**Major/Minor Fast Facts**

**Anthropology:**

- One of the top anthropology programs in the country.
- Students learn major theories in anthropology and also learn how to apply those theories, or to support new theories through research.
- Students are able to create their own program within the department to focus on their specific research interests (i.e. archaeology, linguistics, sociocultural, or physical anthropology).
  - Not done as a specific program or specialization but through the flexibility of the major, as students can more or less design their own focus.
- Part of the University’s PRISM program, providing additional research funding and career-related opportunities.

**Art History:**

- The department will fund students to do international research during the summer to support a BA project.
- Students are required to submit two research papers (10 – 15 pages) before the beginning of their fourth year.
- Department emphasizes Western and non-Western art, encourages foreign language study.
- Art History Minor as well as Architectural Studies minor are offered.

**Astronomy & Astrophysics:**

- The University of Chicago participates in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, a project to create the largest map ever of the universe.
- Women in Physics and Astronomy group hosts lunchtime discussions.
- Can use the Astronomy Study Abroad program in Paris for 3/5 minor credits.
- Astronomy & Astrophysics minor is offered.

**Big Problems:**

- New College
- Big Problems courses are open to fourth years (and occasionally third years) and focus on problems of global or universal concern. Past courses discussed energy and energy policy, the biology and sociology of AIDS, and the Enlightenment.
- Most courses require students to create a piece of original research using themes from the course as a guide. Some professors even help students publish their research in academic journals.
- Professors have come from diverse fields including chemistry, psychology,
economics, and religion, among others.

**Biological Chemistry**

- Students are invited to do a research project with a faculty member to receive honors in the major.
- A joint BS Biochemistry/MS in Chemistry is available.
- Gordon Center for Integrative Sciences brings together biology and physics faculty to promote interdisciplinary study.
- There are lots of events for majors, including seminars and talks with visiting professors, that are e-mailed out to students on a list host.
- Open opportunities to take grad classes within the major.

**Biological Sciences and Pre-Medicine:**

- Within the Biological Sciences department, students can pursue for a specialization in consultation with the specialization advisers. The specializations include Specialization in Cancer Biology, Specialization in Cellular and Molecular Biology, Specialization in Ecology and Evolution, Specialization in Endocrinology, Specialization in Genetics, Specialization in Global Health Sciences, Specialization in Immunology, Specialization in Microbiology, and Specialization in Neuroscience.
- Pre-Med: The science professors and Chicago Careers in Health Professions work closely to provide seminars to pre-med students, prepare them for MCATs, and provide letters of recommendation. They give students a chance to learn about how top professors/doctors got to where they are today. Classes often require students to visit the department at the hospital that correlates with the class to shadow, watch a surgery, or speak with doctors.
- We have pre-med tracks for both Biology majors and non-Biology majors.
- Funding for summer research is available.

**Chemistry:**

- The department’s research and programs are wide-ranging, contributing in everything from cancer research to materials science and engineering, and undergraduates are strongly encouraged to pursue research with faculty support.
- Annual student-faculty basketball game run by the RSO Benzene, a Chemistry Club.
- Annual small, sit-down lunch discussions with Nobel Laureates.
- Lots of opportunities to obtain funding for summer opportunities.

**Chicago Studies Program:**

- It’s not a major but a series of courses and lectures that allow students to learn more about and become more involved with Chicago. Courses are cross-listed with a variety of departments – often including anthropology, geography, public policy, environmental studies, and art history.
• Class opportunities include guest lectures and field trips.
• Past courses include “Child Poverty and Chicago Schools,” “New Art in Chicago and Other Spaces,” and “Process and Policy in State and City Government.”
• Students who write theses related to the city of Chicago can publish them in The Chicago Studies Annual Journal.

Cinema and Media Studies:

• The program allows students to study film from many perspectives and in different contexts. It’s flexible so students’ interests are met.
• Film Studies Center in Cobb Hall is a venue for students and faculty to conduct research by viewing footage from the Universities’ immense film archives.
• Fire Escape Films is an organization for students interested in filmmaking; they have equipment and expertise available for students with various levels of experience.
• PRISM research grants and counseling available through Career Advancement to help students advocate for the marketability of their liberal arts degrees.

Classical Studies:

• Classical Studies is broken up into three variants: Language and Literature, Language Intensive, and Greek and Roman Cultures.
• There are at least 7 monetary awards and fellowships (ranging from $300 - $5000) for undergraduate classics majors. Most of these awards allow students to study abroad or perform independent research during the summer to complete the major’s BA thesis requirement.

Comparative Human Development:

• Plenty of opportunities to work in labs – especially child development labs.
• Draws from psychology, anthropology, biology, linguistics, and sociology to examine issues in human social life.
• The oldest department of interdisciplinary social science in the country.

Comparative Literature:

• Comparative Lit is great for students that know several languages and want to compare literature from multiple countries, students that are interested in transnational literary questions, or students interested in issues that transcend national literary history.
• A BA or long paper is required that focuses on your concentration within the major.
Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies:

- CRES allows students to form an interdisciplinary approach to examining race and ethnicity through history, language, and culture.
- CRES sets itself apart for three reasons: 1) UChicago has a long and distinct history of researching race relations. 2) The historical, geographical, and social relations with the surrounding communities give UChicago a unique advantage for research and understanding of race and ethnicity. 3) UChicago helps lead debate in policy advocacy for marginalized communities in Chicago.
- The CRES and GNSE center has a common lounge and frequent events or snacks or teas for students in both majors to meet each other or study together.

Computational Neuroscience:

- Computational neuroscience is concerned with how components of the nervous system produce behaviors. It relies on quantitative and modeling approaches to understand the function of the nervous system and human-made devices that duplicate behaviors.
- There is a committee on Computational Neuroscience that has seminars, lectures, and events often.
- Minor program only.

Computer Science:

- Undergraduates are encouraged to participate in various research projects in the CompSci department. These projects include The Linguista Project, Moby, and ASC / Alliance Center for Astrophysical Thermonuclear Flashes.
- Students can get a BA or BS. Students can also take advantage of several activities and trips with UChicago Careers in Science and Technology to network and explore their career or research interests.
- Relevant extra-curricular activities include hack night, a weekly forum for students to share and develop independent computing projects, and our International Collegiate Programming team.
- There are three different tracks to getting a BA/MS or BS/MS in Computer Science.

Creative Writing:

- Creative writing minor is a part of the English Literature major, but there is also a major now.
  - Students can choose to focus on fiction, poetry, or nonfiction.
- Focus on interdisciplinary study.
- Bestselling writers and poets visit campus frequently; the University sponsors
writers-in-residence programs for writers to teach undergraduate students.

• Kurt Vonnegut was a graduate of the College.

Digital Studies of Language, Culture, and History:

• This minor introduces students to computer programming and the use of software tools for representing, exploring, analyzing, and publishing the products of human language and culture.
• This minor requires the completion of six courses spanning across disciplines such as computer programming, statistics, the arts, and linguistics.

East Asian Languages and Civilizations:

• Two of the most exciting opportunities in East Asian Languages and Civilizations are the University of Chicago Center in Beijing and Kyoto Center for Japanese Studies. Students can take up to six classes for the major abroad.
• Chinese, Japanese, and Korean are the languages offered under the EALC program.
• EALC is an interdisciplinary program that allows its students to fulfill their major requirements in some languages, the humanities, and the social sciences.

Economics:

• Several of the electives for Econ are cross listed with computer science so many econ majors also have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with programming.
• Theory is the emphasis of UChicago economics.
• The Becker Friedman Institute, a collaboration of the University of Chicago Department of Economics, the Booth School of Business, and the Law School provide UChicago students with economic research opportunities with the world’s best economists and scholars.
• Gary S. Becker, Robert W. Fogel, Robert E. Lucas, Jr., James J. Heckman, and Roger B. Myerson are all Nobel Prize winners who teach in the department.
• Can do a Master’s program within 4 years through a joint-degree program.

