

# Major Alternatives

UC Santa Barbara provides many opportunities that support students in their professional and personal endeavors. Your major is not the only component that determines your career trajectory! Due to the interdisciplinary nature of most professional spaces, employers hire students from a wide range of majors that span the social sciences, humanities, and life and physical sciences. Explore alternative majors where you can prepare for your professional goals.

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## UCSB Career Center Self Assessment

Need help figuring out what major to pursue? Assessments can give you insights into one part of who you are, but it's important to consider those results along with other research and personal reflection. Since decisions about school or careers involve many different factors, it's best to look at the assessment results as part of the bigger picture. [career.ucsb.edu/discover-options/self-assessment](https://career.ucsb.edu/discover-options/self-assessment)

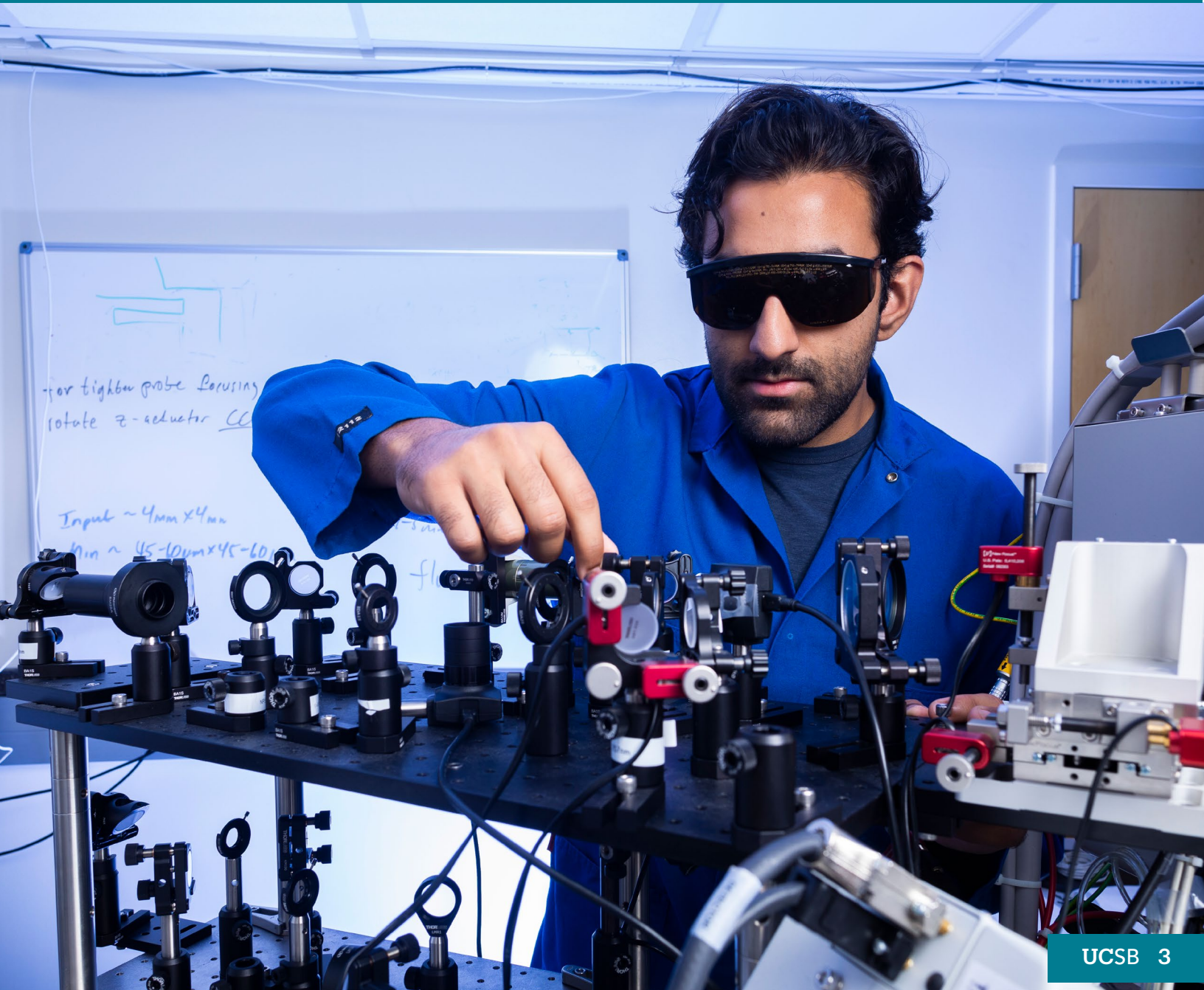
## Aerospace Engineering Major Alternatives

**Consider Exploring:** Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, or Mechanical Engineering. All three majors in the College of Engineering are **highly selective**. Visit each department's webpage for details.

If engineering is your first choice major, we highly recommend you to select a non-selective alternate major from the College of Letters & Science in your UC application.

**Get Involved:** Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) is focused on giving students opportunities to get hands-on with engineering in the automotive and aerospace fields. SAE is able to connect students with these industries, host speakers and attend conferences to prepare UCSB engineers for their future careers.

