seminar and arts practice rooms.

Conversations often carry on from class to the dining room and back to the dorm late at night, where they morph into jam sessions or collaborative projects in the art studio. ITALIC students study the history and theory of art across disciplines with faculty from the departments of Art and Art History, Music, English, and Theater and Performance Studies.

FIND

**and join your
communities**



Photo by Andrew Brodhead/Stanford University

New Student Orientation

Whether in a dining hall or at a community center, at a cultural event or in a dorm lounge, you will be able to bond with future friends who share interests and meet peers from a diversity of life experiences and backgrounds. Our community encompasses many identities, ethnicities, races, nationalities, genders, sexual orientations, academic interests, financial backgrounds, and beliefs. We believe that these multiple dimensions enrich the breadth and depth of Stanford and create a more vibrant place to live and learn.

Residential Life

Choose the sort of living experience you want by joining one of the eight cohesive campus neighborhoods. Each neighborhood includes a mix that will generally include frosh and multi-year residences, university ethnic and academic theme houses, Greek houses, cooperatives/co-ops, self-operated houses, and apartment-style residences.

I am humbled by the impact that Structured Liberal Education (SLE) had on me personally and intellectually. Some of my closest friends today I met walking the halls in the first days of the program. In that year, I came to realize that we build some of the greatest things in dialogue with each other—disagreeing and responding, with our ideas becoming stronger in the process.

I remember one Saturday arguing with a peer over the meaning of the American frontier in a German opera. Both of us were passionate; we were each partially wrong, partially correct, ultimately learning from our debate. In my work and in my personal life, that skill of disagreeing with passion yet respect has proven so rewarding.



Hugh Gorman, '09, Philosophy, MA, '10, Philosophy
International Lead,
Legal Investigations
Google



Photo by BAR Architects

Ng House for the Humanities

Academic Theme Houses include:

- At Home Abroad House
- Equity, Access, and Society Theme House
- Structured Liberal Education (SLE)
- Italic+Arts House
- Ng House (Humanities Dorm)
- Public Service and Civic Engagement Dorm

Ethnic Theme Houses include:

- Casa Zapata
- Ujamaa
- Muwekma-Tah-Ruk
- Okada

Did you know?

All undergraduates will have an undergraduate advising director from the Office of Academic Advising supporting them throughout their time at Stanford.

Ng House This dorm for sophomores to seniors is a lively central location for humanities activity on campus and a physical home to students who share a passion for any dimension of the human experience.

Ng House hosts many events and faculty visits, facilitates student-initiated and student-led workshops, organizes field trips outside campus, and more.





Photo by Linda A. Cicero/Stanford University

Old Union is home to many community centers on campus.

Stanford offers many opportunities for you to explore identities, including your own, and to learn from the experiences of others. From **community centers and cultural organizations** to sacred spaces and special events, you will have access to resources and support from faculty, staff, and peers as you navigate your time as an undergraduate.

Stanford has many fantastic student support offices such as the **First-Generation and/or Low-Income Office (FLI)**, which provides FLI students with critical resources, networks, and services to set them up for success, and the **Office for Religious and Spiritual Life** that works to guide, nurture, and enhance spiritual and religious life within the university community.



Did you know?

Approximately 7,000 undergraduate students attend Stanford University, and they come from all 50 U.S. states and more than 65 countries.