Education:

• Several departments (Sociology, Human Development, Public Policy) offer relevant courses to education and teaching. Students interested in teaching grades K-12 may find some courses to be appropriate for meeting the teacher certification requirements of various states.
• The Urban Teacher Education Program (UTEP) is for students who want to take an extra year and a half at the University of Chicago to earn their Masters degree in teaching with a focus on urban schools, and the Chicago Public Schools in particular. University of Chicago undergraduates apply during their third year in the College and enter the program during their fourth year.
• Additionally, there are many student activities that focus on education and classroom
teaching in Chicago.
• UChicago Careers in Education Professions had 95% of their students graduate with post-graduation plans this past year.

English Language and Literature:
• The English Department at UChicago is interdisciplinary and maintains close relationships with media studies, theater, and creative writing. It is not uncommon for students to double major.
• Students will design a Cluster Statement of at least five courses that share a conceptual focus in literary and critical theory, form/genre/medium, literature in history, or literature and cultures.
• Students can study British literature and history in London through the London Study Abroad program.
• The University has many programs at institutions in England and Ireland at which students can study British and Irish literature.
• English majors have access to PRISM Grants that help fund BA thesis research.
• The department assigns students an advisor at the beginning of their third year.
• Alumni: Kurt Vonnegut.

Environmental Science:
• ENST majors are offered the unique opportunity to do environmental field work through individual class sessions or full courses.
• Students take 11 electives in Physical and Biological Sciences, Social Sciences, or Computational Sciences.

Environmental and Urban Studies:
• As of academic year 2017–18, the Environmental Studies major will be known as Environmental and Urban Studies. This new title reflects significant enhancements to the major that include the introduction of a new thematic track focused on human interaction with place, space, and the built environment in urban regions.
• This interdisciplinary major has three possible tracks: Environmental Economics and Policy, Socio-natural Systems and Frameworks, and Urban Environment.
• Students are expected to develop significant independent research projects in close consultation with their preceptor and faculty adviser and submit a BA in their fourth year.
• Majors are required to complete an internship or field study like the Chicago Studies Quarter.

Fundamentals: Issues and Texts:
Fundamental majors seek answers to fundamental questions by reading classical literature. Students are also required to learn a foreign language.

Examples of questions: “What is nature?” “How does storytelling shape one’s life?” “Is there a just war?”

Fundamentals is a selective, intentionally small major. Students are interviewed and counseled and admitted based on application statement, interviews, and previous academic performance.


Gender and Sexuality Studies:

- Students are given the option of two paths to a Gender Studies major. Plan A is for students that want to pursue an interdisciplinary approach. Plan B is for a concentrated approach at analyzing gender and sexuality within another main discipline such as History, English, or Political Science.
- The department also hosts the annual undergraduate Ruth Murray Essay Prize for the best essay in Women’s Studies, Feminist Studies, or Gender Studies. The winner receives a $500 prize.
- The CRES and GNSE center has a common lounge and frequent events or snacks or teas for students in both majors to meet each other or study together.
- Lots of support from the department head, faculty, and peers due to the small size of the major.

Geographical Sciences:

- Many students use their knowledge and apply it to cartography, environmental studies/science, public policy, economics, and sociology.
- Geographical studies students may apply for small reimbursement grants for their travel expenses connected with research leading for their BA thesis.
- Each year the Committee on Geographical Studies nominates fourth-year students for an Outstanding Senior in Geography Award from the Illinois Geographical Society and an Award for Excellence from the National Council for Geographic Education and the Association of American Geographers.

Geophysical Sciences:

- Students are able to pursue a BA or BS in Geophysical Sciences. The BA allows for a more interdisciplinary approach with environmental studies, policy, law, medicine, or education. The BS is an intensive approach to prepare students for graduate school or research.
- The department sponsors up to 12 field courses each year. Some trips are in Illinois; others can be as far away as Italy and Iceland.
• Geounion is the big geophysical sciences RSO and it has postdocs, grad students, and professors give weekly science talks to undergrads.
• The department hosts Friday seminars with distinguished speakers from all over.
• Faculty members give short seminars on Friday afternoons and are randomly selected to do so the day before; it’s called Noon Balloon.
• Journal Clubs where students and professors discuss papers with each other.
• The department hosts 1-2 roasts per year.

Germanic Studies:

• The University offers courses in German, Yiddish, and Norwegian- Norwegian studies is available as a minor.
• The program is designed to support another area of study – political science, history, philosophy, film studies, etc.
• A BA thesis that includes substantial use of German-language sources is required, but the department offers the Romberg Summer Research Grant for students to do work abroad.

Global Studies:

• Interdisciplinary program of study that requires at least one research activity (which is often international) and seven quarters of language study.
• Majors select a major and a minor thematic track from the following: Bodies and Nature, Knowledge and Practice, Cultures at Work, and Governance and Affiliations.
• Newer major similar to the former International Studies major.

History:

• With more than 140 courses offered each year, history majors are able to focus on a wide variety of topics. These courses help prepare students to write a third year pre-BA research paper in their colloquia.
• This major is quite flexible. There are no pre-requisite requirements and the BA thesis is no longer required.
  o Majors do have a “major field” of focus in which they take 6 classes.
• History majors have access to PRISM Grants that help fund BA thesis research.
• The Undergraduate Coordinator sits in the central History office and helps with any and all questions, and there is a study and event space right across from this central office.

History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine (HIPS):

• Interdisciplinary program that allows students to study science and medicine from a perspective of historical development, conceptual framework, and social role. Students
are required to complete sufficient work in one or more sciences.

• Students are able to pick one of the following areas of focus: anthropology, ethics, history, philosophy, or sociology of science and medicine. Often combined with pre-medical classes as a way for scientists to explore the humanities.

Human Rights:

• Minor program.
• The Human Rights Internship Program provides funded summer fellowships to College, graduate, and professional students to gain hands-on experience at host organizations around the world and in the United States.
• Students can complete 3 courses for the minor abroad in Vienna (Philosophical Foundations, History and Theory, and Contemporary Issues in Human Rights).

Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities:

• The program was started by Norman Maclean, A River Runs Through It, and it has transformed into UChicago’s version of “design your own humanities program”. Students design their own program, consisting of three fields in the humanities, with the help of a faculty member.
• All students complete a BA paper or a creative project (a work of poetry, visual art, or theater) to integrate their fields of study.
• Students apply to this program after finishing the Core.

Jewish Studies:

• The University has appointed top scholars to teach Hebrew Bible, Midrash, Jewish medieval studies, Hebrew literature, American Jewish literature, Jewish political thought, Yiddish literature, modern Jewish thought, and German Jewish culture.
• Program includes courses taught by Divinity School professors, and many Jewish Studies professors accompany students to the study-abroad program in Jerusalem.

Latin American Studies:

• Students in this department often take advantage of the many summer travel grants to perform field research in Latin America, or to advance their language skills.
• Courses cover Latin American history, politics, and economics, as well as language study in Spanish or Portuguese.

Law, Letters, and Society:
• This is one of the few programs at UChicago that has a competitive application process; students apply spring quarter of their first year.
• Many students use the program as a tool to prepare for law school, though the major is not designed to be a specifically pre-law program, nor are students required to major in LLSO in order to go to law school.
• Includes a required introductory seminar, with topics ranging from Greek Law to Legal Reasoning.
• The program is unique because “unlike many legal studies programs that attempt to orient study of the law in primarily contemporary debates, usually in the field of American constitutional law, the program seeks to organize its exploration of law as a system rather than as a forum or an instrument.”
• Students who are interested in career advising towards law school can take advantage of the UChicago Careers in Law program.

Linguistics:

• The oldest linguistics department in the United States, providing an introduction to the scientific study of language and the complexity of human language.
• Students have the unique opportunity to begin classes with first year graduate students and participate in faculty research.
• Requires proficiency in a non-Indo-European language (Mandarin Chinese, Turkish, etc.).

Mathematics:

• One of UChicago’s largest majors, the mathematics program is consistently ranked among the top five. The department currently has 2 Fields Medal Recipients and members of the National Academy of Sciences.
• Offers the Directed Reading Program, which pairs undergraduate students with graduate student mentors to allow independent study in a topic of interest.
• The program offers four degree programs – BA and BS in mathematics, BS in applied mathematics, and a BS in mathematics with a specialization in economics.
• REU summer research opportunity that allows students to write and publish work.