**Resource:** [career.ucsb.edu/career-paths/engineering-technology](https://career.ucsb.edu/career-paths/engineering-technology)





## Business Major Alternatives

**Consider exploring:** Actuarial Science, Communication, Economics, Economics & Accounting, Financial Math & Statistics, Global Studies, or Sociology, or Statistics & Data Science in the College of Letters & Science. Visit each department's webpage for details.

You can even consider complementing your major by acquiring a minor, such as the Statistics minor, the Professional Writing: Business Communication minor, or the Labor Studies minor. In addition, you can also pursue the Technology Management certificate and/or join the New Venture Competition.

**Get Involved:** Alpha Kappa Psi is a professional co-ed business fraternity connecting students to extensive resources and alumni in some the most profitable companies. Other organizations include (but are not limited to), the AI & Entrepreneurship Society and the Associated Students Finance and Business Committee.

**Resource:** [career.ucsb.edu/career-paths/business-entrepreneurship](https://career.ucsb.edu/career-paths/business-entrepreneurship)

## Criminology Major Alternatives

**Consider Exploring:** Biochemistry or Chemistry for a forensics background. For a social science background, consider History, History of Public Policy & Law, Philosophy, Psychological & Brain Sciences, and Sociology majors in the College of Letters & Science. Visit each department's webpage for details.

**Get Involved:** UCSB offers Professional and Continuing Education (PaCE) courses and certificates in criminal law, behavioral studies, and more.

**Resource:** [professional.ucsb.edu](http://professional.ucsb.edu)





## Fashion Major Alternatives

**Consider Exploring:** Art (College of Creative Studies) or Art (College of Letters & Science). Visit each department's webpage for details.

There are academic course offerings focused on textiles and recreational classes open to any major, like Floor Loom Weaving (Department of Recreation). UCSB also offers courses that include the study of fashion, like Black Studies 165 (African Popular Culture).

**Get Involved:** The Fashion Club at UCSB provides a community for artistic exploration and professional development. They strive to share first-hand industry knowledge and network for future career success. They recently launched their first fashion magazine, "Era Publications."

**Resource:** [professional.ucsb.edu](http://professional.ucsb.edu)

## Kinesiology Major Alternatives

**Consider Exploring:** Biology, Biopsychology, Molecular & Cellular Biology, Physiology, or Psychological & Brain Sciences in the College of Letters & Science. Visit each department's webpage for details.

**Get Involved:** Take advantage of course offerings from the Department of Exercise & Sport Studies. Connect with a professor to get involved in their research. Volunteer at Student Health in the Physical Therapy (PT) Clinic. Become an Athletic Performance Center Intern or Athletic Training Intern through the Department of Recreation.

**Resource:** [healthsciences.duels.ucsb.edu](http://healthsciences.duels.ucsb.edu)





## Law Major Alternatives

**Consider Exploring:** History, History of Public Policy & Law, Philosophy, and Political Science in the College of Letters & Science for a general route. If you have a specialization in mind, we recommend that you pursue that field's major (Ex: Major in Film & Media Studies if interested in entertainment law). Visit each department's webpage for details.

You can even obtain the Professional Writing: Writing and Civic Engagement minor. In addition, UCSB offers Professional and Continuing Education (PaCE) courses and certificates in paralegal studies.

**Get Involved:** Phi Alpha Delta is a co-ed pre-law fraternity interested in the legal career paths. Other organizations include (but are not limited to), the Mock Trial team and the Pre-Law Society. There are also many local internship opportunities for those looking to gain hands-on experience.

**Resource:** [duels.ucsb.edu/advising/pre-law-advising](https://duels.ucsb.edu/advising/pre-law-advising)



## Nursing Major Alternatives

**Consider Exploring:** Biology, Biopsychology, Molecular & Cellular Biology, Physiology, or Psychological & Brain Sciences in the College of Letters and Science. Visit each department's webpage for details.

**Get Involved:** Connect with peers interested in careers in the health industry by joining the Health Professions Association, professional health fraternities (Mu Delta, Rho Psi Eta), Global Medical Missions, Los Ingenieros? and more!

**Resource:** [healthsciences.duels.ucsb.edu/tracks/careers/nursing](https://healthsciences.duels.ucsb.edu/tracks/careers/nursing)





## Teaching Major Alternatives

**Consider Exploring:** English, History, Psychology, or Sociology for a general route. If you have a specialization in mind, we recommend that you that major (Ex: Major in Mathematics if interested in becoming a math teacher). Visit each department's webpage for details.

You can even obtain minors through the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education: Educational Studies Minor, Applied Psychology Minor and Science and Mathematics Education Minor.

UCSB offers a graduate degree in the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, a one year masters and teaching certificate program.

**Get Involved:** Participating in the Pre-Professional Education Program allows you to volunteer in local K-12 classrooms under the mentorship of credentialed teachers. Participating in campus organizations (such as La Escuelita, UCSB SciTrek) is a great way to learn about working with students and develop your skills as an educator. The greater Santa Barbara County also has many volunteer and part-time opportunities for students interested in working with children and youth. Consider working with an educational nonprofit such as Cal-SOAP (Student Opportunity and Access Program), Girls Inc., LEAP, or Santa Barbara County Education Office - Partners in Education.

**Resource:** [career.ucsb.edu/career-paths/education-human-services](https://career.ucsb.edu/career-paths/education-human-services)