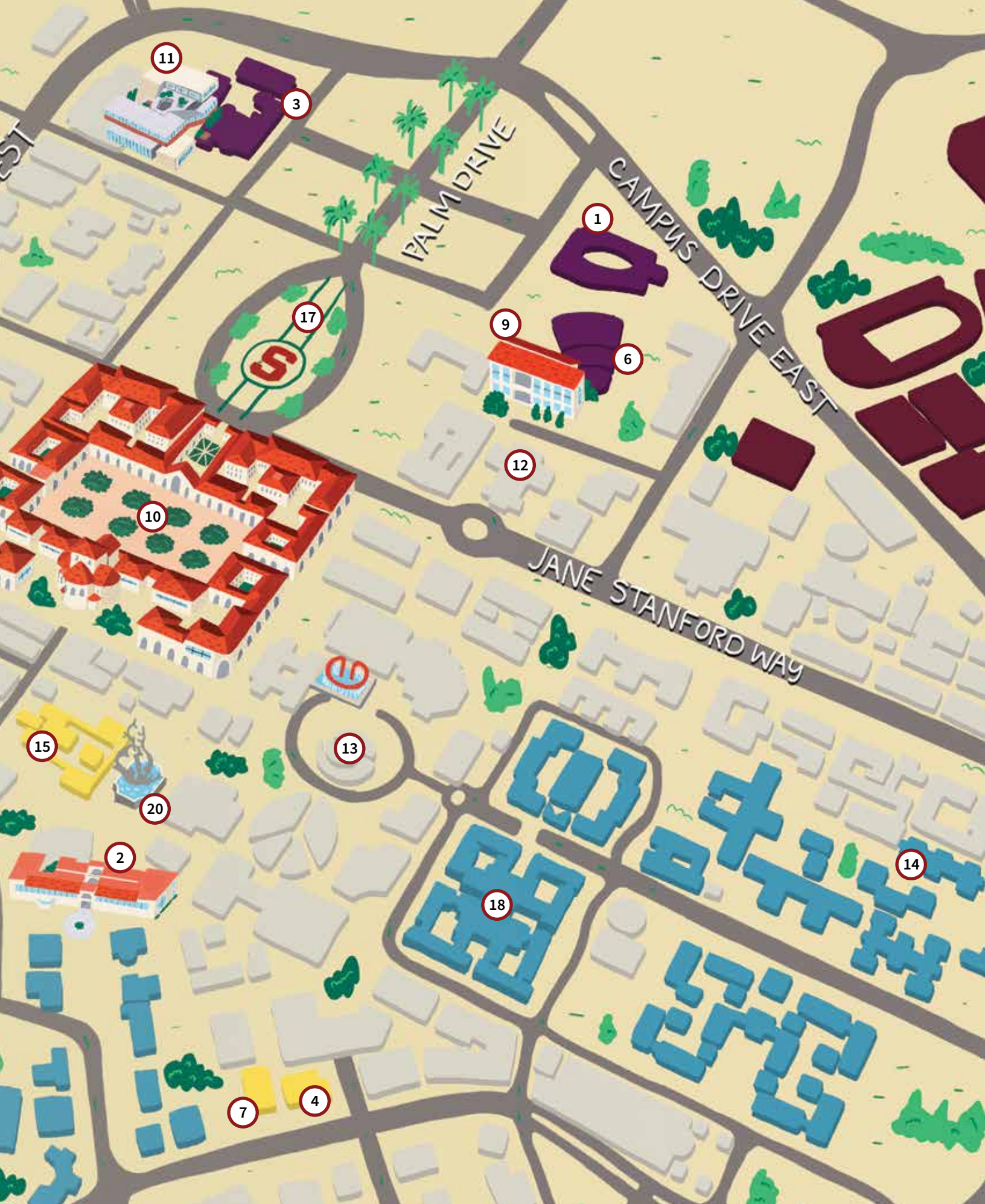
Highlights of the Humanities and Arts at Stanford

- 1 Bing Concert Hall
- 2 Braun Music Center
- 3 Cantor Arts Center and Anderson Collection
- 4 Career Education Center (BEAM)
- 5 Florence Moore Hall (SLE)
- 6 Frost Amphitheater
- 7 Haas Center for Public Service
- 8 Humanities Center
- 9 Knight Building
- 10 Main Quad
- 14 McMurtry Building for Art and Art History
- 12 Memorial Auditorium
- 13 Meyer Green
- 14 Ng House for the Humanities
- 15 Old Union
- 16 Roble Arts Gym
- 17 Stanford Oval
- 18 Stern Hall (ITALIC)
- 19 Tresidder Memorial Union
- 20 White Plaza and Bookstore

- Arts
- Residences
- Recreation
- Resources



Map not to scale



WHAT

**can you research
and create?**



Everyone knows that scientists do research, but did you know that humanities scholars also produce new knowledge? At Stanford, you can participate in advanced research in the humanities and arts starting your freshman year.

These hands-on experiences, which are only possible at a major research university like Stanford, are one of the best ways to discover your passions and develop close relationships with faculty.

What is humanities research? Your research is the reading you do in classes, the papers you write, and the independent projects you create. In humanities classes at Stanford, you learn alongside professors who are also reading and writing in their ongoing, global research projects—research is your shared goal. Your research could also emerge as a written thesis...or take shape as a film script, an oral history, a collection of photographs, a dance installation, a graphic novel, and much more. Research projects in the humanities can take you on a journey of discovery across global communities, museums, library archives, archaeology sites, performance spaces, and other portals of inquiry.