Media Arts and Design:

• Students will complete a total of 6 courses, with at least one in each of three core areas: Media Theory, Media History, and Media Practice and Design
• Program intends to establish practice-based research, combining analytical and creative approaches to understand the way designs of screens impact the way we think, act, and communicate

Medieval Studies:
• With access to UChicago’s Special Collections and the Newberry Library, students in Medieval Studies at UChicago have great research opportunities. To aid research, students must demonstrate proficiency of a language used during Medieval times, usually Latin.
• Majors must take courses that are historical in nature, courses in language or literature, courses in either art, archeology, architecture, or music, courses in philosophy or theology, and one course in methods and materials.

Molecular Engineering:

• The BS degree program in Molecular Engineering offers undergraduates a cutting-edge engineering curriculum built on a strong foundation in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology. Courses are designed to develop quantitative reasoning and problem-solving skills; to introduce engineering analysis of physical, chemical, and biological systems; and to address open-ended technological questions across a spectrum of disciplines.
• Three tracks: Chemical and Soft Materials, Biological Sciences, and Quantum.
• Requires lab skills and technical experience.

Music:

• The music department includes a Pulitzer Prize–winning composer, a Grammy winner, and a MacArthur Fellow. Undergraduates receive a general degree in music, with the opportunity to study music history, music theory, ethnomusicology, and composition. There is a music minor as well.
• The department The Center for Italian Opera Studies (CIAO) is the home of editorial work on the critical edition of Gioachino Rossini’s music. Philip Gosset, UChicago professor, directs the Center.
• It also helps support various music ensembles and programs. Some of these groups require audition, while others are open to all interested students.
• As part of the music minor students must participate in one of these groups for at least three quarters.
• The Logan Arts Center has new practice rooms and performance spaces such as the Fulton Performance Hall.

Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC):

• Research done at Chicago has helped to form the very basis of the modern disciplines of Assyriology, Egyptology, and ancient Near Eastern Archaeology.
• Students choose a language or languages and then choose to focus on one the following themes to prepare for their BA research: History and Culture, Language and Literature (including Linguistics), Intellectual History, and Art and Archaeology.
• Students can also receive a minor in NELC.
• Several students also participate in the joint program with linguistics.
• NELC majors are eligible for PRISM funding for BA research.
Neuroscience:

- The major is designed to accommodate students with the range of scientific variety that one finds at the professional level of neuroscience, including physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering, mathematics, biology, psychology, and medicine.
- 5 paid internships (including airfare and housing) at the College de France in Paris are offered every year; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year Neuroscience majors can apply.
- There are also numerous other research opportunities and fellowships available each summer.
- Many electives and requirements are cross listed with psychology and computer science.
- Four journal clubs: neurophilosophy, neuroimmunology, computational approaches to cognitive neuroscience, and biopsychology.

Philosophy:

- UChicago has a strong history of having top academics studying German idealism, classical Greek philosophy, and 19th-20th century continental philosophy.
- Students are welcome to pursue philosophy with an interdisciplinary lens (math, biology, economics, psychology, literature, history, art) through the philosophy and allied fields program.
  - There are two other tracks: standard and intensive.
- The department also offers numerous awards for travel, top student research projects, etc.

Physics:

- Students have the option to specialize in astrophysics.
- Departmental prizes for research.
- University affiliations with federally funded Argonne National Laboratory and Fermilab enable students to do undergraduate research there.
- Friday lecture series are informal discussions and opportunities for undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty to discuss research.

Political Science:

- Unlike many majors, the political science department gives students the choice of writing either a BA or a long, 20-page paper towards graduation. Students writing a BA work with a faculty adviser.
- The department stresses flexibility and wants students to pursue political theory, American politics, international politics, and comparative politics.
Psychology:

- There are “Lab Nights” throughout the year when research labs on campus meet with students to tell them about openings. This allows psychology undergrads to form relationships with professors and to develop research skills and experience.
- It’s common for psychology majors to double major with comparative human development.
- Students interested in clinical psychology and psychiatry can intern at the University of Chicago hospitals.
- One fourth-year every year is awarded the Earl R. Franklin Research Fellowship.

Public Policy Studies:

- The major requires a research practicum where student run teams and focus on Chicago-specific issues. The UChicago Press publishes their findings and students are able to present to the City of Chicago and appropriate administrators.
- Past work includes food deserts on the Southside, reinventing the Harlem Children’s Zone, and childhood programs in Woodlawn.

Religious Studies:

- Students in Religious Studies learn how to think, talk, and write about religion in a way that is well-informed, rigorously critical, and responsibly engaged.
- Students in the program are able to explore numerous religious traditions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism, and are exposed to the sources, problems, methods, and methodologies of our diverse areas of study, including Biblical and Historical Studies; Ethics, Theology, and the Philosophy of Religions; as well as History of Religions, Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion and Literature.
- Majors can take graduate classes in the Divinity School for the major.

Renaissance Studies:

- Considers not only Europe & Ottoman/Mediterranean worlds, but also the commercial, imperial, and missionary networks whose threads stretched from Mexico to Japan.
- Course Cluster on the Renaissance is an interdisciplinary approach in English, History, Music, Romance Languages, and Political Science on themes ranging from Shakespeare to the Inquisition to political economy.
- 11 European cities with study abroad opportunities.
- Six different Renaissance-related RSOs to watch and perform music and plays, build and test technologies, help organize events such as our annual Campus Renaissance Festival, and visit museums and research libraries with faculty on social field trips.
Romance Languages and Literature:

- Majors specialize in French, Spanish, or Italian and may do a dual-emphasis program on two languages.
- There are minor programs in Catalan and Portugese.
- The department is growing to become a top department. Recently UChicago was recognized by the French government as one of six Centres d’Excellence in French Studies in the U.S., the Italian program has been chosen as the site of a newly created Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Modern Italian Studies, and the University has just received a Mellon grant.
- Students can study abroad in Costa Rica, France, Italy, Mexico, and Spain. Students can also take advantage of FLAG grants to study in other countries.

Russian and East European Studies:

- One of only 10 such academic departments in the US and Canada.
- The Center in Paris hosts “Paris: East and West” in the Spring which explores the cultural ties between France and the Slavic countries.
- Slavic and East European Collection in the library contains over 500,000 volumes on Russia and former Soviet states for a variety of academic fields.

Sociology:

- All sociology majors perform research via the BA paper, which requires independent data collection and analysis, and allows students to work closely with faculty members during a senior seminar to develop and synthesize their ideas and research.
- Chicago’s is the oldest sociology department in the US, and the founder of the American Journal of Sociology, Albion Small, was the department’s original Head Professor in 1892. UChicago still publishes the AJS, and the current editor, Andrew Abbott, is a faculty member and teaches undergraduate courses. The school is also home to the Chicago School of sociology, whose innovations include urban ethnography and a focus on change over fixed social structure.

South Asian Languages and Civilizations:

- The department has a text-based approach to studying South Asian Civilizations, thus students complete advanced studies of South Asian languages such as Bangla, Tamil, Tibetan, and Urdu.
- Students are encouraged to participate in a study abroad program in South Asia, such as the South Asian Civilizations in India program, located in Pune.
• One of seven American universities to begin the study of Sanskrit in 1900.

Statistics:

• Students receive solid training in mathematics and exposure to computing, but they are given freedom to support their knowledge of statistics with courses from other departments, especially biological sciences and social sciences.
• The department operates its own consulting group and students are allowed to join.
• Members of the department have edited the four leading American and international journals of probability and statistics, and faculty member Stephen Stigler recently served as President of the International Statistical Institute and teaches undergraduate courses.
• There is a competitive program in which students from a different major can obtain a joint BA/BS-MA degree with a Master’s in Statistics during their fourth year.

Theater and Performance Studies (TAPS):

• TAPS focuses on the intersection of theory and practice, as students acquire facility in two media, such as theater, film, dance, etc., while also gaining fluency in the critical analysis of said media. This work culminates in the BA project, which includes the performance of an original work, such as a solo performance, staged reading, or choreography, as well as a paper serving as a critical analysis of the performance and including a theoretical component.
• Over 15 artists and actors in residence teach classes to students.
• The program is very interdisciplinary and takes advantage of the offerings in the Cinema and Media Studies, Creative Writing, Music, and Visual Arts departments.

