

DISCOVER YOUR PATH

The Humanities
and Arts at
Stanford

Your road map to a fulfilling life and career

AND LOVE WHAT YOU DO



Photo by Harrison Truong for Stanford University

Welcome

The course of my life was set inside the large public library in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where I grew up. I figured out early that if somebody told me to read a specific book, I would want to read almost anything else, and so I spent a lot of time lost among the shelves.

In my 20s, I discovered the “anything else” that has shaped my writing and thinking ever since: cognitive science. This experimental science was then still relatively new, and it offered a fascinating set of tools for thinking about human behavior. Now, I teach evolutionary moral psychology and literature. I see literature as a way to understand how humans develop our sense of right and wrong, how we handle social problems, and how we test our deepest beliefs about ethics and about our ever-changing environment.

At Stanford, you can consider these same kinds of questions in the School of Humanities and Sciences, the heart of undergraduate education. I invite you to explore the human experience through our brilliant courses in history, art, philosophy, religion, music, literature, languages, theater, or all of the above. See p. 20-21 for a list of our 15 humanities and arts departments and programs.

After twenty years on campus, I deeply admire our diverse community of scholars. My colleagues teach students the difficult skills of research and scholarship, reading, and world making. Their own scholarship is both searching and creative. What makes Stanford’s humanities and arts programs special is how we combine high academic goals with caring mentorship. We have small classes and very engaged professors, and we strongly encourage interdisciplinary thinking. We also support students who want to combine studying the humanities and arts with another discipline, via a double major, coterminous (see p. 48), or minor(s). Creative writing and music are the most popular minors on campus for very good reason!

In my role as senior associate dean, I work to strengthen and celebrate human creativity in scholarship and arts practice across the school, and I am excited by what I see. As you begin your undergraduate journey, I encourage you to explore the humanities and arts at Stanford and discover what excites you.

Blakey Vermeule
Senior Associate Dean for the Humanities and Arts
School of Humanities and Sciences
Albert Guérard Professor in Literature and Professor of English

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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**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.

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.

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.

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, Communication Manager, Doctoral Candidate, Director of Public Relations, Event Coordinator, Recruiting Manager, Reporter, Designer, Elementary School Teacher, Conservator, Policy Advisor, Director of Human Resources, Head of Enterprise Initiatives, Realtor, 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, Director of Human Resources, Assistant United States **Attorney**, Physician, Communications Manager, Data Analyst, Director of Public Relations, Epidemiologist.

“**SO WHAT**
are you going to do with that?”



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 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
- Aptitude for storytelling and sharing information in compelling ways
- Facility with empathizing and communicating effectively with people from different organizational, cultural, ethnic, political, religious, and linguistic backgrounds
- Proficiency in weighing competing claims and forming considered ethical judgments and decisions
- The ability to collaborate and work well in teams

Careers of Recent Humanities and Arts Alumni

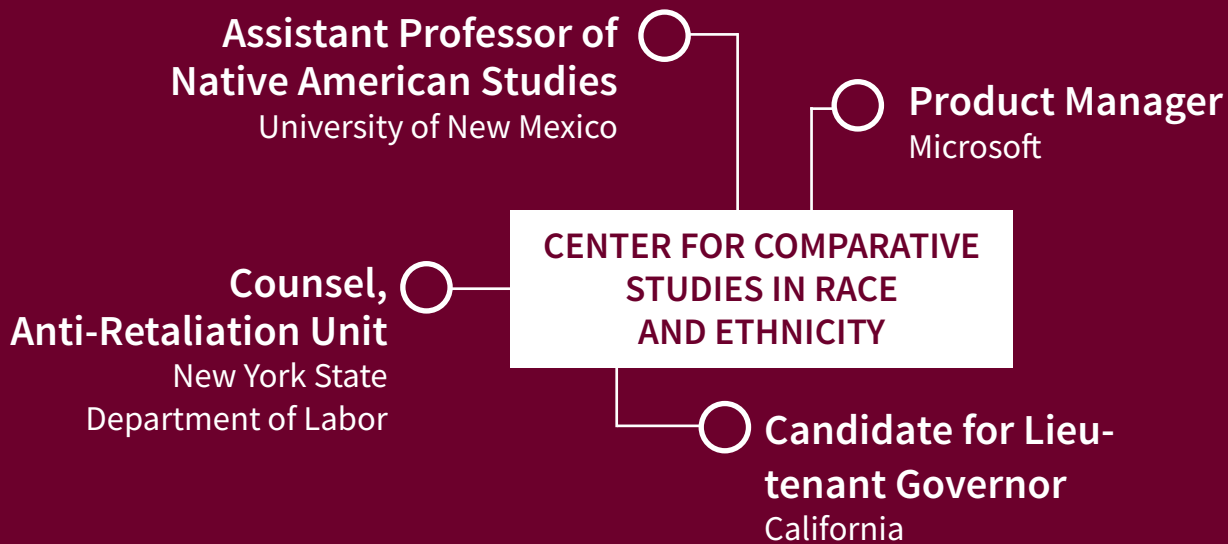




I am actively working in film as a Black storyteller thanks to fierce support and guidance from amazing people in African and African American Studies. It is where a holistic educational experience can be found and forever treasured. I was nurtured as an interdisciplinary artist and scholar and supported in taking the lead to shape my unique path in the larger context of Stanford. I took courses that touched on magic, performance, and experimental filmmaking as well as topics of history, policy, and ever-changing socialization across the diaspora.

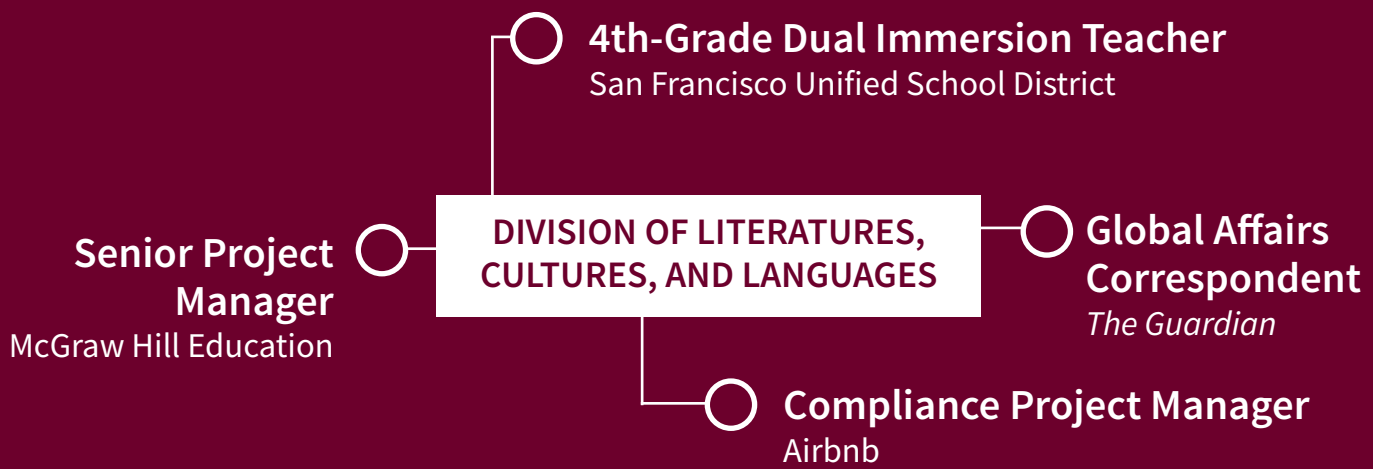


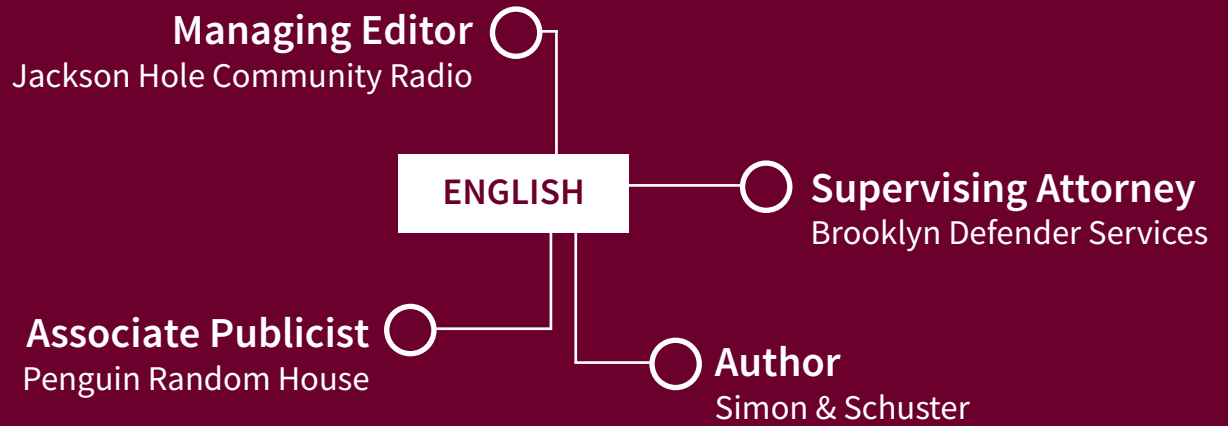
Sequoiah Hippolyte, '22
African and African American Studies
Creative development assistant, Sunhaus



