

"It's going to be the humanities that solve these problems, and it's so important that that our students take on the humanities as the salvation of humankind."

Project | Future of Humanities Education
Industry | University Ecosystem + Insights

How might we position UC as a leader in the future of humanities education? Humanities disciplines have seen a steady decline in interest and enrollment over the last several decades. UC's Department of Humanities reached out to NIS to forecast the future of education in the humanities and develop aspirational plans to ensure that UC remains at the forefront of humanities education, no matter what that looks like.

Strategies + Skills

landscape analysis
stakeholder interviews
insight creation
data analysis
design thinking
forecasting

Challenge + Approach

Following the initial kick-off meeting with the client, we turned our attention to understanding the perception and decline of the humanities in today's world. After conducting desk research, landscape analysis, and stakeholder interviews, the team created key insights that summarized the findings. Then, we employed several design thinking ideation strategies and built out the most successful ideas. The final presentation consisted of a slide deck showcasing six fully fleshed-out ideas as well as an appendix of additional ideas.

Scope + Team Stats

- 11 NIS students from 12 different majors across design, engineering, performing arts, and arts + sciences.
- 50 total data inputs with over 10 stakeholder interviews
- 6 final ideas with 10 more provided in an appendix document

Impact

The NIS project team provided inspiring and bold ideas to Jay and other faculty from A+S. Jay was appreciative of all six ideas we presented but was especially interested in the summer camp and the new major. He will be sending out our presentation and some additional documentation to other faculty and leadership at A+S and other UC colleges. Jay has floated the idea of a potential follow-up project with NIS in the future.