Tutorial Studies:

• Students can propose their own course of study if their desired program does not exist within a preexisting program at UChicago. Students in the program may want to focus on a narrow topic, such as the literature of a specific author, or a conventional program that does not exist at UChicago, such as education.
• Students are admitted in tandem with a tutor, a faculty member with whom they have had extensive discussions, and who understands their work and has agreed to take responsibility for it.
• Students take 13 courses for the major.

Visual Arts:

• Students explore visual arts as a practice and theory -aesthetic pleasure, philosophical inquiry, social critique, political activism, and psychological understanding.
• Housed in the Logan Arts Center, a modernist building anchored by an eleven-story
tower and including studios, teaching and presentation spaces, and performance areas for cinema and media studies, music, theater and performance, dance, and the visual arts.

- Other on-campus resources include the Renaissance Society, a leading venue for international contemporary art located in Cobb, and the Smart Museum, the University’s art museum, which features modern special exhibitions and a permanent collection spanning five thousand years of artistic creation.
- The UChicago Careers in the Arts Program prepares students for careers in the arts via one-on-one advising, an extensive catalog of internships, apprenticeships, and collaborations, as well as special programs such as treks to art centers across the United States to meet with curators, publishers, writers, actors, and artists of all sorts.
- A limited number of students complete the Studio Track.

The UChicago Experience: Some Important Facts

Internships, Jobs, and Everything Else Future-Related

Where/How do people find jobs?

Handshake (Career Advancement website)—Thousands of employees post on this website. Easy resume/cover letter drops, on-site recruiting, and many of these employers have hired UChicagoans in the past (in many cases, the recruiter may be a former alum!) and they know the specifics of our school and are willing to work with our programs/academic calendar for a later start date and later end date. You can also personalize your searches by academic interest, geographical reason, and other things that may be important to you!

Advisors—They’ve been around the block a few times and know where their previous advisees have been successful before. They can also help you figure out a long-term plan/see how different options fit into your potential career interests. Advisors are also a great resource for navigating non-traditional internships, such as research grants, FLAG grants for language study, and non-University sponsored grants.

UCSC—Provides opportunities to a certain type of student (typically those seeking to become involved with non-profits) but their resources for those groups are outstanding. They also sometimes offer compensation for programs that wouldn’t ordinarily be able to pay an intern (so that you can take a volunteer position and still be able to support yourself in the city). They have specialized programs, such as Summer Links, that apply the UChicago discussion format to internship experiences; you have a built-in social setting by living in dorms with individuals who have similar internships, and UCSC provides extra opportunities to do work in the community or to have an outlet for discussing daily challenges.
Professors—Whether they need a research assistant for the summer, they know someone who needs an intern or an assistant, or because their department offers subsidies for internship/volunteer opportunities that ordinarily would not pay you (the Human Rights department is especially helpful with this), they can help you do some network and use their connections to put out some inquiries for you.

Alumni Board of Governors Externship Program—Unlike typical summer internships that last roughly 10 weeks, this externship program which only lasts one week gives our students an early first-hand look at industries they may have been considering to pursue professionally. During Spring Break, established U of C alumni in extremely diverse fields—including law, finance, the arts, government, social change/nonprofits, consulting, journalism, business, science and medical research—allow program participants to get real insight about different careers and meet with their alumni sponsors for two or three days to ask questions and learn. These externship opportunities allow students to not only gain a practical view of life in a given career field, but also leave with a better understanding of what skills, knowledge and capabilities will be necessary in order to succeed in that industry.

Listhosts (Career Advancement and other)—UChicago Careers In… (business, public and social service, law etc.) have various listhosts that you can sign-up to receive updates and notifications from. The benefit of this is that you will be notified of internship, job and guest lecture opportunities that are extremely specific to your interests. Joining a listhost is particularly useful because it means you don’t have to skim through the entire Career Advancement database each time you’re looking for a position. (However, the jobs advertised by the listhost are usually also advertised on the general Career Advancement database). Various majors and minors will also send out listhosts to their respective students announcing job opportunities relating to a specific area of study (i.e Human Rights, Environmental Studies etc.). This is particularly helpful because the jobs that are advertised in this way generally indicate that a relationship between the university, and more specifically, a department, and the employer already exists. Non-University listhosts such as Policyjobs or Jobs That Are Left (liberal political/social service jobs) also exist and send out emails with tons of opportunities.

Internships in Politics—Since Chicago is a hub for political activity, students who are interested in becoming involved with politics have an especially large array of internship options available to them. There are political campaigns going on every year and it provides opportunities to get involved from the very local level (aldermen and councilmen) to the state level (even if it’s just helping state representatives gear up for their next campaigns). Most of these options tend to be during the academic year, but it’s a great way to boost your resume and to start making those networking connections that will help you get that job and experience on Capitol Hill. These students do everything from working with the local aldermen to helping former Mayor Dailey with his daily affairs to rolling out the Rahm campaign.
Jeff Metcalf Internships—The Jeff Metcalf Fellows Program provides paid, substantive internships [usually 10 weeks] exclusively to students at the University of Chicago. These internships, which encompass a wide range of industries (Arts & Culture, Business/Finance, Government/Public Policy, International, Research & Education, Social Change) aim to further develop academic knowledge and various skill sets in an experiential learning environment. Whether it be during the academic year or over the course of a summer, these internships really allow students to get first-hand work experience and develop the skills necessary to succeed in this field. These exclusive opportunities not only increase the individual’s marketability and value to future employers, but often lead to additional project work, internships or full-time jobs with that Metcalf employer.

Alumni Careers Network—Allows students to search through a substantial database of UChicago alumni and reach out to them with questions about their industry, career advice, or potential employment opportunities. This is a great resource for all students, especially individuals who don’t necessarily find what they are precisely looking for on Handshake but still want to pursue their interest. The alumni who submit their personal information to this database do so for the purpose of helping UChicago students explore their diverse interests. Additionally, these alumni assist students in identifying what barriers to entry may exist for them and what the best course of action is to overcoming these obstacles.

On Campus Recruiting—Relatively straightforward in what it means but is certainly worth mentioning since it’s a tremendous competitive advantage UChicago students have over other applicants. Unlike traditional job postings that are put up in hopes of finding a strong fit, the positions that engage in on-campus recruiting are distinctly different in that they come knowing that they are going to take UChicago students. Aside from their additional presence on-campus and extensive UChicago alumni base, these kinds of postings really help streamline the application process and cater to the needs of UChicago students (we are a liberal arts school, no pre-professional programs). Employers who come to campus are always fully conscious of the school’s educational philosophy (usually because they consist of UChicago alum) and make an additional effort to work around unconventional obstacles (Quarter system, courses taken, etc…).

What other resources does Career Advancement provide?

Resume and cover letter help—even if you are just creating a generic template, the people at Career Advancement can give you some information on key buzzwords that will help you stand out and maybe be able to tell you what words to look for when conducting a job search and some keywords to use to get the best results!

Practice Interviews—Pretty self-explanatory. These are especially helpful for those who need to practice certain ‘types’ of interviews. For instance, those going into consulting can learn how to ace a case interview.
Job/Career Advancement-Related Anecdotes:

“My first year, I talked to my advisor about summer options. She recommended I take the summer to do some academic growth (fulfill the study abroad requirement for my major). She then let me know about the Summer on the Cuyahoga (SOTC) program, which UChicago had just added to their Metcalf internships. In addition to my full-time internship, I would be provided housing with students from five peer institutions and special access to events around the city. So the summer of my first year, I studied abroad. The summer after second year, I was able to participate in SOTC; I loved it so much that I came back the summer after third year. Through the program, I was able to network with Cleveland-area employers and ultimately received a post-graduation offer from one of those employers.”

“Through the Chicago Careers in Nonprofit and Public Service I was introduced to three other websites that conglomerate job opportunities for college students and even post-graduate students, but specifically in the realm of politics and human rights. Now, I have more places to look and actually recently, found a position in London with an official in Parliament that I’m now in the process of applying for.”

