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These Are the Major Universities That Offer Chicano Studies, and Their Work Is More Important Than Ever

By **Ashley Patricia Parra** - May 20, 2022

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Image courtesy of chalkbeat.com

In many communities, there is a history of **ethnic studies** programs, particularly Mexican-American and Chicano Studies programs. In K-12 schools, these programs are being attacked and revoked.

The history of Mexican-American/Ethnic studies in K-12 schools is not taught in typical U.S. history classes. Many Chicanx students were and continue to be left without learning about their histories.

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PBS's "Precious Knowledge" [documentary](#) highlights the history of Ethnic Studies in the Tucson Unified School District and the racist pushback from Arizona politicians at the time.

Back when the Tucson Unified School District established the Ethnic Studies program, the Arizona legislature was passing [SB1070](#). The fight for the right to teach students about Mexican-American history posed a threat to several anti-immigration campaigns and policies. Many politicians at the time felt that ethnic studies classes were rooted in being "anti-American."

Though "Precious Knowledge" focuses on schools in the Tucson Unified School District, this history runs deep in several Mexican-American communities. This is why incorporating Chicano Studies as part of Mexican-American curricula is, in and of itself, a radical act.

Several universities across the U.S. offer the opportunity to major or minor in Latin American studies. Still, the field of Mexican-American studies provides the opportunity to learn about the Chicanx identity in depth.

This is why we have compiled a list of some of the best Mexican-American undergraduate and graduate programs in the U.S.

University of Arizona

Housed in the César Chávez Building, the Mexican-American studies program at the University of Arizona offers programs for both undergraduate and graduate students.

UA undergraduates have the opportunity to major or minor in Mexican-American Studies (MAS), and there are several graduate opportunities. The department also offers a Cultural Competency in Mexican/Mexican-American and Border Communities certificate. Find more info [here](#)!



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The Hispanic influence on Tucson's art culture is undeniable. So today, we're celebrating spaces and people that help keep Tucson's Hispanic heritage alive through art!

One of those spaces is Raices Taller - "roots workshop". This art gallery and workshop sponsors "activities to promote the understanding and appreciation of art by the public, especially by the traditional and historical cultures of Tucson, by minorities and others underserved by the arts."

During COVID-19 they've opened their first completely online exhibition "Corazones Unidos". They hope this online collection of art will help make connections with creations from the heart made during the pandemic. It was curated to be a celebration and reminder that art has the power to unite and connect us during times of crisis.

Head to our stories to visit this online exhibition and learn about more places and people that celebrate and promote Tucson's hispanic heritage through art!

The image above is "Maternal" acrylic on canvas ©2020 by Javier Valenzuela.