Humanities research experiences tend to fall into two categories:

- **Research Assistantships:** One of the best ways to get started in research is to collaborate with a professor or lab on a pre-defined, faculty-led project. These guided research experiences are a bit like apprenticeships: by contributing to a faculty project, you will learn directly from an expert how to frame research questions; identify, analyze, and interpret sources; and communicate results to the public. In the process, you will come up with ideas and questions of your own, as well as form valuable relationships with faculty, which can help you launch a future independent project of your own.
- **Independent Projects:** There are also many opportunities to develop—and receive funding for—an independent project of your own, under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

Apply for the Humanities Research Intensive.


This five-day course, taught over spring break, introduces freshmen and sophomores to sources and methods of humanities research, while preparing them to develop an independent summer project or to work as a research assistant for a Stanford professor.

Afterward, students gain access to special grants, post-program mentorship, and ongoing opportunities to connect with faculty.

Apply to work as a research assistant at the Stanford Humanities Center, a research institute that hosts an annual cohort of visiting scholars. Undergraduates from all years can apply to assist these scholars on their projects.

Explore funding and workshops offered by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPUE). VPUE awards many student research grants each year, although the majority of these support juniors on their honors thesis work. They also organize regular workshops to help orient incoming students to opportunities. Speak to your academic advisor or explore the Stanford Undergraduate Research and Independent Projects website for details.

Other Opportunities: There are also numerous more specialized research opportunities available to first- and second-year students depending on their interests and expertise. You can talk to your neighborhood undergraduate academic advisor to learn more. Some humanities departments offer research opportunities for undergraduates, although they may be reserved for majors. Several research centers, such as the Bill Lane Center for the American West, offer opportunities within their thematic focus.



How do I get started doing research

Ask your IntroSem professor if they need a research assistant: Introductory Seminars provide great ways for first- and second-year students to form close relationships with faculty. The IntroSems Plus program lets faculty deepen these relationships by hiring their IntroSem students as research assistants.

Apply to the Changing Human Experience (CHE) Undergraduate Researcher Program, which funds undergraduates to work as full-time summer research assistants on faculty projects in the humanities and social sciences.

Check out the Stanford Undergraduate Research Association (SURA), a student group dedicated to helping undergraduates get started in research. SURA organizes a variety of workshops, mentorship opportunities, faculty dinners, and an annual symposium for students to share their work.

Apply to work as a research assistant at the Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA), Stanford's pioneering digital humanities lab. CESTA welcomes undergraduates from all years and majors and provides extensive training in digital research methods for those who need it. Participants then become integral members of a faculty-led research team.



Digital Humanities

Imagine if you could quickly access thousands of texts that would've previously taken several decades just to read so that you could uncover a pattern in the language. Or compile all the findable evidence about the Indian Ocean slave trade into a single database and study it for patterns that emerge at that scale.

Digital tools and methods have transformed the way humanists can do their work. Vast amounts of our cultural record, from antiquity to the present, are now online, offering unprecedented access to human knowledge—and amazing opportunities to create new knowledge. Digital humanities researchers use tools such as geographic information systems (GIS) and network analysis, and also build tools for advanced visualization techniques.



Photo by Misha Bruk

Students investigating texts in the East Asia Library

Discover More

Stanford provides incredible opportunities to advanced undergraduates to devise their own independent research projects:

- Sophomores should check out the Chappell Lougee Scholarship, which provides full-time summer funding to support projects in the humanities, creative arts, and qualitative social sciences.
- Our Bing Overseas Studies Program (BOSP) offers ways to conduct research with local scholars, universities, and collections while studying abroad. Some programs require sufficient proficiency in a foreign language.

I believe research has the power to illuminate the diversities of the world and advocate for real change. During my time at Stanford, I was fortunate enough to receive funding from the Stanford Humanities Center, the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, and the Escobedo Grant, which enabled me to pursue my own research project.

The project was conducted in my hometown of Austin, Texas, and produced an ethnographic Honors Thesis titled, “Voy a decir a la maestra-Navigating, reinforcing, and challenging language boundaries in a Spanish-immersion preschool.” Having the opportunity to conduct hands-on research as an undergraduate solidified my desire to continue conducting research in the future, including in my current role as a PhD student.