“A friend of mine has been particularly torn about whether or not she wants to go into policy work or law. Although she knows she’s interested in advancing the global commitment to environmental protection, she’s unsure whether or not she needs to go to law school to be an effective activist. After taking a course in Environmental Law and developing a relationship with the professor, she spoke with him often about his experience being an environmental lawyer, going to law school and what helped him decide which professional track to follow. She’s become a lot more comfortable with her post-graduation plans after speaking with him, and he even gave her the contact information of a handful of specific organizations he recommended she try and work for in order to get a better idea of what it means to go into environmental law. Another example, now that I’m about to graduate I have been able to join the University of Chicago Alum Linkedin group. Many alums often post job opportunities with their companies in the group forum and it’s a pretty low-key and casual way to browse what’s available in the job market.”

“When I went to Career Advancement we spent close to an hour going over my resume. She taught me how to think about everything from how to structure the aesthetics of the resume to how more efficiently paraphrase the individual descriptions I had written. The people at Career Advancement are wonderful about listening to what it is that YOU want to get of your internship and job opportunities and then, helping you tailor your search to your individual wants and needs. I personally never used Career Advancement in this capacity, but many of my friends would do mock interviews with the people who work at Career Advancement. If interviews are not something you feel the most comfortable with, Career Advancement will run through the types of questions that the specific employers you are applying to have been
known to ask and from what I’ve been told they make the experience as realistic as possible.”

“My first experience with Career Advancement occurred during my 1st year when I brought my resume to an adviser so I could be activated for on-campus recruiting. The adviser immediately made me feel very comfortable about taking this next step and spent an extensive amount of time with me to go over my resume and advise what changes I should make. From then on, I have been actively browsing through Career Advancement’ postings and frequently attend networking events hosted on-campus. Some of these networking events, which range from JP Morgan to Google, are an exceptional opportunity to engage with employers (most of whom come are UC alum) and has even been directly responsible in me securing offers and interviews. Through Career Advancement’ online resume drop I have been selected for dozens of first round interviews, some on campus and some not, in a variety of industries that include high-technology, investment banking, community service, and law. Although I have never actually accepted a Metcalf Internship offer, I participated in the peak season of UChicago’s on-campus internship recruiting (2nd and 3rd year) and I was fortunate enough to secure multiple offers.”

What about grad school?

There are multiple support networks at the University of Chicago. Besides having an undergraduate or graduate advisor, students interested in applying to law school, medical school, or other graduate programs are able to seek out the aid of advisors dedicated to helping students apply to specific graduate programs. The advisors are not only available to answer questions, provide details on what specific application processes are like, but also frequently send updates about opportunities relating to a specific kind of graduate school or program. For example, the law advisor sends out updates about opportunities to take mock LSAT exams on campus, pairs pre-law undergraduates with law students at UChicago with the mentor program, and hosts lunches and panels of various kinds of professionals in the legal field (to help students get a better idea of the various law-related jobs that are available). No UChicago student should feel completely alone when it comes to planning either their summers or their post-college futures. Between the faculty, various administrative divisions, alums, and other students, the University of Chicago does a phenomenal job of making sure that students end up having worthwhile and well-suited work experiences.

What about jobs on campus?

- Many student jobs are found by asking professors if they need assistants or through browsing the Student Employment website:
  - [https://studentemployment.uchicago.edu/index_jobs.php](https://studentemployment.uchicago.edu/index_jobs.php)
- UChicago offers work-study and non-work study jobs.
  - Work-study is a federal aid program.
The Federal Work Study Program provides funds for part-time employment to help finance the costs of postsecondary education.

- Non-work study means that employment pay is not through a financial aid package.

**Job Categories found on- or off-campus:**
- Clerical
- Community service
- Editorial
- Laboratory
- Library
- Maintenance
- Research
- Student assistant (T.A.)
- Teaching/Tutoring
- Technical/IT/Audio Visual

**Community service** minded people might like the Neighborhood Schools Program.

- NSP hires University of Chicago undergraduate and graduate students to assist elementary, middle, and high school classroom teachers in order to bring more individual attention to children.
  - **Teaching assistant**- Usually includes tutoring individual and small groups of students, helping to prepare lessons, and grading papers. It may include whole class instruction, as well.
  - **Tech assistant**- NSP techs have the opportunity to fix computers, work on network connections, and show teachers how to use blogs, PowerPoint presentations, and other internet-based tools to enhance learning.
  - **Administrative intern**- NSP also places students in administrative internships in the offices of local elected officials, local shelters, and the NSP office. While working with local aldermen and legislative representatives, NSPers broaden their understanding of community service. For example, administrative interns work with constituents, help organize community programs, and research topics of interest that help create responsive governmental offices.

**Biology**

- Research assistant; open to all years in the college.
  - Responsibilities may include molecular biology techniques such as PCR, cloning and sequencing, preparation of plasmids; protein expression and purification; cell culture; packaging of retroviruses; manipulations and genotyping of mice.
• Psychology
  o Psychology Department Lab Night: A night for students interested in gaining laboratory experience to be introduced to faculty and their labs
  o Data collection direct from participants, data entry, and data analysis.
  o Several labs for different research areas need lab assistants.
  o Possible to work in linguistics, bias determination, human memory, language and communication, perception, attention and action, and conflict resolution and negotiation.
  o Investigate relations between multiple factors in development, for example relations between thought, language and culture, and relations between action, perception and cognition.
  o Integrative neuroscience and social psychology.

• Economics
  o The Center for Population Economics at Booth has research assistant jobs.
    ▪ The Center for Population Economics (CPE) specializes in the development of longitudinal life-cycle and historical environmental data sets to study economic, demographic, and epidemiological processes. These include trends in chronic disease, mortality, and labor force participation, as well as the relationship between early-life disease and environmental conditions and later-life disease and mortality.

Anecdotes:

“Working with NSP gives you skills with learning how to interact with different people such as administrators and teachers, and how to communicate effectively with community members. It allows you to interact with the people of the neighborhood and give back to the community. It’s also nice knowing that the children depend on seeing you and are happy and grateful to have you there with them.” - Millie

“I work in the Cancer Research Center doing deliveries, data entry, formatting, and filing. I like the job because it is enlightening to be on the administrative side of medicine and the hours are flexible. It also has a great working environment.” –Senaia

“I like working at the library. Sometimes it gives you a break from the stress of the world and it’s just between you and the books. And if there is free time, you can get paid to work on your homework.” - Minnie

Joint-Degree Programs

Facts:
The University of Chicago currently offers many different joint degree programs. A joint degree program is a program that allows college students to begin taking graduate courses before they have graduated with their BA.

Typically, students will apply to these programs early in their 3rd year, and begin graduate course work into their 4th year.

Students are required to have the majority of their core requirements completed. They are allowed to have two classes left in their major, that they will complete fall and winter quarter of their 4th year.

Students will still need to complete 48 courses by the time they graduate with their masters.

Students will still graduate with their BA at the end of their 4th year, while also graduating with their master's degree the following year.

Upon starting the program, Students switch from their academic advisor to the joint- degree advisor, Pete Segall.

Students are billed the graduate tuition rate during their 4th year of study.

The university offers joint programs in Computational Social Science, Middle Eastern Studies, Social Service Administration, Medicine, Public Policy Studies, Chemistry, Computer Science, the Humanities, Mathematics, the Social Sciences, Statistics, Education (with Teaching Certificate), Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and International Relations. Each program has its own requirements; therefore, if you are interested, it would be a good idea to set up a meeting early in your 2nd year to ensure that you are on track in your coursework.

Anecdote:

"Coming into the college I had no idea that joint degree programs even existed. Being a psychology major, I had often talked with my advisor concerning my frustration that the curriculum was very research based, only offering one semi-clinical class. I had worked in multiple psychology labs; however, I just didn't feel that research was right for me. I knew that one day I wanted to work in a clinical setting; however, I wasn't necessarily sure how to get there. My advisor discussed the option of doing the joint degree program with the school of Social Service Administration.

In order to work in any clinical setting, I would have had to pursue a graduate degree after graduating with my BA. The BA/MA program at SSA has allowed me to get a head start on my clinical studies. By the time I graduate with my masters I will be able to begin working one year earlier than I would have without it, saving on time and money. Additionally, the MSW program
through SSA requires two
internships as part of the coursework, which has provided me with professional and clinical
experience in my 4\textsuperscript{th} year of college, a rare opportunity for undergraduate students.