Faith Harron, '21
Slavic Languages and Literatures
and Mechanical Engineering
Founder, Esper Collective

My degree in Slavic languages and literatures has been instrumental in helping me succeed in my career so far. The critical analysis, communication, and discussion skills I learned have been incredibly valuable, even in an industry far removed from my major: consulting. It is important to be able to come at an issue from multiple angles; to understand and unpack nuanced, detailed, complex situations; and to value diverse perspectives.

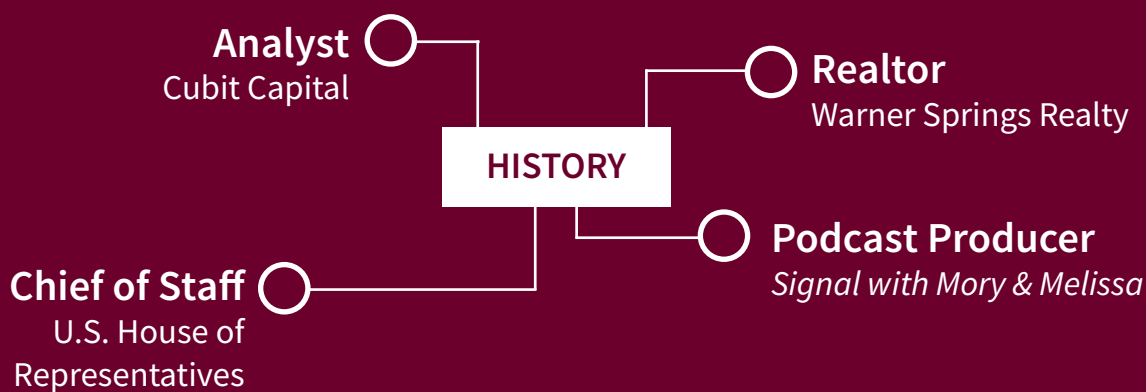






**Arjan Walia, '22 History,
'23 MS Community Health
and Prevention Research**
Research assistant, Health
Enhancing Action Research and
Technology Solutions (HEARTS)
Lab, Stanford School of Medicine
and Stanford Woods Institute for
the Environment

Having a working knowledge of the history of the United States is incredibly useful in many aspects of my life, from informing my politics to contextualizing how I view the medical system. My experience in the Department of History also taught me so much about the nature of research itself—how to identify gaps in present knowledge, to identify the necessary materials, and to synthesize information to answer the question clearly. Being able to think critically, interrogate sources thoroughly, and construct a logical, coherent argument will only continue to grow in importance in the age of ChatGPT.

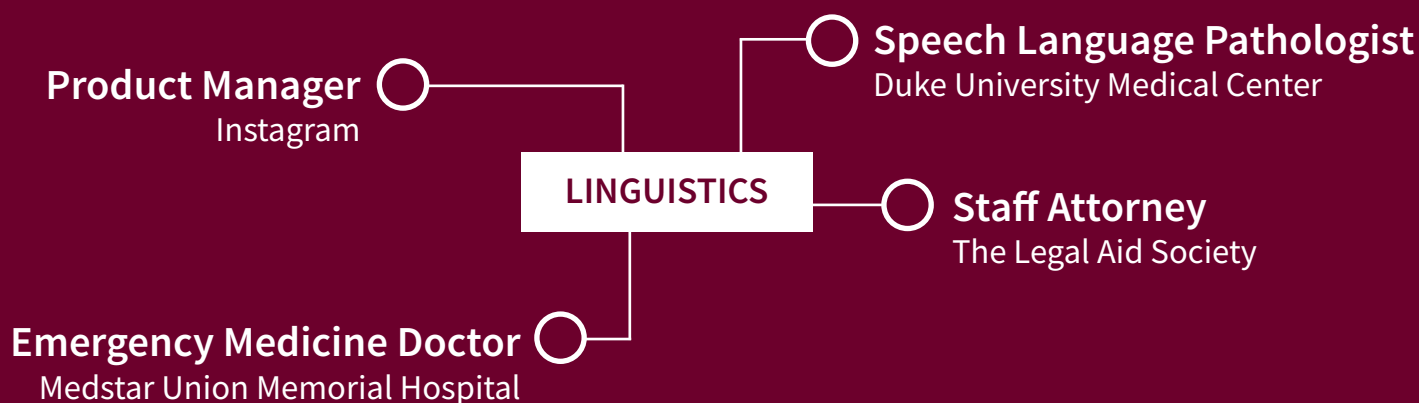


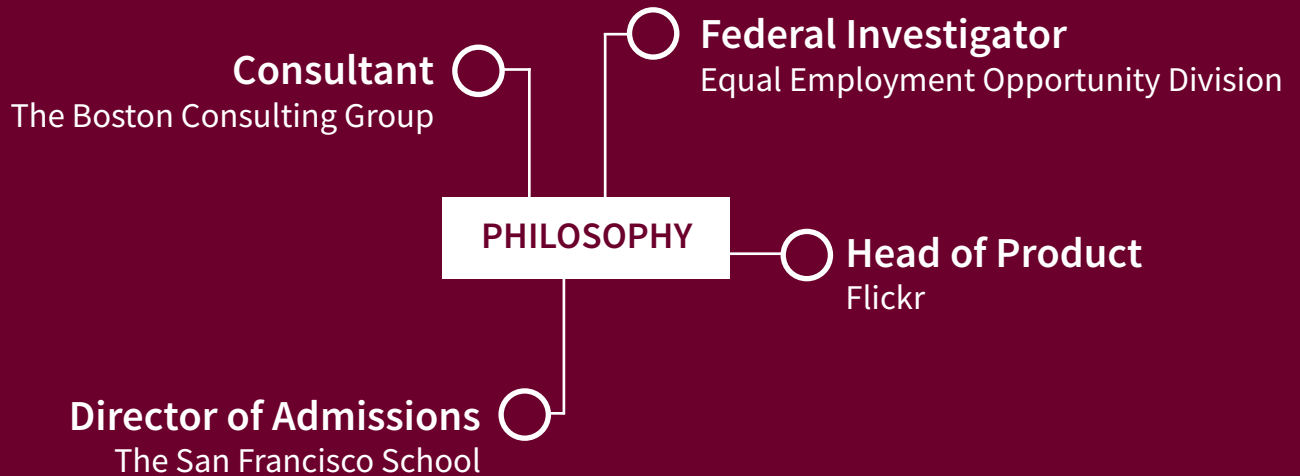
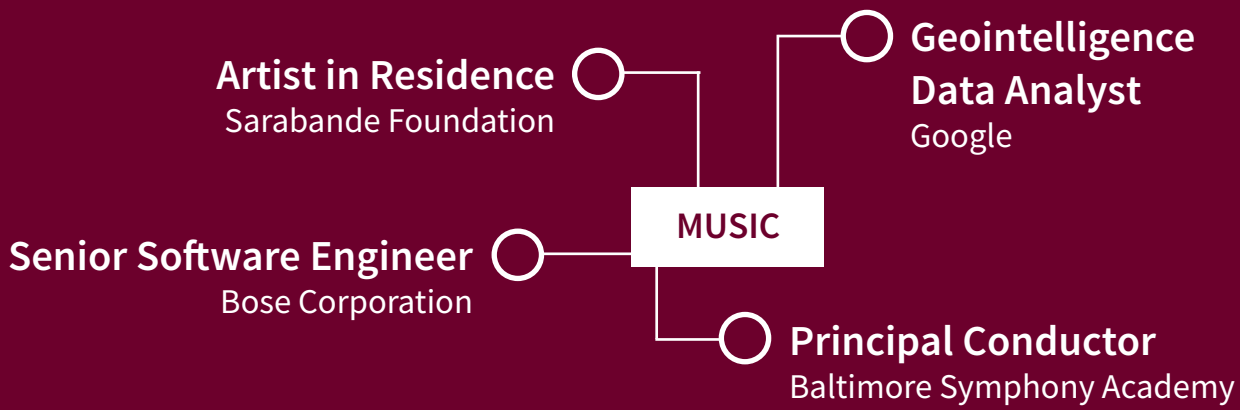


