

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Department is developing community-based educational partnerships that will enhance student learning and consciousness raising experiences about the educational needs of Latinos in the Twin Cities. The partnerships will evolve as we identify resources to expand this work. Below is information about one of our community education partner programs.

In the Spring of 2005 the department launched the Engaged Department's Undergraduates Challenging Access to Education (EDUCATE) Program, a tutoring and mentoring program. Its purpose is to enhance the academic, intellectual, and community-based learning of college students by providing community partners with culturally and linguistically appropriate resources, experiences, and expertise. We are currently placing tutors at Webster Open School in Northeast Minneapolis, Academia Cesar Chavez in St. Paul, and La Escuelita in South Minneapolis. If you are interested in participating please contact us. Collaborative work at community sites includes on-campus partners: La Raza Student Cultural Center and the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence.



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CHICANO STUDIES

AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MISSION

Through teaching, research, and community partnerships the mission of the Department of Chicano Studies at the University of Minnesota is to promote critical understanding of the histories, politics, and cultures of Chicana/os and Latina/os of the United States. The department accomplishes this mission by offering a rigorous undergraduate degree program as well as an extensive public programming calendar. One of our goals is to support and increase the presence of Chicana/os and Latina/os in the intellectual, political, and social professions, both within and beyond the Midwest. Both efforts promote cultural affirmation, social justice values and community service. Students in our courses gain insight into cultural dynamics, social processes and the historical significance of the contributions of Chicana/os as a group. Students also develop the necessary analytical and methodological skills to better understand the emerging multicultural character of the nation and the key role that Chicana/os and Latina/os have to play in society.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Department of Chicano Studies strives to cultivate and maintain an intricate and intimate relationship with Chicano and Latino communities, locally, regionally and nationally. The goal of Community Outreach is to create, foster and strengthen community-university relationships in a respectful and responsible manner. Through research and grant opportunities, we hope to promote university-community collaborations and establish a pipeline of students into our degree program in particular and the University of Minnesota in general. Our relationships are built through program and event-specific collaborations as well as other educational and relationship-building opportunities. On the national level, we are building networks to advance our profile, and to enhance our awareness of Chicana/o-Latina/o educational resources and opportunities existing across the nation. Our collaborative efforts provide energy and

inspiration to our goal of shaping public discourse and policies on issues of critical importance to the Chicana/o-Latina/o community. ¡Adelante!

MAJOR & MINOR IN CHICANO STUDIES

The Department of Chicano Studies offers rigorously designed interdisciplinary major and minor degree programs focusing on the social, historical, and cultural experience of the Mexican and Latino populations in the United States from an interdisciplinary perspective. The B.A. is designed to meet the needs of students preparing for careers serving Chicana/o-Latina/o constituencies. The degree is also designed to prepare students for graduate and advanced professional study in programs in which research and critical thinking skills on race, class, and gender is an asset. With a B.A. in Chicano Studies you will be prepared to enter graduate school or contribute to the advancement of the social, cultural, personal and political well-being of your community as an educator, researcher, community leader, or community advocate. Critical thinking and effective oral and written communication skills are developed across the Department's curriculum, as are opportunities for community engagement.

A Bachelor of Arts in Chicano Studies requires 36 credits, including the completion of 18 core requirements and 18 electives within designated thematic groupings of course offerings. Majors are required to write a researched-based Senior Project that serves as a capstone intellectual experience to the degree program. Students are required to work closely with a professor and take a pro-seminar course simultaneously to ensure timely completion of their Senior Project. The minor requires 18 credits. In addition, students must complete 9 additional credits of their own choosing. The major is designed to give students flexibility to select a curriculum that suits their professional and intellectual goals.



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

In collaboration with other units on campus and community organizations, the department offers intellectual and cultural public programming designed to promote cultural affirmation, social justice values, and community engagement. These include lectures by scholars, community advocates, cultural workers, as well as films and a venue for musical, literary, and visual artists. Check out the newsletter and calendar on our website for information on forthcoming events.

CASA SOL

A First-Year Living and Learning Community

In the fall of 2005 an exciting new initiative for first year students will be launched by the Department of Chicano Studies in collaboration with campus partners, General College, the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, the Office of Admissions, La Raza Student Cultural Center, and Housing and Residential Life—a living and learning community entitled CASA SOL. A cohort of 20 students will have the opportunity to live in close proximity to one another in a Sanford Hall, a U of M dorm, take selected classes together and be part of a nurturing community of support. The cohort design fosters team work, leadership skills, and active engagement with UM as well as the Twin Cities Latino community through service learning opportunities. Students in CASA SOL will participate in community building activities, culturally specific field trips and events, and will receive additional academic support. CASA SOL promotes Community Activism, Students Achievement and Student Opportunities for Leadership.