I have found the joint degree program at SSA to be proof that the university will truly help you achieve
all of your goals, whatever they may be.”

**Extracurricular Activities**

**Community Service at UChicago**

The University Community Service Center provides quarterly Days of Service and match programs that let students get engaged in the larger community, but there are over 60 extracurricular ways students can get involved with service as well, in the areas of advocacy, arts, education, global, health, and urban development.

Just a few CSRSOS:

- **Alpha Phi Omega**: Community service fraternity that combines a love of service (with a minimum commitment of 15 hours per quarter) with the experience of being a part of a strong community (there are social events ranging from Formal to The Bachelorette viewing parties).

- **Seeds of Justice**: First-year program that introduces students to the neighboring area through service learning, discussions, and other interactive experiences.

- **ArtShould**: Arts education-focused program that mentors CPS students and hosts workshops and events.

- **Women and Youth Supporting Each Other (WYSE)**: Mentorship program that pairs Colleges students with local middle school girls to empower them and give them resources to improve their health and leadership skills.

- **Colleges Against Cancer**: Organizes the annual Relay for Life event and runs programming throughout the year to raise awareness of and funds to fight cancer.

- **Block 58**: Runs programs and events that teach about or influence education policy and focus on strengthening communities.

**Entrepreneurship at the University of Chicago**

There are numerous opportunities for undergraduates interested in entrepreneurship at the University of Chicago to meet entrepreneurs and generally be involved with entrepreneurship,
be it through academic classes, conferences, competitions, student organizations, and more.

Academics

**The Booth Business School**, consistently ranked one of the top three business schools across the country, has many classes that are open to undergraduates that focus on entrepreneurship—classes like Building the New Venture, Social Entrepreneurship, Special Topics in Entrepreneurship: Developing a New Venture (a class specifically dedicated to undergraduate and graduate students participating in the New Venture Challenge competition, see below), and more. These classes offer undergraduates the chance to learn about entrepreneurship in an academic environment from world-class Professors, while additionally offering undergrads a space to interact with graduate students who often have had experience working with or starting their own new enterprises.

**The Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation** is specifically designated to offer students the opportunity to advance their knowledge and practice of entrepreneurship and innovation through a broad range of activities, including academics, research, conferences, competitions, and global and community outreach. The Polsky Center is a great resource for students interested in entrepreneurship to learn more about the various resources on campus and in the city that are available to them.

Competitions

There are numerous entrepreneurship competitions around the world that UChicago undergraduates can and do participate in. The University even hosts its own competitions every year. To name a few:

**The Social Innovation Competition** is specially dedicated for undergraduate students. The competition challenges students to create a viable plan for a for-profit or non-profit enterprise that innovatively creates a positive social impact on the university, local, national, or global community. The winning team of the Social Innovation Competition receives $10,000 to launch their social enterprise.

**The New Venture Challenge** hosted by Booth is open to undergraduates and is one of the nation's premier business competitions, allowing students to act upon their entrepreneurial ideas within a supportive and highly rewarding environment. Prizes in the form of cash, legal services, and professional consulting are awarded to the top teams that make it to the final phase of competition. The winning team typically receives $25,000.

Student Organizations

**The UChicago Entrepreneurship Society (aka Kairos Society)** is a hub of student
entrepreneurship at UChicago. Their mission is to create a community for student entrepreneurs to meet, network, and learn. The group organizes panels, meet-ups, and additionally helps facilitate travel to entrepreneurship conferences students are interested in.

**EnvisionDo** is a student-run organization that seeks to develop a new generation of socially-conscious leaders by providing young people with a platform to create impactful changes. Their projects in the past have included facilitating a student incubator program, organizing an annual conference, and hosting Inspiration 2.0 speaker series.

**University of Chicago Women in Business (UCWiB)** is dedicated to advancing the success of enterprising young women entering the corporate world by providing a platform in which their specific concerns and challenges can be addressed proactively. Through educational, leadership, and mentorship initiatives, WiB exposes women to a variety of business careers and provides extensive networking opportunities. UCWiB serves as a liaison between the student body and the corporate world, offering a unique opportunity for women at the University of Chicago to expand and sharpen their knowledge of business opportunities, giving them the skills to succeed as future leaders.

**Anecdote:**

"Before coming to UChicago, I knew next to nothing about entrepreneurship—I barely even knew how to spell the word! It was only until my third year that I stumbled upon it, as it were. I met a student entrepreneur who was interested in helping me bring attention to a major flood disaster that happened in Pakistan. Together we brainstormed an idea to host a social entrepreneurship competition, inviting our peers to come up with ventures aimed at benefiting flood victims in Pakistan. I never would have guessed that our little idea would have gained the success it did. We called our competition idea RISE, or the Road to Innovative Social Entrepreneurship.

RISE soon grew into an international competition, attracting students from all around the world, including Germany, Columbia, Pakistan, and elsewhere. Thanks to other strong student entrepreneurs on campus who comprised our board, we were able to secure over $5,000 from the Coca Cola Company to help implement the competition’s winning venture in Pakistan. Though the idea for RISE was born in October of 2010, a mere six months later we had students from top schools around the world submitting their social ventures to our student-run competition. We received ample financial support to host a weekend-long conference for the competition from the University, which strongly supported our efforts to take our initial idea and manifest it into reality. The competition’s winning venture is currently being implemented in Pakistan, thanks to a partnership we secured with an organization in Pakistan and our fundraising efforts to obtain grants from corporate sponsors.

RISE is perhaps the most ambitious endeavor I have been involved in, from start to finish. Directing RISE sparked in me a passion to be involved with social entrepreneurial endeavors
that work to innovatively create and sustain deep-seated change. In addition to RISE, I was a member of the Kairos Society, attended a social entrepreneurship conference in New York (which the University helped pay for me to attend!), have taken courses about merges in the Private/Public Sector, and am a current semi-finalist for the Social Innovation Competition. From my experience, UChicago offers an incredibly vibrant, supportive, and enriching atmosphere to help students interested in entrepreneurship make their ideas into a reality.”

**Academic Teams at the University of Chicago**

Participating in Academic Teams is a fantastic way to apply things that you’ve learned in the classroom in a different setting and to learn new skills and information that you might otherwise not be exposed to in your usual classes. For example, participating on the Debate Team is a great way for someone who might not be a Political Science or Public Policy major to learn and engage in discussions about current politics and world affairs. The University has five official academic teams and, together, they make up the “Coalition of Academic Teams” (CAT). The five teams work together to ensure that the University supports each team. CAT is comprised of The Chicago Debate Society, College Bowl, Model UN, Mock Trial, and Chess.

Each team competes in their event against other teams across the nation, and each belongs to its own circuit. Some teams travel more than others, some stay local in the Midwest, and some travel as far as to California and New York. The great thing about each team is that participation can vary as much as a student wants: you can be as involved as you want to be. For example, some members of the Debate Society travel almost every other weekend to compete at tournaments across the country, while other members compete once a term. Everyone at UChicago is involved in a lot of activities, and everyone understands this: some students are willing and able to give up four hours a week to Mock Trial, and others aren’t. That’s totally okay: each team tailors its training and participation schedules to accommodate all levels of time commitment.

The University funds each team so that travel does not cost the individual student any money. The University understands the scholarly and social benefits that participating in academic teams brings to students, so is eager to help finance the teams so that as many students as possible can participate in a meaningful way.

Academic teams aren’t just a great way to pursue research, they’re also a great way to get to build friendships with students from other schools. The academic teams travel to competitions, and those events are full of students from our peer institutions. No matter what activity you’re participating in, it’s not all about competition and winning – academic teams allow students to build communities of friends outside of UChicago. Through these teams, students meet other students with similar interests and passions from all over the country.

None of the teams expect students to come in with complete expertise or mastery of the
activity, and most do not make cuts. For the most part, the teams are meant to foster a welcoming and educational environment, and help students that are interested in participating in the activity to do so. Many students come to UChicago with absolutely no previous experience, and all of the teams engage in extensive training for first years.