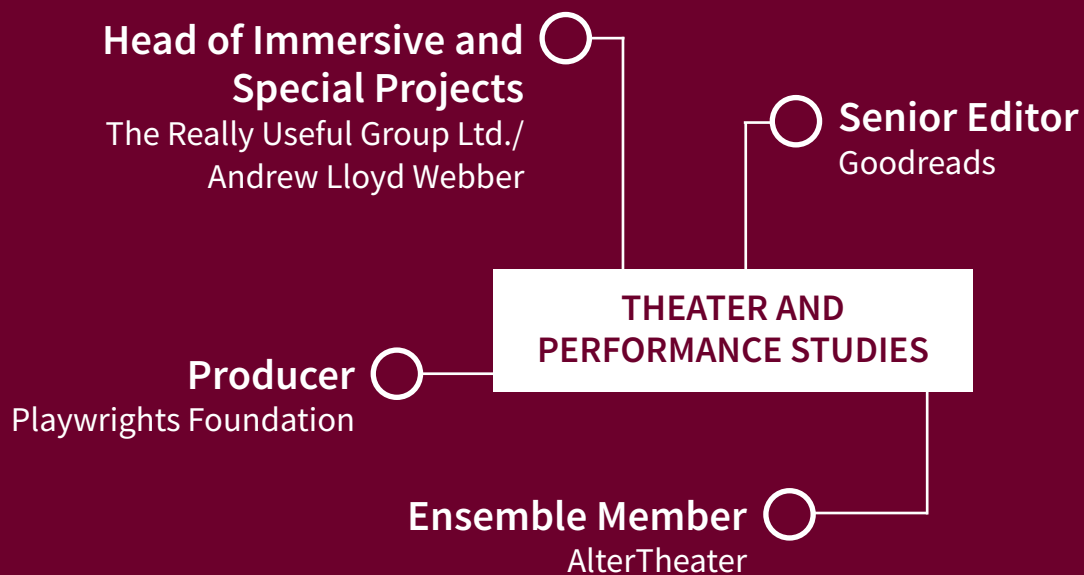
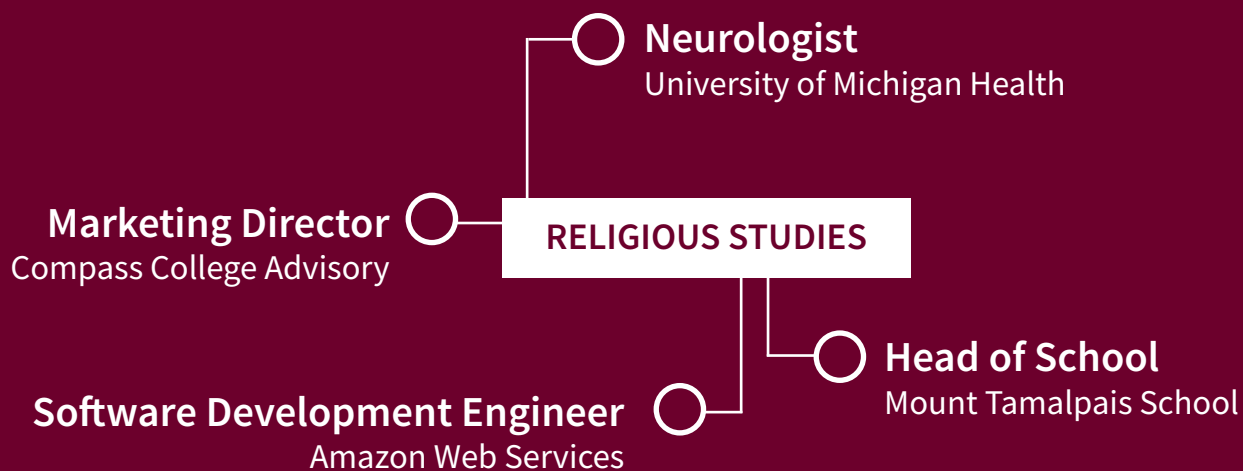
**Giuliano Kornberg, '15 Music,
'16 MA Music, Science, and
Technology**
Executive Director,
Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera

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!







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, '19 MS Electrical Engineering
Physical Design Engineer, Apple

OPEN

new doors

How do we know what we know? Are we naturally good or evil? Is the concept of love timeless or ever-changing? **How does race shape technology, law, medicine, and art?** Who are the makers, critics, patrons, and users of art? How does art help us understand society? Why do live performances continue to thrive in the digital age? How have the arts evolved across time and space? Why do we listen to music? What is an opera? Can a laptop be a musical instrument? How is music political? What is the science of music? How do we learn to talk? Where do words come from? What does it mean to be ethical? **What can we do to foster equity and justice?** What does it take to make a computer speak and understand? What aspects of language are uniquely human? Why do we care about fictional characters? What is justice? **What makes poetry and prose powerful tools of expression?** What makes a good story? What is a revolution? How do we understand the undocumented past? **Why do societies have religions?** Where does environmentalism come from? How did our laws develop? **How does theater reflect and shape society?** How did the ancient world shape our modern age? How did modern notions of beauty develop? How do visions of the future shape the way we think about the present? Is cultural heritage a universal right? Who owns the past? What is a

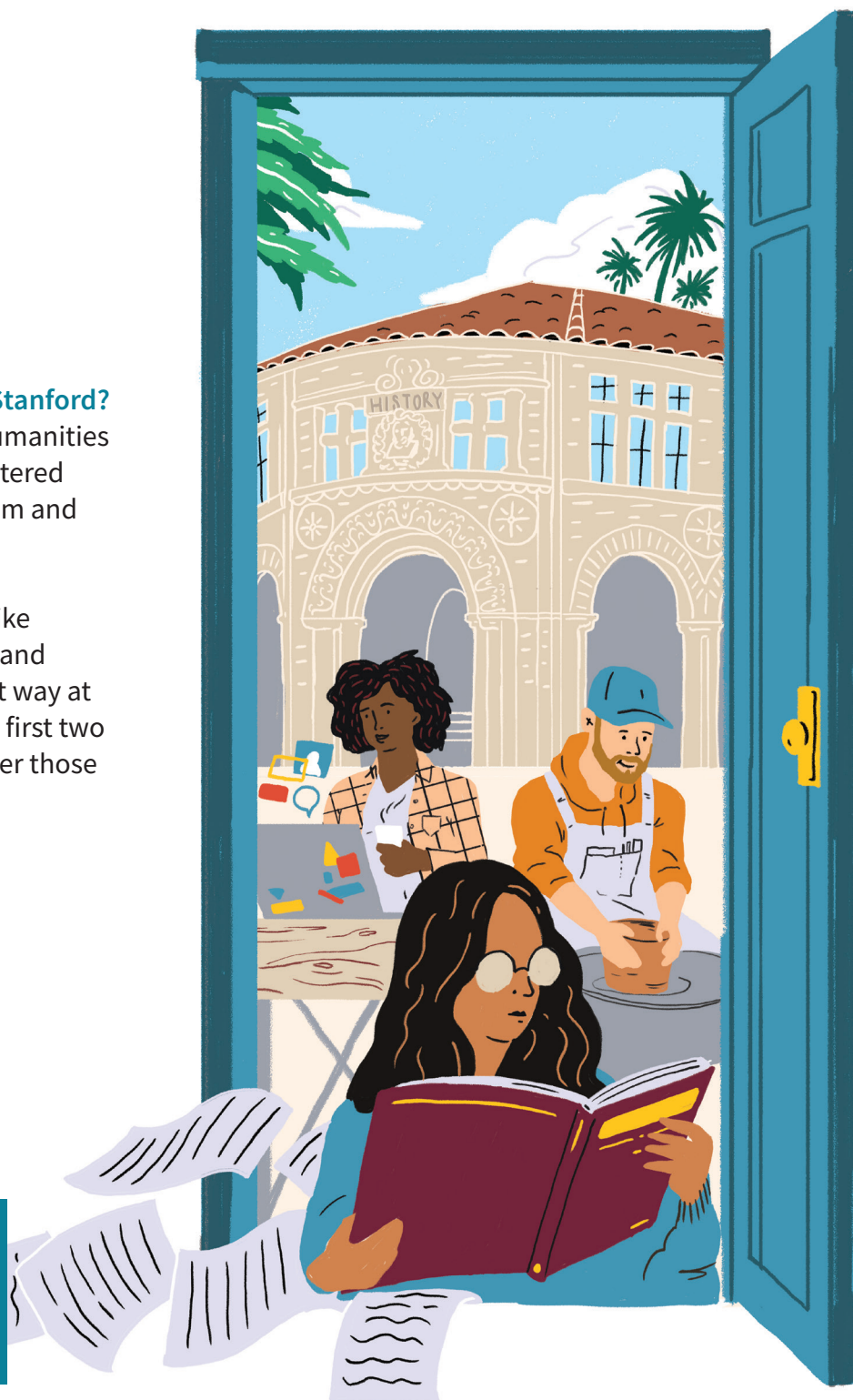
What humanities fields are taught at Stanford?