Alma Flores Pérez, '19, Linguistics, Iberian and Latin American Cultures
PhD Student in
Linguistic Anthropology,
University of Texas at Austin

Undergraduate Research Project Titles

- “Love and Abandonment Imagery in Classical Arabic and Chinese Poetry”
- “The Ethical Foundations of a Right to Health Care”
- “Tracing the Critical Consciousness of Korea’s Working Class through Literature”
- “Community Colleges: A Case Study in the Political Philosophy of Democratic Education”
- “Comparative History of Radio Broadcasting in Northern Rhodesia and India”
- “Civic Identity and the Making of a Mexican Beverly Hills”
- “Cultivating Compassion Through Theater”



Photo by Nick Chris

A senior reading the script of the stage play he wrote for his undergraduate Honors in the Arts capstone project.

- Juniors and seniors can apply to the Bing Stanford in Washington (BSIW) Program, which arranges internships that can include pursuing research in museums such as the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Phillips Collection or accessing primary source material at the Library of Congress and the National Archives.
- Every Stanford senior completes a capstone experience within their major, a project designed to help them draw together all that they have learned and place a personal stamp on their education. Capstones can take many forms, from independent research papers and honors theses to arts performances and public service experiences.
- The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPUE) awards Major Grants of up to \$9,000 to support capstone research, including travel to research sites and collections around the world. Interdisciplinary Honors Programs let students combine their different academic interests, including fields as diverse as biology and studio art.
- Research can sometimes be a solitary experience. To counteract this, Stanford offers a number of programs to help you build an intellectual community with other student researchers, including Bing Honors College and the Hume Humanities Honors Fellowships at the Stanford Humanities Center.
- Through their community-based research program, the Haas Center for Public Service provides research and training for research executed in partnership with a community partner. You will be able to anchor that experience in two Urban Studies courses that will help you navigate doing social justice work and research in a community.

PURSUE

new passions

How have different cultures developed ideas about gender and sexuality? Why do we read? Who owns the past? Can literature tell the truth? What makes a good story? **What does studying a language teach you about the people who speak it?** How are national narratives and cultural identities constructed? What is the science of sound? How do we understand the undocumented past? How do we learn to talk? **Who are the makers, critics, patrons, and users of art?** How have different cultures developed ideas about gender and sexuality? How did our laws develop? Why do we read? **How has theater developed across time and space?** How do visions of the future shape the way we think about the present? Is cultural heritage a universal right? Who owns the past? Why does live

Beyond the Classroom

At Stanford, the humanities aren't limited to the classroom. Whatever you choose to study, there are many other ways to get involved and bring the humanities and arts into your Stanford experience. Here are just some of the ways you will be able to explore your hobbies, try new things, and get involved in campus life:

Hone your writer's voice and learn to express your ideas at various **student publications** such as the *Stanford Daily* newspaper, *Leland Quarterly* arts and literature magazine, and department journals such as *Herodotus* (history) and *The Dualist* (classics). Or learn to create and perform stories through **The Stanford Storytelling Project**, which offers courses, workshops, live events, and grants.

Through **Stanford's Creative Writing Program**—one of the best-known in the country—you can choose from a wide array of workshop-based courses led by published writers or apply for one-on-one Levinthal tutorials with Stegner Fellows, Stanford's distinguished writers-in-residence.

Participate in public service. The Haas Center for Public Service is the hub for **Cardinal Service**, a university-wide effort to make service an essential feature of a Stanford education. You can choose from more than **150 community-engaged Cardinal Courses** that integrate coursework with hands-on service experience, such as *Race and Gender in Silicon Valley* or *Spirituality and Nonviolent Urban and Social Transformation*.

Or enroll in **Cardinal Quarter**, a full-time, quarter-long, funded public service experience designed to integrate your academic learning with field-based experience. More than 500 funded fellowships, internships, and community work study opportunities are available, such as the Indigenous Communities Fellowship and Advancing Gender Equity fellowship.

Join some of the hundreds of Voluntary Student Organizations ranging from dance ensembles and a cappella groups to political, cultural, religious, and environmental groups.



Engage in the arts. Regardless of what you study at Stanford, you will have access to abundant pathways to **create, study, and experience art**. You can join one of 100+ student arts groups, from Ram's Head Theatrical Society to the Japanese drumming group, Taiko; travel on an arts immersion trip to a cultural capital like New York City; get a funded internship at a museum or arts nonprofit; or express yourself at the drop-in creative Messy Arts Space in the Roble Arts Gym.

You can also interact with the arts daily at world-class venues, each of which brings incredible performers and artists to campus and offers student programming: Bing Concert Hall, Frost Amphitheater, the Cantor Arts Center university museum, and the Anderson Collection at Stanford University, home to one of the foremost collections of post-World War II American art.