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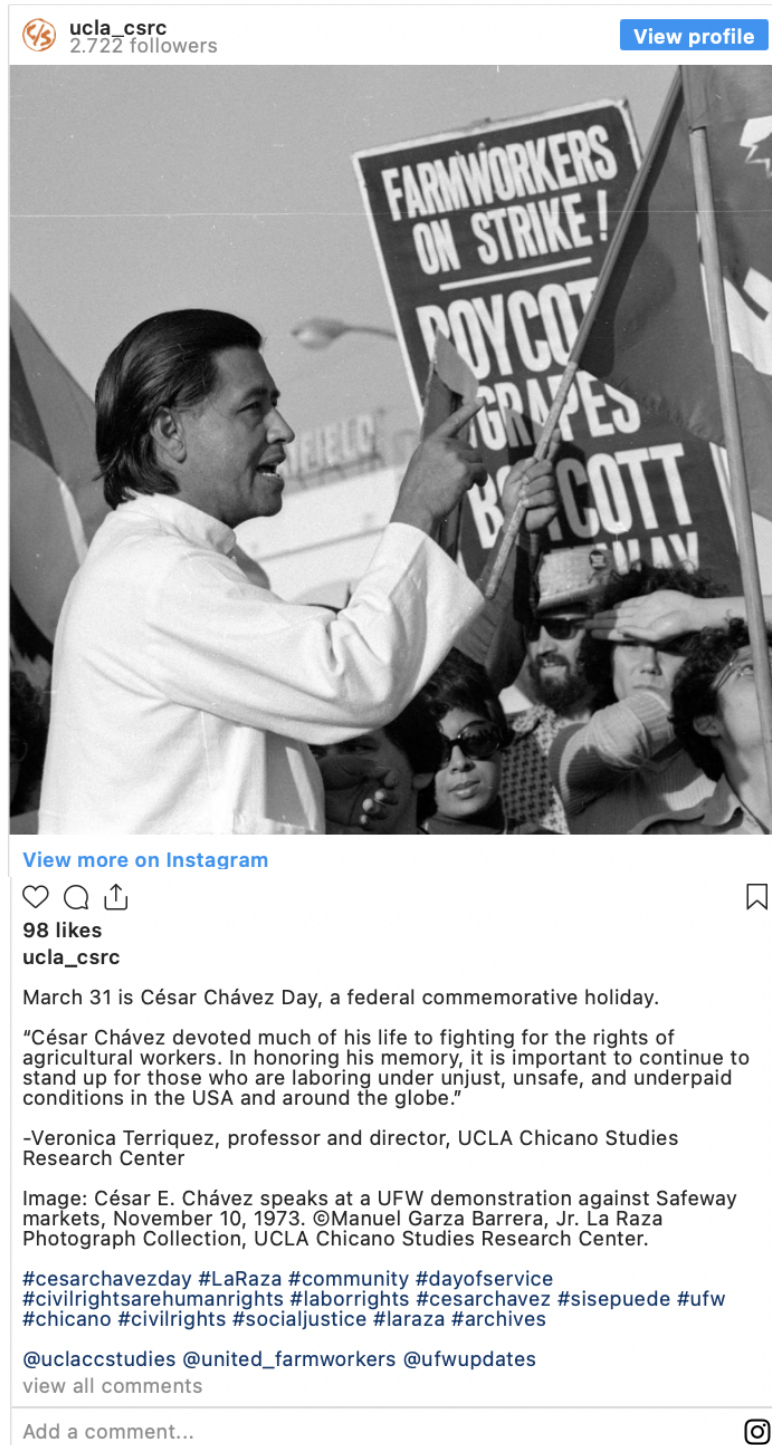
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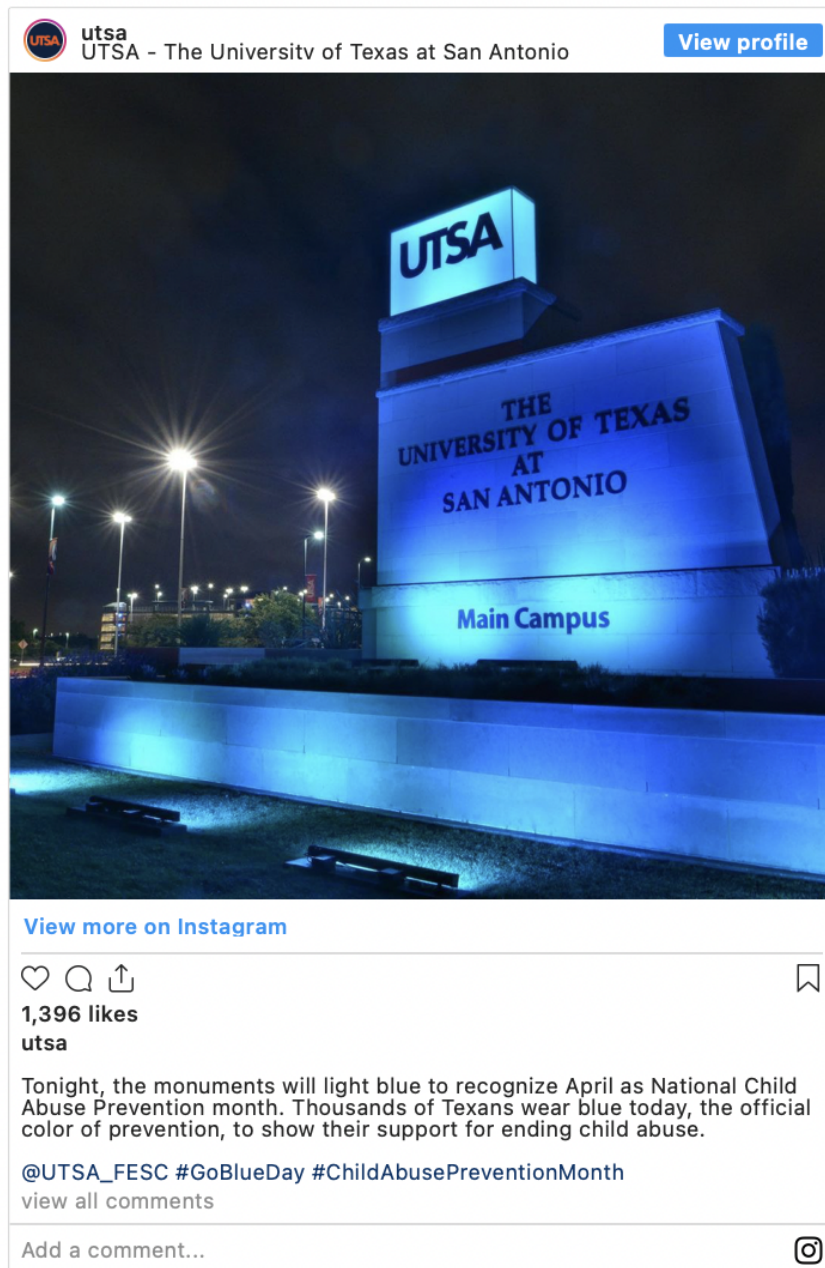
The University of California, Los Angeles

Like UA, UCLA provides its students with Mexican-American studies undergraduate and graduate programs.

With about 44 faculty teaching in the department, the **topics covered** in coursework range from "Chicana Feminism, day labor and informal markets, Chicana/o art history, sonic and spatial resistance, undocumented Latina/o/x immigrants, sociolinguistics, Central Americans in the US, and several other concentrations."



The University of Texas, San Antonio



The University of Texas-San Antonio offers undergraduate majors and graduate programs in Mexican-American studies. Undergraduates majoring in Chicano studies can select from four concentrations: cultural studies, history, music, and social justice. You can find more information on their [website](#).