Stanford offers classes in a variety of humanities subjects that you may not have encountered in high school, such as philosophy or 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?

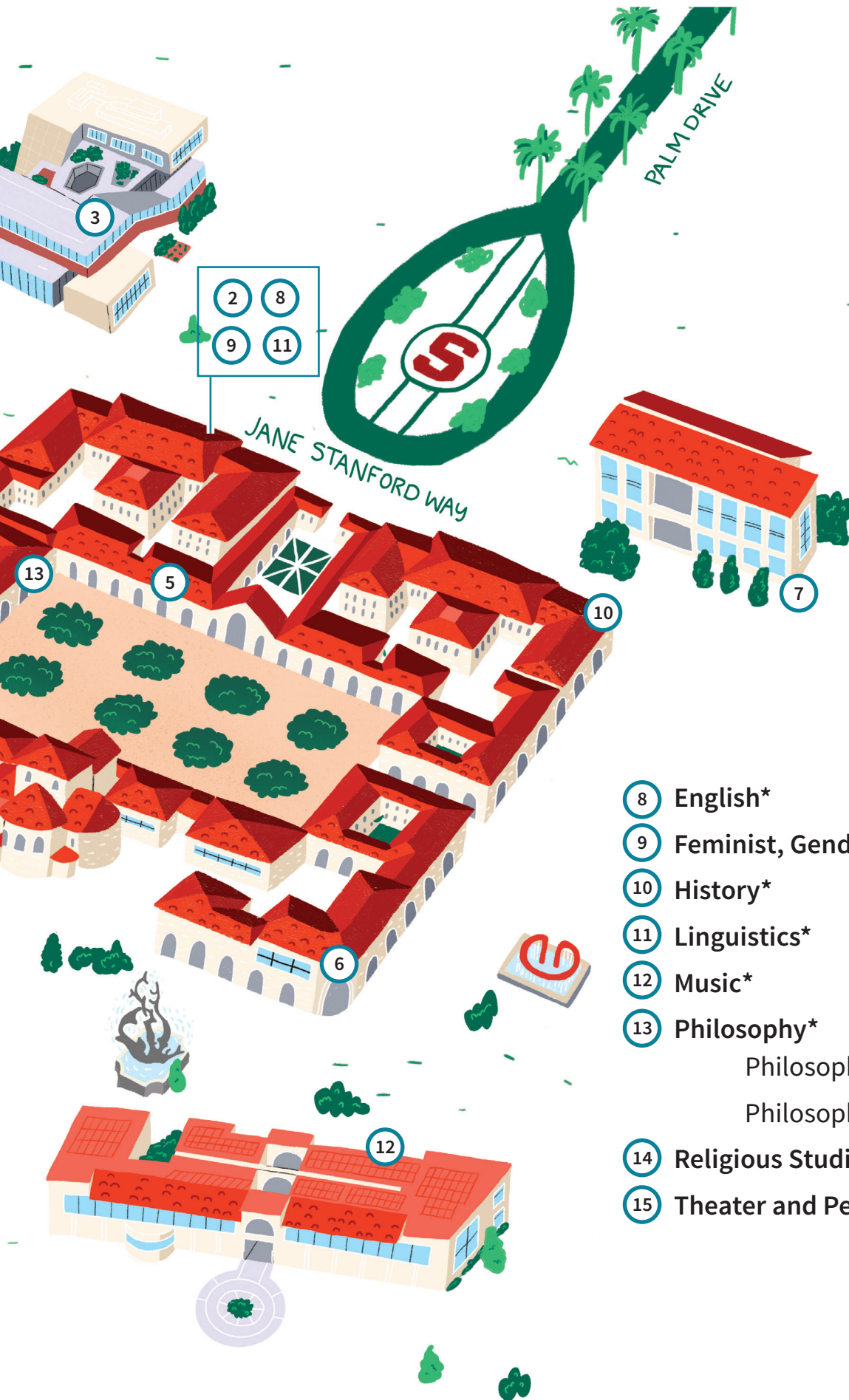
Stanford has more than 200 faculty teaching in the humanities and arts.



Humanities and Arts Departments and Programs with Undergraduate Majors

- ① African and African American Studies*
- ② American Studies*
- ③ Art and Art History
 - Art History*
 - Art Practice*
 - Film and Media Studies*
- ④ Center for 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*
- ⑤ Classics*
- ⑥ Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages
 - Comparative Literature*
 - French*
 - German Studies*
 - Iberian and Latin American Cultures
 - Italian*
 - Slavic Languages and Literatures*
 - Spanish*
- ⑦ East Asian Languages and Cultures
 - East Asian Studies*





- ⑧ English*
- ⑨ Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies*
- ⑩ History*
- ⑪ Linguistics*
- ⑫ Music*
- ⑬ Philosophy*
 - Philosophy
 - Philosophy and Religious Studies
- ⑭ Religious Studies*
- ⑮ Theater and Performance Studies*

Don't see what you're looking for?

Most humanities majors have multiple tracks that let you choose a focus or combine multiple interests.

Examples:

- Politics and the Media in America (American Studies major)
- China, Japan, or Korea (East Asian Studies major)
- LGBT/Queer Studies (Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major)
- Music, Science, and Technology (Music major)

English also offers minors in Creative Writing and Digital Humanities.

The Philosophy + Literature Initiative brings the two fields together for a major with the option to focus on Russian, Italian, German, French, or comparative literature.

Theater and Performance Studies also offers a Dance Minor.