Learn from experience. You can spend a quarter in the U.S. capital as a junior or senior in the **Bing Stanford in Washington (BSIW) Program**. Students work as full-time interns in Washington, D.C.—home of countless museums and cultural sites. The program helps students find internships geared toward their interests and supports learning with seminars taught by Stanford faculty and policy makers and with outings that showcase the area.

Study Abroad. The Bing Overseas Studies Program (BOSP) enables students to broaden their education around the globe and immerse themselves in different cultures, environments, and languages. You can embark on a quarter-length program in locations like Australia, Berlin, Cape Town, Florence, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Kyoto, Madrid, New York, Oxford, Paris, or Santiago—or **join a three-week faculty-led, short-term summer program** in various locations such as Oaxaca or Accra.

SUMMER

plans

While summer can be a great time to work on the research described in the previous pages, there are also plenty of other summer opportunities for humanities and arts students, including:

General Internships

- Stanford’s online system **Handshake** helps connect students and employers and has thousands of internships that range across all areas.
- **BEAM Fellows:** BEAM Fellows provide funding to allow undergraduate students to participate in part- or full-time unpaid experiential learning opportunities that align with their academic and professional interests.

Specialized Internships

Various resources exist across Stanford to help you find internships in specialty areas—and there are many sources of funding to help make unpaid internships accessible.

- The **Rebele Internship Program** allows students to gain journalistic work experience by providing stipends for internships with qualifying news organizations such as the *San Francisco Chronicle* or *Seattle Times*.
- Some **departments**, such as English, offer stipends to help subsidize all or part of an internship at an organization that allows students to put their academic experience to work at places like Penguin Random House, Graywolf Press, wikiHow, and the Asian American Writers’ Workshop.
- **The Stanford Internship Program in Arts Administration** helps students explore the field of arts administration at places such as the Sundance Institute, SFMOMA, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, SFJAZZ, McSweeney’s, Huntington Library, and other art and cultural organizations.
- **Bing Stanford in Washington (BSIW) Program** students can extend their academic-year internships through the summer with the BSIW Bing Summer Fellowship stipend.

International Internships

- Stanford Global Studies (SGS) offers students an opportunity to extend classroom learning to immersive, cultural, and professional experiences through the Global Studies Internship Program, which can take you everywhere from the Center for Civil Liberties in the Ukraine to Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C. The Bing Summer Fellowship provides stipends for students to extend their academic year internships in Washington through the summer.
- Bing Overseas Studies Program (BOSP) offers opportunities through many of its global centers for students to deepen their cultural understanding and gain practical, professional experience through internships in another country. These internships are available to students who have done a BOSP program in the specific location.





Nimrah Khan, '13, Classics
Associate (Attorney) at
Latham & Watkins LLP

I received a grant after my sophomore year to learn Latin at the University of Bologna in Italy. This really shaped my time at Stanford and in my major as I got to physically connect with all of the history I had been studying thousands of miles away.

Studying abroad really brought the classroom to life, and I'm so grateful to the classics department for providing me with this opportunity, which was my first time in Europe and living in a city alone. Being in Italy offered me more independence and taught me general life skills, while also inspiring my passion to pursue further education.

September Programs

- **Sophomore College (SoCo)** is an immersive, three-week academic opportunity for incoming sophomores. Students arrive on campus before the traditional start of fall quarter in early September and join a cohort of 12-16 students embarking on intensive study of one subject. Recent SoCo courses included *LGBT History and Culture in the Bay Area*, *French Immersion: Contemporary Issues in the French-Speaking World*, and *Remix | Writing and Reading the DJ*.
- **Arts Intensive** offers students time to focus on a single, project-based arts class with campus faculty and guest artists. Arts Intensive courses provide the unique opportunity to create in small courses outside of the pressures of the regular academic year. At its best, Arts Intensive creates an atmosphere of intense artistic exploration, encouraging collaboration and innovation. Recent courses included *Write and Shoot: Narrative Filmmaking*, *Key-Notes: A Piano Exploration*, and *Bay Area Arts Immersion*.
- **Bing Honors College** is a two-week program that runs the first two weeks of September for students, typically rising seniors, actively engaged in researching and drafting their honors theses. This is an uninterrupted time to delve into thesis writing before the academic year begins, with close supervision from a faculty leader and a chance to strengthen your intellectual community with students in your discipline and across fields.



Photo by Misha Bruk

English majors in the undergraduate lounge of Margaret Jacks Hall

My experience with the Bill Lane Center for the American West undoubtedly was the most unique event to happen to me at Stanford, if not in my life thus far. Living and working inside Yellowstone National Park for a summer taught me about conservation, curation, and, most importantly, myself.