The Arts

The University of Chicago offers many opportunities in the arts, both through academic programs and extracurricularly. The Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts provides a home and creative space for the more than 75 student-run art groups and professional arts organizations associated with the University. The eleven-story building will become a “mixing bowl” for the arts on campus and provide space and resources for collaboration between UChicago’s various arts programs.

Performing Arts

For students interested in the performing arts, the University’s Theater and Performance Studies (TAPS) provides classes ranging from the history of drama to hands-on acting techniques. Court Theatre, the University of Chicago’s professional theatre, has been called “the most consistently excellent theatre in America.” In addition to offering free and reduced price student tickets, Court theatre offers administrative and production internships to U of C students.

For students interested in performing on stage, they can join one of many performance groups including University Theatre, one of the oldest student-run theatre groups in the country, Off-Off Campus, the improv group whose members went on to found the Second City, The Dean’s Men, Classical Entertainment Society, Le Vorris and Vox Circus, and Occam’s Razor.

Dance groups include: Argentine Tango Club, Ballroom and Latin Dance Association, Bhangra Team, Chicago Swing Dance Society, Gingarte Capoeira Club, Middle Eastern Dance, Raas Team, PhiNix (break dance and choreo crew), Tap That!, University Ballet, and more.

Visual Art

Students interested in the Visual Arts can take classes in the Art History and Visual Art departments, where they will explore interdisciplinary approaches to understanding visual art and its importance to human life. The University has three art museums on campus, the Smart Museum of Art, The Renaissance Society (one of the first galleries in America to show off Picasso’s work), and the Oriental Institute Museum. Work of current students is displayed in the DOVA Temporary gallery and the Special Collections Research Center home to the University of Chicago Libraries’ rare books, archives, and manuscript collections. Students are also able to display works in the Logan Center for the arts exhibition space.
Student visual art groups include The Glass Eyeball: UChicago's Photography Club, the Japanese Animation Society, Outside the Lines: The University of Chicago Art Club, Science in Art (an art exhibit series by scientist-artists from Chicago and Fermi and Argonne labs and local Chicago artists whose topics are science), and the Smart Museum Activities Committee.

Film

Students interested in studying film can explore the Cinema and Media Studies program which is dedicated to pursuing innovative work in the history, culture, and theory of film and related media as well as its Film Studies Center, which provides an ideal site for students and faculty to explore film and other media and plays a vital role in fostering serious interdisciplinary film scholarship.

Doc Films is the longest continuously running student film society in the nation, which has shown movies to the UChicago campus and greater Chicago community for over 75 years. Doc shows one film every night of the academic year, and each week is themed based on a certain style or genre of film, or the works of one actor or director. Student interested in making film should explore Fire Escape Films, the society of student filmmakers whose events include the 48-hour Film Festival and screening student films regularly on campus and at film festivals.

The basement of the Logan Center for the Arts is also home to the Logan Media Center, where students can utilize free AV equipment, production spaces (audio recording, editing suites), software, and technical training. This allows students who want to pursue their own artistic endeavors outside of an RSO the ability to do so.

Music

The University's Department of Music, in addition to classes on music theory, composition and history, contains a diverse performance program open to all U of C students, which includes groups like the Central Javanese Gamelan Ensemble, Chamber Music Program, Jazz X-tet, Middle East Music Ensemble, New Music Ensemble, University Chamber and Symphony Orchestras, and Wind Ensemble. The University is also committed to bringing world class groups to campus through programs like Contempo, which hosts our multiple Grammy Award winning Ensemble-In-Residence, Eighth Blackbird, Rockefeller Chapel Concert Series, and The University of Chicago Presents.

Student music groups include WHPK, the U of C radio station which has been committed to broadcasting non-mainstream music and public affairs to the University and surrounding neighborhoods for over 50 years, The Major Activities Board, which brings popular musicians and comedians to campus each quarter (recent performances have included Carly Rae Jepsen, Jeremih, Sasheer Zamata, and Donald Glover), and the multiple student performance and a capella groups, which include Voices in Your Head (who have placed in ICCA finals 3 of the
past 4 years), Chicago Men’s A Cappella, Rhythm and Jews, Golosa: The University of Chicago Russian Choir, Pep Band, Soul Umoja, Men in Drag, Run for Cover, and Unaccompanied Women.

Other

In addition to the above opportunities and programs, students interested in modeling and the world of fashion can participate in MODA, the U of C’s fashion group which hosts a Designer Bootcamp, yearly fashion shows, and the MODA fashion magazine.

The Festival of The Arts (FOTA) funds the artistic endeavors of students, faculty, and staff. Every spring for ten days, the campus becomes a living art gallery and performance space, filled with paintings, films, installations, plays fashion, dance, and music.

Famous Alumni:

Katherine Dunham, PhB’36, Kimberly Peirce, AB’90, Susan Sontag, AB’51 Kurt Vonnegut, AM’71, Phillip Glass AB’56

ArtPass

A UChicago Student ID functions as the UChicago ArtPass, which provides free admission to the Art Institute of Chicago and Museum of Contemporary Art, free performances at Court Theatre and University of Chicago Presents, reduced rate dance classes at the Hyde Park School of Dance, and student membership benefits at the Museum of Science and Industry, Smart Museum, Oriental Institute, Renaissance Society, and Hyde Park Art Center.

Anecdote:

“I have found the arts community at the University of Chicago to be incredibly welcoming. I have been dancing for most of my life, so I was pleased to find a large dance community on campus which has grown every year. I have been able to continue practicing and performing in styles that I am used to while exploring new genres of movement and performance I had never dreamed of learning. In addition, I became heavily involved in University Theatre my second year, and because of the positive experiences I have had with the students and professional who guide the program, I am looking forward to a career in arts administration.

I have modeled, danced, sang, and acted on stage and in films. I have worked at professional theaters in Chicago, and, using my ArtsPass, I’ve seen award winning plays and world-class art exhibitions at the numerous theatres and galleries in Chicago. My favorite class hands down at the University has been Neo-Futurism, which is taught by the founder of the Neo-Futurists, Greg Allen. Receiving one-on-one attention from a Chicago theatre professional and working with a
small dedicated group of students was an amazing experience and one I never would have had elsewhere."
Spirituality at the University of Chicago

There are some 64 religious and spiritual groups and networks at the University, and many religious institutions and places of worship in and around Hyde Park.

Some religious and spiritual traditions have houses (buildings) and other resources for students and members of the University community, including:

- Augustana Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry
- Brent House, the Episcopal Chaplaincy at the University of Chicago
- Calvert House, the Catholic Center at the University of Chicago
- Chabad Jewish Center
- Hillel, the Newberger Hillel Jewish Center at the University of Chicago
- Quaker House
- Unitarian Universalist Church and Campus Ministry

Rockefeller Chapel

Rockefeller is a non-religious space that is often used daily for gatherings of various religious and spiritual communities. All events are open to all interested participants.

Some events that take place there include:

- Zen Buddhist meditation and dharma talks take place every Wednesday at 5 pm in the Chancel.
- Hindu and Muslim students say daily prayers in the Hindu and Muslim prayer rooms in the Interreligious Center.
- Muslim families gather weekly for adult and children’s educational programs.

There is also an Interreligious Center in Rockefeller Chapel. The Interreligious Center on the lower level of Rockefeller Chapel is home to prayer rooms that are accessible to any member of the University community with a current University ID card. It also houses the Uncommon Room, a meeting room with a kitchen which is used for a variety of events; an exhibition space; staff offices; and the carillon practice studio.

Meditation Sessions

- **Twenty Minutes Still**, twenty minutes of meditation for those of any tradition or background, is offered at 8 am every weekday in the Chapel.
- **Samatha meditation** for beginners takes place on Wednesday evenings in the Uncommon Room.
- **Restorative Yoga** takes place every Tuesday at 6:45 pm in the Chancel, followed on some Tuesdays by inter-spiritual **Drumming Circles**.
- **Mindfulness meditation** classes take place Mondays at 3 pm and Wednesdays at 2 pm, with an extra drop-in half hour for all who are interested on Wednesdays at 3 pm.