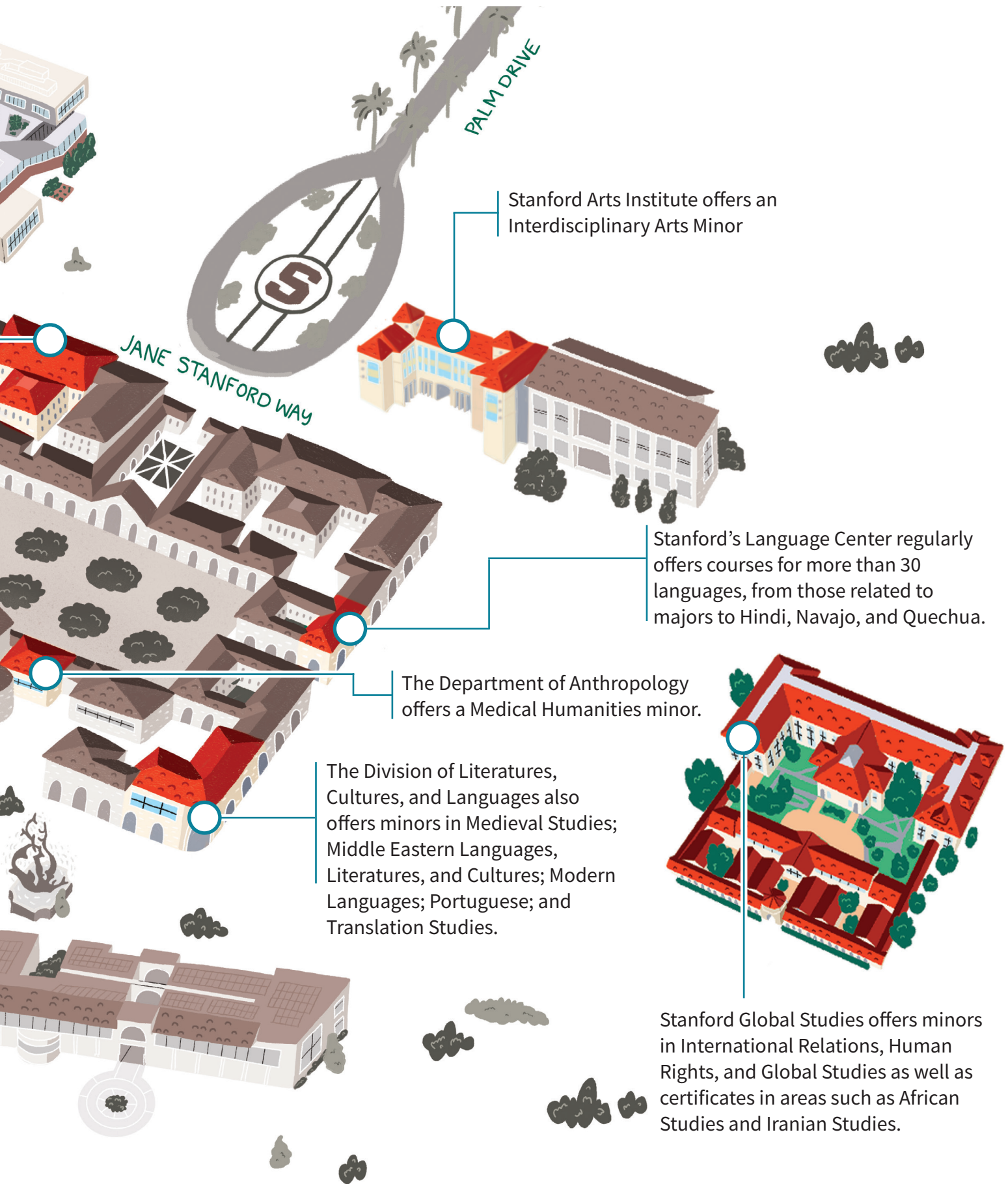
Interdisciplinary Honors

These programs let you undertake a senior thesis or project combining multiple fields, no matter your major.

Examples:

- Art
- Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity
- Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law
- Ethics in Society
- Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies





Stanford Arts Institute offers an Interdisciplinary Arts Minor

Stanford's Language Center regularly offers courses for more than 30 languages, from those related to majors to Hindi, Navajo, and Quechua.

The Department of Anthropology offers a Medical Humanities minor.

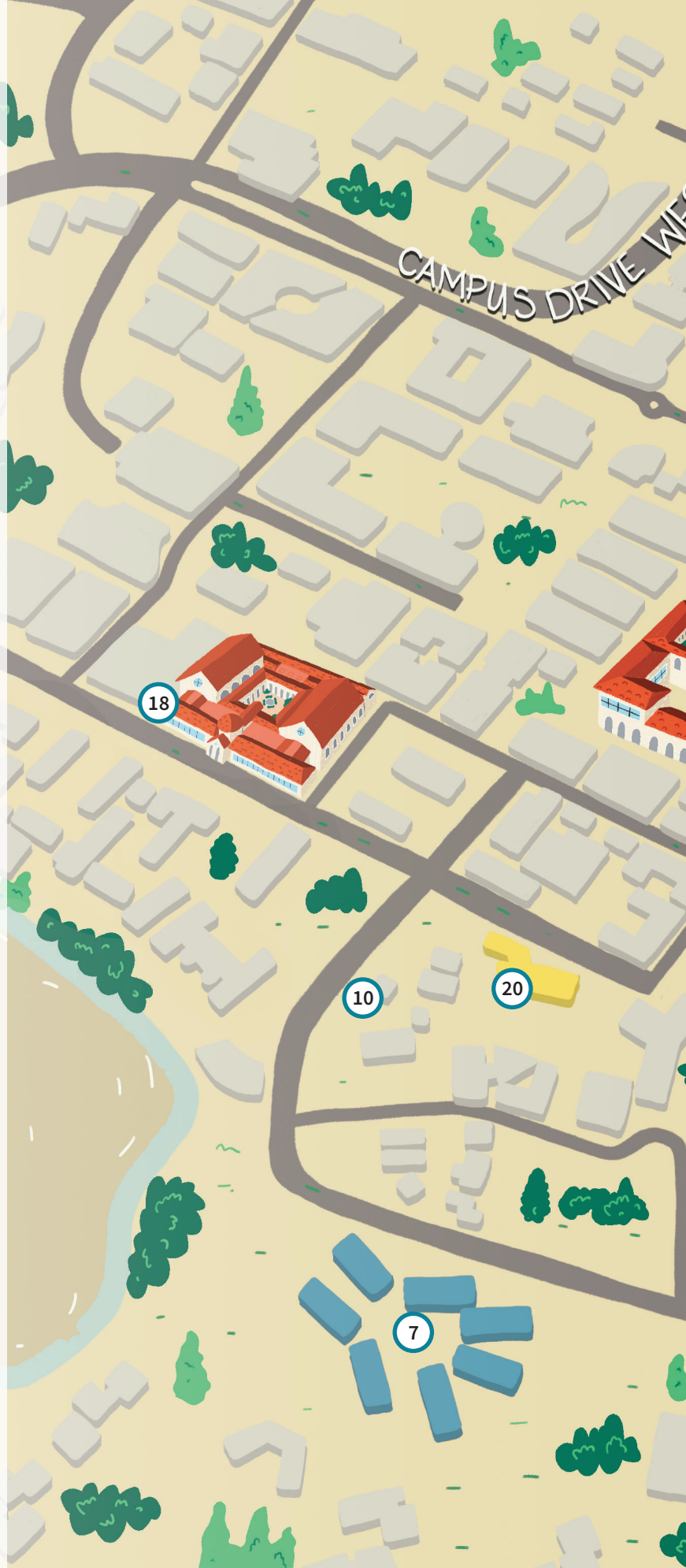
The Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages also offers minors in Medieval Studies; Middle Eastern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Modern Languages; Portuguese; and Translation Studies.

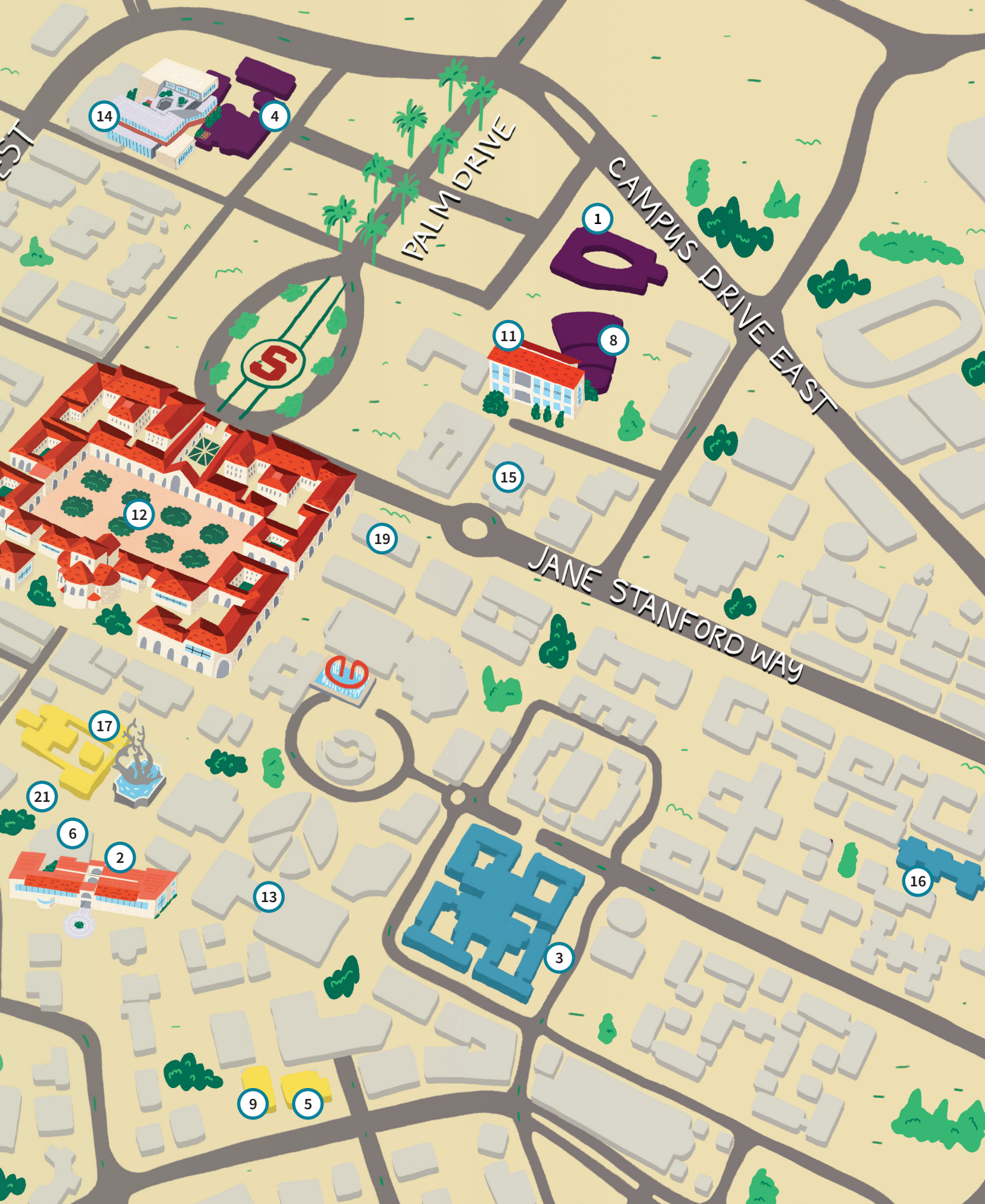
Stanford Global Studies offers minors in International Relations, Human Rights, and Global Studies as well as certificates in areas such as African Studies and Iranian Studies.