I not only accomplished feats I did not think I was capable of, but I also rekindled my love of art and anthropology. My time with the BLC helped me solidify what I was passionate about and was the reason I chose to pursue my double major at Stanford.



Kerstin Henrich, '21,
Theater and Performance
Studies, Anthropology
Freelance Production Coordinator

Career Sectors

Here are some of the main sectors in which Stanford humanities and arts alumni pursue and secure fulfilling careers:

ARTS, MEDIA, AND ENTERTAINMENT



BUSINESS



CONSULTING



LAW



LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS



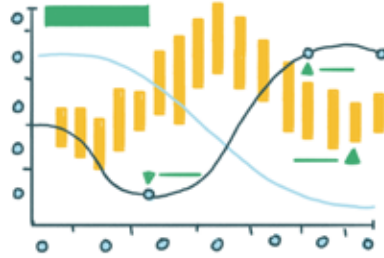
MEDICINE



EDUCATION



FINANCE



GOVERNMENT



NONPROFITS AND FOUNDATIONS



TECH



WRITING AND PUBLISHING



Eric Tran, '10, English
Minor in Human Biology
Resident Psychiatrist,
Mountain Area Health Education Center
Poet, Essayist, Editor

My undergraduate studies and research were all centered around the intersection of science and the humanities. In medicine, my background in the humanities helps me better witness, see, and prioritize the human experience in situations that can just become a storm of numbers.

In psychiatry in particular, I work with people with trauma, addiction, and severe mental illness, and having access to tools like metaphor and storytelling allows me and my patients to approach the seemingly unspeakable with different sorts of languages. Understanding the historical and cultural contexts of healing and medicine reminds me every day to approach my work in underserved and marginalized communities with humility and curiosity.

Resources

Career Resources

All these alumni careers sound cool! But how can I learn more about them? How do I know if I would be a good fit? What would I need to do to be a successful job candidate?

Because humanities majors prepare you for a wide range of potential careers, the path from your coursework to your first job may not seem straightforward. To connect the dots, you can take time while at Stanford to do the following:

1. Learn more about yourself, including your skills, values, and workplace preferences. Coaching appointments and career assessment tests can help.
2. Learn about a wide range of possible industries and careers, especially by connecting with professionals through informational interviews, career workshops, alumni mentoring, and internships. Look for strong matches with your own skills and goals.
3. Create the connection. Develop a narrative for prospective employers about how your skills, coursework, and experience ideally prepare you for their role. Acquire any necessary skills, training, or experience you might be missing through classes, internships, and extracurricular activities. Learn the mechanics of the job search (résumés, cover letters, interviews, timing, etc.).

Did you know?

Stanford Career Education (BEAM) and the Stanford Alumni Association now offer career development support for alumni for five years after graduation, including connections and career education.

Check these out for guidance during all three phases:

- Stanford Career Education (BEAM)
- Haas Center for Public Service (specialized resources for nonprofit and government careers)
- Academic Advising (specialist advisors for pre-med, pre-law, and pre-business)
- Life Design Lab (popular courses that help you think through your skills and goals)



Other Resources to Start with

School of Humanities and Sciences: humsci.stanford.edu

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education: vpue.stanford.edu

Academic Advising: advising.stanford.edu

Stanford Career Education (BEAM): beam.stanford.edu

Humanities Core: humanitiescore.stanford.edu

Humanities Research Intensive: humanexperience.stanford.edu

Stanford Arts: arts.stanford.edu

Student Affairs: studentaffairs.stanford.edu

Residential Experience (ResX): resx.stanford.edu

I came to Stanford thinking I wanted to become a professional drummer, but when I realized that maybe wasn't quite what I wanted, it was a little scary trying to figure out where I could get tapped into and still be in the music world. Pretty quickly though, I found that there were so many resources on campus that I could utilize, ranging from my department to Stanford arts to caring staff members. If nothing else, these people and programs expanded my worldview and assured me that I could get a job after graduating in a field that I really wanted to be in.

Alumni interviews also helped as well—a quick 15–20-minute conversation with someone who's been there and done it before can be really impactful. Don't be afraid to utilize every resource Stanford has to offer and ask for help!



**Giuliano Kornberg, '15 Music, '16 MA
Music, Science, and Technology**
Executive Director Designate
Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera

Stanford Classes in the Humanities and Arts