The Spiritual Life Office is directed by Elizabeth Davenport, Dean of Rockefeller Chapel, and
Jigna Shah, Assistant Dean of Rockefeller Chapel and Director of Spiritual Life.

- The Spiritual Life Office provides support to members of the campus community of any religious background and also to those who seek spiritual life beyond traditional boundaries.

**Health Promotion and Wellness at UChicago**

There is an annual Wellapalooza that features events such as: Neck Massage, Dogs to Pet, Argo Tea, Make-your-own Trail Mix, Drum Circle, Bike Tune-Ups, Hula Hoop & Jump Rope Contest, Scented Sachets, and Health & Wellness Resources.

I would suggest checking out the Facebook group for a better sense of how wellness is promoted on campus: [https://www.facebook.com/UChicagoHealthandWellness](https://www.facebook.com/UChicagoHealthandWellness)

**Multicultural Students/Students of Color**

The University has the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs or “OMSA”

- They encourage cross-cultural dialogue.
- They advocate for all African-American, Asian-American, Latino, and Native Americans in all divisions of the university.
- They host a lot of events throughout the year.
- The campus celebrates different **Heritage Celebrations** throughout the academic year.
- OMSA offers **Orientation Programs** for both first year undergraduate students and graduate and professional students to support their transition to the University of Chicago. These programs include panels featuring current students of color and receptions that allow students to meet and mingle.
- The **Welcome Back Reception** is intended to welcome new and returning students back to campus. This program serves as an opportunity to introduce OMSA services and resources and begin to build relationships with the student of color population.

*There are several cultural organizations that are often based on community service and celebrating culture and togetherness:*

- Organization of Black Students
- African and Caribbean Student Association
- Chinese Undergraduate Student Association
- Organization of Latin American Students
- South Asian Students Association (SASA)
- Turkish Students Association
The overall sense is that there is something for everyone at this school. People don’t have to be defined by their cultural background or orientation, but there are support groups readily available. People aren’t isolated or restricted to one group. Going here is a great way to meet people from all walks of life.

QUEER STUDENT LIFE AT UCHICAGO

Anecdote:

“When I was looking at schools, I had a lot of concerns about the opportunities UChicago would provide for me as a queer student. My friends who were already in the College warned me that the LGBTQ student population was not very visible, and nothing in the University’s promotional literature indicated to me that the school was particularly committed to providing resources to LGBTQ students. Academically and intellectually, I was certain that UChicago was the best fit for me of all the schools I was considering, but my reservations about this particular aspect of UChicago social life were so strong that I hesitated to confirm my enrollment.

Fortunately, when I did ultimately choose UChicago, my fears regarding queer student life on campus (or lack thereof) were quickly allayed. First of all, there is an active LGBTQ community on campus - not a huge one, but one that is certainly engaged and supportive. I attended all of the O-Week events geared toward incoming LGBTQ students and found everyone there to be incredibly friendly and welcoming. Many of my friends are heavily involved in Queers and Associates, attend weekly QGroup discussion sessions, or regularly participate in LGBTQIA-oriented community service activities.

Furthermore, as far as I can tell, the only reason the queer student presence is not larger or more visible is that it doesn’t have to be - discussion groups, coming out support groups, and formal and informal programming exist if you want them, but UChicago is not the kind of place where most students need them. I have found UChicago to be one of the most open-minded, most accepting, least homophobic communities I’ve ever been a part of, and it is my impression that if students choose not to get actively involved in programming or student groups, it is not for lack of access or opportunity. As a student here, my sexual orientation is pretty much a non-issue - it’s a part of myself I feel completely comfortable talking about, and an aspect of my identity that my friends and peers (straight and gay alike) fully respect and celebrate.”

Resources

Orientation

In addition to your Chicago Life Meetings and house trips, there are several Orientation Week events geared specifically toward incoming queer students.
At Queer 101, you'll hear from a panel of current students about their experiences and what resources are available. There's also an LGBTQ Welcome (Back) Reception where you can mingle with other first years as well as upperclassmen while eating delicious free food and signing up for the various student group list hosts.

During O-Week, don’t forget to pick up (U)Chicago Queer Compass, the official LGBTQ programming office publication for incoming students, as well as (dis)orientation, an unofficial, student-produced zine on the lesser-known aspects of campus and Chicago life (queer and otherwise).

The LGBTQ Programming Office at 5710

5710 (located at 5710 S. Woodlawn Ave.) is home to both the LGBTQ Programming Office and the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. It's a great space where students can just hang out and do homework (don't forget to check out the queer lending library!), but it's also where the Office hosts Out to Lunch, a series of brown bag lunch discussions facilitated by professors; the Queer Film Series; Crossroads, a quarterly event that celebrates the multiple intersecting identities of LGBTQ students; the OUTSpoken Speaker Series; and Rainbow Graduation, a special ceremony for graduating LGBTQ students.

The LGBTQ Programming Office also organizes weekly discussion groups called QGroups. These include:

- QWorum (lesbians/queer women)
- Over the Rainbow (bisexual)
- Lavender Maroons (gay men)
- Pronoun Hoedown (transgender/genderqueer)
- Intersection (queer students of color)
- Queer Spirit (queer spirituality)

RSOs and Events

The largest queer Registered Student Organization on campus is Queers & Associates, or Q&A. Q&A hosts weekly meetings and movie nights and organizes the Coming Out Monologues and Pride Week. Pride Week includes events such as:

- Genderfuck (the drag ball)
- Queer Bowling
- Day of Silence
- Interfaith Vigil
- T-shirt give-aways
- Open mics

Out and About, another LGBTQ-oriented RSO, focuses on community service. There are also two queer intramural sports teams, a student-run Queer Zine project, and various events/groups
which, while not explicitly queer, have a strong queer component (such as Vita Excolatur, a sex and sexuality magazine, and the Lascivious Ball).

Support

The University of Chicago provides a broad network of support for LGBTQ students, from counseling to professional mentoring.

Student Counseling Services hosts a Coming-Out Support Group, and there are “Let’s Talk” sessions (free counseling drop-in hours) throughout the year.

The University has a Bias Response Team that is on-call 24/7 and made up of administrators who support and guide students in handling a bias incident.

The LGBTQ Mentoring Program matches LGBTQ students with alumni, faculty, or graduate student mentors who provide guidance and advice. Similarly, Career Advancement has a specific section of its website devoted to LGBTQ professional resources.

Athletics

Fun Facts:
- Original school’s color was yellow from 1892-1894 but then switched to Maroon on May 5, 1894 (Phoenix was adopted as mascot in 1910)
- Undefeated against Notre Dame
- First ever Heisman Trophy Winner
  - Jay Berwanger, 1935
  - Gave the trophy to his aunt who used it as a doorstop
  - Left a scar under Gerald Ford’s left eye in a game vs UMich
- UMich’s fight song “The Victors” is about a game vs. UChicago (we lost)
- President Hutchins (who cut the football program) is famously quoted as saying “Whenever I feel the urge to exercise, I just lie down and wait until it passes”
- Once sent a basketball into space to honor Edward Hubble who played basketball here
- First self-sustaining nuclear reactor was built under the football stadium
- Inspired the Chicago Bears’ logo (same “C” logo as UChicago)

Varsity Sports:
- 20 varsity sports (latest: Women’s Lacrosse, started 2019)
- Division III in the UAA conference (other schools: Carnegie Melon, NYU, Emory, WashU)
- Order of the C program supports student athletes and connects them to alumni (basically networking)
**Club Sports:**
- Approx. 1,100 people participate in 39 different clubs
- Two levels: athletic & recreational (main difference is level and amount of competition)
- Fun examples: Ultimate Frisbee, Table Tennis, Handball, Rock Climbing, Cricket, Paintball

**Intramurals:**
- Approx. 8,500 undergraduate & graduate students participate in intramural sports program (this double counts ppl who do multiple sports though)
- 32 intramural sports
  - Fun examples: Inner Tube Water Polo, Broomball, Bowling, Euchre (card game), Foosball, Wiffleball

**Fitness Classes:**
- FitChicago Program
  - Free classes such as Cardio Kickboxing, Yoga, Pilates, Boot Camp, and Zumba
- Free sessions on how to use fitness machines in the gym
- Private swim lessons ($35 for 30 mins)