Key Humanities and Arts Locations

- 1 Bing Concert Hall
- 2 Braun Music Center
- 3 Burbank House (*ITALIC*–Immersion in the Arts: Living in Culture)
- 4 Cantor Arts Center and Anderson Collection
- 5 Career Education Center (CareerEd)
- 6 Dinkelspiel Auditorium
- 7 Florence Moore Hall (SLE–Structured Liberal Education)
- 8 Frost Amphitheater
- 9 Haas Center for Public Service
- 10 Harmony House/Institute for Diversity in the Arts
- 11 Knight Building
- 12 Main Quad
- 13 McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society
- 14 McMurtry Building for Art and Art History
- 15 Memorial Auditorium
- 16 Ng House for the Humanities
- 17 Nitery Theater
- 18 Roble Arts Gym
- 19 Stanford Art Gallery
- 20 Stanford Humanities Center
- 21 White Plaza Stage

 Arts
 Residences
 Resources





DISCOVER

yourself and the world

Taking humanities and arts courses means you'll never read a novel, engage in a debate, run a meeting, walk through a museum, or write a memo the same way you did. These subjects help you see the world from many perspectives, build understanding of others, and reflect on meaning and purpose in your own life and the world at large. The ideas, texts, and works of art you study will stay with you and enrich your life forever.

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 starting with your first quarter at Stanford.

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:

- **Sign up for *Navigating the Humanities and Social Sciences at Stanford***, a one-unit course in which faculty members introduce their departments and programs and help you home in on your best fit.
- **Apply for an Introductory Seminar.** These small, hands-on seminars, nicknamed IntroSems, 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. Past humanities-related IntroSems have included *The American Road Trip*, *Why Games Matter: The Philosophy of Play*, and *Behind the Big Drums: Exploring Taiko*.
- **Take a humanities gateway course.** These frosh-friendly courses are taught by engaging professors, and they provide comprehensive introductions to the fundamentals of disciplines. Academic Advising maintains a complete list of classes that are great for learning about a new field.
- **Enroll in *Dangerous Ideas***, a one-unit lecture series that showcases big ideas and dynamic teachers from across our humanities departments.
- **Sign up for email lists and newsletters.** Get information and insight into courses, requirements, and opportunities sent straight to your inbox. Any student can sign up to receive communication from any humanities and arts department or program.
- **Check out the Humanities Core.** This curated set of interdisciplinary courses explores global traditions, texts, and intellectual history.

Talk to these people to learn more:

- Your **undergraduate advising director**
- **Student service officers.** These staff know the ins and outs of each major.
- **Directors of undergraduate studies.** These faculty members serve as department and program curriculum experts.
- **Teaching assistants (TAs) and undergraduate peer advisers/mentors.** These advanced students have recently been where you are.
- Your **professors.** Take advantage of office hours and ask faculty and teaching staff about courses and majors as well as their experiences in their discipline.





Green Library

First-year Requirement

COLLEGE (Civic, Liberal, and Global Education)

Stanford's first-year curriculum, COLLEGE, offers a shared intellectual experience and a chance to engage deeply with civic responsibility, self-reflection, and global perspectives. Its seminar-style courses are taught in small sections (<16 students) by faculty and lecturer teams from across disciplines. With lectures oriented away from conclusions and toward questions, COLLEGE nudges you to contemplate what type of scholar you want to be and how you want to exist in the world—at Stanford and beyond.

Undergraduates are required to take two quarters of select COLLEGE courses or participate in one of the following:

Education as Self-Fashioning (ESF)

Offered only in fall quarter, ESF provides an opportunity to think carefully about education and shape your 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, ITALIC, and SLE fulfill Stanford's writing requirements and also count toward general education breadth requirements.



ITALIC (Immersion in the Arts: Living in Culture)

Residential program

A yearlong program that explores the importance of the arts in our collective understanding of the world, ITALIC invites students to examine art from all angles and across disciplines. The 45 students in the program live together in Burbank House, and all lectures, sections, workshops, and guest talks take place in the residence's specially designed seminar and arts practice rooms.

ITALIC students share meals twice per week with faculty and visiting artists, and these dinner conversations are a hallmark of the experience as are late-night dorm jam sessions and collaborative projects in the art studio.

SLE (Structured Liberal Education)

Residential program

SLE students live a life of ideas in an atmosphere that emphasizes critical thinking and interpretation. With a focus on great works of philosophy, religion, literature, and art through the ages, the yearlong SLE curriculum provides a strong sense of the history of ideas that have shaped our contemporary moment.

Around 90 SLE students live together in two houses of East Florence Moore Hall, and course lectures, discussion sections, and film screenings take place in the residence. Students work closely with instructors and meet scores of Stanford humanities scholars with whom they might like to do further study.

Find and join your **COMMUNITIES**



Photo by Andrew Brodhead/Stanford University

More than 7,000 undergraduate students attend Stanford, and they come from all over the United States and the world. In dining halls, at cultural events, and in dorm lounges, you will meet peers from a diversity of life experiences, perspectives, interests, and backgrounds and bond with future friends. 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

Stanford's campus housing offers a variety of living experiences. These 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, '10 MA Philosophy
International Lead,
Legal Investigations
Google



Ng House is part of Gerhard Casper Quad.
Photo by BAR Architects

Ng House

This dorm for sophomores to seniors is a lively central location for humanities activity on campus. Its leadership hosts many events and faculty visits, facilitates student-initiated and student-led workshops, organizes field trips outside campus, and more.

Humanities- and arts-related housing

Academic theme houses

- Alondra and Cardenal: Structured Liberal Education (SLE) residential academic program
- Burbank: ITALIC+Arts residential academic program
- Ng: humanities
- Otero: public service and civic engagement
- Yost: at home abroad—international cultures



Co-op theme houses

- Columbae: cooking up vegetarian meals and social justice
- Hammarskjöld: focusing on international friendship and understanding
- 576 Alvarado: centering racial, gender, and sexual minorities and creating art for the house



Old Union is home to many community centers on campus.
Photo by Linda A. Cicero/Stanford University

Did you know?

All undergraduates will have an advising director from the Office of Academic Advising supporting them throughout their time at Stanford. These are professional advisers with doctoral degrees whose full-time job is helping students find their way. And their offices are near student residences!

Ethnic theme houses

- Casa Zapata: Latine
- Muwekma-Tah-Ruk: Indigenous
- Okada: Asian American
- Ujamaa: Black Diaspora

Stanford offers many opportunities for you to explore and learn from people with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. 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.

Frosh/Transfer 101

These first-quarter courses are designed to support your transition to Stanford's dynamic campus. In each course, more experienced students help build community and serve as guides. Through weekly activities and discussions, you'll make friends, get advice, set goals, reflect together, develop stress-management skills—and thrive.

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 first 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:

- **Faculty-led projects:** One of the best ways to get started in research is to join a predefined faculty-led project. These guided research experiences are a bit like apprenticeships: The experience involves learning research skills and techniques, with graduate students and faculty as your mentors. 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 and other researchers, which can help you launch a future independent project.
- **Independent projects:** There are also many ways to develop—and receive funding for—an independent project of your own, under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Senior capstone projects and honors theses are common entry points to conducting independent research. Learn more about independent research and funding for these kinds of projects on p. 38.

Apply for the Humanities Research Intensive.

This five-day course, taught over spring break, introduces frosh and sophomores to the sources and methods of humanities research and prepares them to develop an independent summer project or to be a research assistant for a Stanford professor.

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.

Speak to your academic adviser or explore the Stanford Undergraduate Research and Independent Projects website for details.

Other Opportunities:

There are numerous specialized research opportunities available to first- and second-year students depending on their interests and expertise. You can talk to your undergraduate academic adviser to learn more. Some humanities departments offer research programs 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 areas of expertise.



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.

Apply to the Public Humanities 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 conference for students to share their work.

Apply to work as a research intern 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 if you could 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. Researchers use tools from data science; geographic information systems (GIS) and network analysis; and web design and development in tandem with the critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and ethical-decision-making skills of the humanities.



Photo by Misha Bruk

Research and community

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 Honors Fellowships** at the Stanford Humanities Center.

Independent Research Funding and Support

Independent research can be undertaken at any time, but most projects connect to capstone experiences. Every Stanford senior completes a capstone, a project designed to help them bring together all they have learned in their major and place a personal stamp on their education. Capstones take many forms, including independent research papers, honors theses, arts performances, and public service experiences.

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPUE)

Explore VPUE's Undergraduate Research and Independent Projects website for inspiration and guidance on how to get started. The site also details VPUE funding for independent projects:

- Major Grants — funding for full-time summer research
- Small Grants — funding for part-time academic-year research

Departments and Programs

Student services officers/advisers can help you understand capstone requirements, honors programs, and local funding options for independent research. For example: Classics students who would like to construct their own project can apply for the department's travel and research grants.

Chappell Lougee Scholarship

Sophomores should check out the Chappell Lougee Scholarship, which provides full-time summer funding to support projects in the qualitative social sciences, humanities, and creative arts.



Photo by Nick Chris

Undergraduate Research Project Titles

- “*ALL MY BASKETS ARE IN ONE EGG*, a stage play”
- “Dryden’s Civic Muse and Poetic Constitution: A Treatise on the Political Poetics of the Reigning Public Poet”
- “In the Shadow of Memory: The Long Road to a Berlin Museum about the German Expellees”
- “Linguistic Representations of Native Americans in Early Dime Novels”
- “Reifying Injustice: Race, Gender, and Sexual Violence in Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings”
- “Rooted in the Soil: Environmental Visions in Dalit Women’s Autobiographies”
- “Self-Portraiture for the Self Conscious”

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 and Iberian and Latin American Cultures
Doctoral student in Linguistic Anthropology,
University of Texas at Austin

Haas Center for Public Service Community-Based Research

Through its community-based research program, the Haas Center for Public Service supports research executed 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.

Bing Overseas Studies Programs (BOSP)

BOSP offers ways to conduct research with local scholars, universities, and collections while studying abroad. Some programs require sufficient proficiency in a foreign language.

PURSUE

new passions

How have different cultures developed ideas about gender and sexuality? Why do we read? **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

Discovering your path is a process that happens beyond the classroom as well as inside it.

Whatever you choose to study, there are many ways to get involved and bring the humanities and arts into your Stanford experience. Here are a few ideas for how you can complement your coursework, 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 participate in events, readings, and one-day workshops led by published writers and poets, in addition to formal coursework. 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 *How We Free Us: Activism and Community* and *Once Upon a Cause: Producing Picture Books for Local Children*.

Or enroll in **Cardinal Quarter**, a full-time, quarter-long 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.

Dig into democracy. Stanford elevates educational and experiential pathways for civic and democratic learning and engagement, with an emphasis on civil dialogue. Check out what's happening in the **Stanford Democracy Hub**, the **Institute for Advancing Just Societies**, the **McCoy Center for Ethics in Society**, and the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute**.

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



Engage in the arts. No matter your major, you will have access to abundant pathways to create, study, and experience art. You can join one of more than 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 Messy Arts Space in the Roble Arts Gym.

Stanford supports extracurricular engagement with the arts through Student Art Grants. Any registered VSO can apply for funds to be used toward the creation and presentation of student-led projects.

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**, **Cantor Arts Center**, and the **Anderson Collection at Stanford University**, home to one of the foremost collections of post-World War II American art.



Looking for an on-campus arts job? Sign up for **ArtsUpdate**, a weekly student newsletter from **Stanford Arts** that includes on-campus job and internship opportunities. Organized by the **Office of the Vice President for the Arts**, Stanford Arts connects the many arts-related entities on campus.





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 you find an internship geared toward your interest in government or one of D.C.’s many organizations. With a tight-knit group of peers, you will take seminars that meet degree requirements and enjoy outings that showcase all that the area has to offer.

The **Bing Overseas Studies Programs (BOSP)** enable 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 summer program in various locations such as Oaxaca or Accra.

When you enroll in BOSP’s **Stanford in New York (SiNY) Program**, you get to study in one of the world’s most dynamic cities. Students work at full-time internships in the arts, design, media, finance, and more while they study the city itself inside and outside the classroom, leveraging New York City’s vast network of cultural institutions and professionals in these fields. Students also take two electives during the program, and these offerings vary by quarter.



Photo credits from bottom left: Audio storytelling workshop by Andrew Brodhead/Stanford University; the Anderson Collection at Stanford University, courtesy of the Anderson Collection; Cantor Arts Center by Nikolas Liepins/Ethography for Stanford UComm; Stanford in Washington by Linda A. Cicero/Stanford University; and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute by Misha Bruk for Stanford University

meaning? What makes a person? Do people have free will? What is justice? Could robots ever be conscious? What is a human right? **How is music political?** What would an ideal society look like? What does it mean to be ethical? Is the concept of love timeless or ever-changing? Why do people laugh? **What makes a good story?** Who are the makers, critics, patrons, and users of art? How does art help us understand society? Why does live performance continue to thrive in the digital age? How has theater developed and changed in the digital age? What does it mean to be a theatergoer? What is a theater? Can theater ever be a political statement? How do we learn to talk? Where do words come from? How do people understand the meaning of what you say? What does it take to make a computer speak and understand? What aspects of language are uniquely human? Why do we read? **When is humanitarian intervention justified?** Why do we care about fictional characters? Can literature tell the truth? What makes a good story? What is a revolution? How do we understand the undocumented past? What is meaning? **How did globalization unfold?** Where does environmentalism come from? How do we know what we know? What is meaning? **How did the ancient world shape our modern age?** How have different cultures developed ideas about gender and sexuality? What is meaning? **How do we acquire language?** How do visions of the future shape the way we think about the present? Is cultural heritage a universal right? Who owns the past?

Make

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 uses **Handshake** to help connect students and employers. The online system has thousands of internships across many fields.
- **Rising Bird Fellows** receive funding to participate in part- or full-time unpaid experiential learning opportunities that align with their academic and professional interests. The program, offered through Stanford Career Education, supports undergraduates pursuing internships, externships, or short-term projects in spring or summer quarter.

Specialized Internships

- Journalism students can gain summer news experience through stipends for internships with qualifying news organizations such as the *San Francisco Chronicle* or the *Wall Street Journal*. Reporting internships include: the Bill Lane Center for the American West Environmental Journalism Internship, Daniel Pearl Journalism Internship, Harry Press Stanford Daily Award Internship, Rowland and Pat Rebele Internship Program, and Steve Steinberg Reporting Award.
- 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, Litquake, and the Asian American Writers' Workshop.
- The **Lyric McHenry Community Arts Fellowship (CAF)** gives undergrads a chance to pursue research, a project, or an apprenticeship related to social justice with a community-based arts organization.
- The **Stanford Internship Program in the Arts (SIPA)** helps students explore the field of arts administration both on campus and off. Students can pursue a 10-week, part-time experience with one of Stanford's art institutions or a faculty artist or go for a full-time, self-designed internship at an off-campus arts or cultural organization that aligns with their interests.
- **Bing Stanford in Washington Program (BSIW)** students can extend their academic year internships through the summer with the program's Bing Summer Fellowship stipend.

Stanford Summer Fellows Program (SSFP)

SSFP brings together a cohort of first-generation and low-income (FLI) students to spend the summer after their first year on campus participating in four weeks of a half-time research experience, four weeks of an intro-ship program, and a summer course for credit. The program provides full financial support for all participants.

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 the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C.
- **The Bing Overseas Studies Programs (BOSP)** offer opportunities through many of its global centers for students to deepen their cultural understanding and gain practical, professional experience via 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.

Stanford Summer Bridge Program for incoming first-year students

Stanford Summer Bridge is a fully funded program for incoming first-year and transfer students who may be the first in their families to attend college, who may come from under-resourced high schools, or who simply feel that further preparation will increase their confidence in fall quarter and beyond. The six-week program offers on-campus and online options.

Bridge students take up to two academic courses, learn about Stanford resources, and build community with fellow participants. Courses are offered in writing, math, and chemistry and are designed to prepare participants for the kind of work first-year Stanford students do. In fall quarter, Bridge students enroll in a 1-unit weekly seminar course that builds on the support and community of the summer sessions.

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 have included *An Exploration of Art Materials: The Intersection of Art and Science*, *LGBT History and Culture in the Bay Area*, and *Remix | Writing and Reading the DJ*.

Arts Intensive gives students time to focus on a single project-based arts class with campus faculty and guest artists. Arts Intensive offerings provide the unique opportunity to create in small courses outside of the pressures of the regular academic year. The program creates an atmosphere of deep artistic exploration, encouraging collaboration and innovation. Recent courses have included *Design for Silver and Bronze*, *Keynotes: A Piano and Voice Exploration*, and *Narrative Filmmaking: From Script to Screen*.

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.

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 it was the reason I chose to pursue my double major at Stanford.



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

Explore graduate education

Q: What is graduate school, exactly?

A: Any education completed after your bachelor's degree is considered graduate education. This could look like completing a master's degree to increase your earning potential and competitiveness. It could be enrolling in a professional school to earn a master's in business, in public health, or in counseling. Or it could mean writing a doctoral thesis and earning a doctorate, a process that typically takes at least four or five years, en route to an academic career.

Q: And how do I know if it's the right fit for me?

A: If you are a successful student, continuing with school can feel like a safe path. Still, you want to ensure you're applying to graduate school for the right reasons. Some undergraduates know they want to work in academia, so graduate school is a natural fit. Others might want to pursue a field where an advanced degree is common. Ask your faculty mentors for guidance about what level of education is necessary for your dream career.

Sometimes students enroll in graduate school to immerse themselves deeply in research they find especially compelling. Graduate school hones a layer of critical thinking that emphasizes writing and communicating about a discipline. It forces you not only to learn about a favorite subject, but also how to explain it to others.

Q: What is a coterm?

A: A coterminal student, or coterm, is a Stanford undergraduate who has gone through a special admissions process that allows completion of a bachelor's and master's education simultaneously, typically overlapping the degrees by at least one quarter. Pursuing a coterm is only available to Stanford students. Many students complete coterm degrees in fields related to their undergraduate majors or to extend their skills into new fields.

See the complete list of coterminal degrees on the Stanford Student Services website.

Some humanities coterm programs include:

- East Asian Studies
- English
- French
- German Studies
- History
- Latin American Studies
- Linguistics
- Philosophy
- Religious Studies
- Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
- Slavic Languages and Literatures

Whether you have your mind made up about graduate education or are unsure what comes next, consider these suggestions:

- Start with the online **H&S Guide on Getting Into Grad School** for comprehensive information for prospective graduate students.
- **Talk to your TAs and graduate students in your circle.** Your current life stage is still fresh for them, and they will likely have sound advice.
- **Reach out to your professors and lecturers for references—the sooner the better.** Graduate school requires letters of recommendation. To be courteous, ask for letters at least a month in advance of when you need them; two months in advance is better (your professors are likely writing letters for multiple students). Even if you don't plan on going to graduate school immediately, it's a good practice to ask your professors to write you letters of recommendation during or shortly after your time at Stanford while their knowledge of you is current.
- **Explore the Stanford Alumni Mentoring (SAM) network.** Who has your dream job? Consider asking for 15 minutes of their time to find out how they got there.
- **Take a serious look at your finances.** Most doctoral programs will fully fund your education in exchange for your research or teaching, while financial support for master's degrees is often limited. Some professional schools will offer financial aid, though many students depend on loans.



Eric Tran, '10 English
Minor in Human Biology
Resident Psychiatrist,
Kaiser Permanente Northwest
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.

Beyond the bachelor's

Stanford's humanities and arts alumni are well-prepared for success in graduate school and professional school and are regularly accepted into top programs, including those at Stanford. Alumni on the academic track often return to campus to start or continue their work as professors. Recent Stanford graduates have gone on to attend:

- Georgetown University, Latin American Studies master's program
- Harvard University, computer science doctoral program and law school
- Yale University, history of art doctoral program and law school
- Stanford business, education, law, and medical schools as well as H&S graduate programs
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, American studies doctoral program

Career resources

I could imagine myself in multiple careers. How do I choose where to start? How do I sharpen my skills to find a job?

Knowing yourself better will help you discern next steps no matter what profession you hope to pursue. The Stanford community is here to help you connect the dots and, ultimately, succeed. To identify and reach your career destination, take time as an undergraduate to do the following:

1. **Learn more about yourself**, including your skills, values, and workplace preferences. Coaching appointments and career assessments 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 coursework and experience ideally prepare you for their role. Acquire any training you might be missing through classes, internships, and extracurricular activities. Learn the mechanics of the job search (résumés, cover letters, interviews, timing, etc.) and how to leverage online networks such as LinkedIn.
4. **Practice, practice, practice**. Interviewing is a skill, and like anything, you improve with repetition. Stanford Career Education (CareerEd) provides access to an interview training curriculum and video practice via Big Interview.

Did you know?

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

Check these out for guidance during all four steps:

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





Deborah Stevenson
Stanford Associate Vice Provost
and Dean of Academic Advising

Stanford is a place where you can pursue your chosen major while exploring your passion and interests. We encourage students to learn about things they love even if what they're learning doesn't obviously relate to their major.

Students, spend time with your academic adviser, take courses that spark your curiosity, talk to your professors and instructors, visit Career Education, and connect with Stanford alumni. You don't need to have it all figured out in your first quarter or even your first year.

More resources

- **School of Humanities and Sciences:** humsci.stanford.edu
- **Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education:** vpue.stanford.edu
- **Academic Advising:** advising.stanford.edu
- **Humanities Core:** humanitiescore.stanford.edu
- **Humanities Research Intensive:** publichumanities.stanford.edu/undergraduates/humanities-research-intensive
- **Stanford Arts:** arts.stanford.edu
- **Student Affairs:** studentaffairs.stanford.edu
- **Student Services:** studentservices.stanford.edu
- **Residential Education (ResEd):** resed.stanford.edu
- **Stanford Career Education (CareerEd):** careered.stanford.edu

texts that changed the world from the Ancient Middle East, **Looking for the Way (Dao) in East Asia**, Great Books: Big Ideas from Ancient Greece and Rome, **Ukraine at a Crossroads**, Beauty and Renunciation in Japan, New Frontiers: How the Greek Legal System Became Islamic Science, Indigenous Feminisms, Seeds of Change: The Romans, **Jazz History: Bebop to Present**, Perspectives on the Good Life, To Die For: Antigone and Political Dissent, Thinking about War, Modernity and Novels in the Middle East, Germany in Five Words, **Stanford Classes in the Humanities and Arts**, Machines, Pacific Ocean Worlds: A Sea of Islands, Introduction to Animation, The American West, Queer Sculpture, The Scientific Revolution, **Maps in the Modern World**, Arts of China in the Early Modern World, How to Be Modern in East Asia, Family Trees: The Intergenerational Novel, **Introduction to Moral Philosophy**, Medieval Fantasy Literature, Gendered Innovations in Science, Medicine, Engineering, and Environment, **Plein Air Painting**, Clothing and Black Expressive Culture in African American History, Time Travel in the Americas, The Sociology of Music, Black Panther: Hamilton, Diaz, and Other Wondrous Lives, The Religious Life of Things, **Human Rights and World Literature**, Mind, Matter, and Meaning, Pacifism and Nonviolent Resistance in History, Theory and Practice, The View From Paris, The American Road Trip, Women in Contemporary French and Francophone Cinema, Community Organizing: People, Power, and Change, Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination, **Literary Text Mining**, Black Geographic