**INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, BA - INDIVIDUALLY STRUCTURED MAJOR**

**Introduction**
Please click here (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/) to see Individually Structured Major department information.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Studies Major (ISM) provides students with the opportunity to construct an individualized major that meets their unique needs and interests, and which results in a B.A. This flexible program allows students to follow academic pursuits that transcend traditional department or college boundaries, combining coursework from two, three, or even more academic units to explore a particular theme. An ISM tends to be more focused than traditional majors and should not be considered a default academic pursuit. It is intended for students who do not wish to commit to a traditional major.

These degree requirements are subject to periodic revision by the academic department, and the College reserves the right to make exceptions and substitutions as judged necessary in individual cases. Therefore, the College strongly urges students to consult regularly with their major advisor and CLAS advisor to confirm the best plans of study before finalizing them.

**Program Delivery**
- This is an on-campus program.

**Declaring This Major**
- Click here (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/records-registration/registration/declare-change-major-minor/) to go to information about declaring a major.
- In order to declare an Interdisciplinary Studies Major, students are required to submit a program plan that includes a proposal and a course contract. Students should aim to complete a program plan before the end of the sophomore year. The proposal should be approved before students have taken one-third of the classes listed in their course contracts. Copies of your completed ISM proposal and course contract must be filed with the Associate Dean for Diversity, Outreach and Initiatives, and with your CLAS Academic Advisor.
- The ISM proposal must include:
  - A description of your chosen theme (see below for sample themes).
  - An explanation of why the theme requires coursework that integrates multiple disciplines. You can choose a theme within interdisciplinary frameworks already established in CLAS but which do not offer BA degrees. These frameworks include Chinese Studies, Health Humanities, Law Studies, Religious Studies, Social Justice, Sustainability, and Women's and Gender Studies. You are also encouraged to create your own frameworks.
  - An outline of specific learning objectives for the ISM (see below for sample learning objectives).
  - Approval from the Associate Dean for Diversity, Outreach and Initiatives.
- A discipline is defined as a single department or program such as biology, ethnic studies or math. The ISM program plan must comply with the required and elective course requirements as pass/fail.

**Program Requirements**

**General Requirements**
To earn a degree, students must satisfy all requirements in each of the areas below, in addition to their individual major requirements.

- CU Denver General Graduation Requirements (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/graduation/general-graduation-requirements/)
- CU Denver Core Requirements (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/graduation-undergraduate-core-requirements/)
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Graduation Requirements (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/#graduationrequirementstext)
- Click here (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/) for information about Academic Policies

**Program Requirements**
The ISM program plan requires coursework over two or three disciplines.

- A discipline is defined as a single department or program such as biology, ethnic studies or math. The ISM program plan must comply with the following policies:
  1. Students must complete a minimum of 42 credits from approved coursework.
  2. Students must complete a minimum of 18 upper division (3000 level and above) credit hours with a minimum of 9 upper division level credit hours in Disciplines I and II.
  3. Students must earn a minimum grade of C- (1.7) in all major courses taken at CU Denver and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. All graded attempts in required and elective courses are calculated in major GPA. Students cannot complete major or ancillary course requirements as pass/fail.
  4. A minimum of 9 credits in Disciplines I and II, in addition to ISMA 3100 Learning Across Disciplines and ISMA 4900 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone (24 credit hours) must be completed with CU Denver faculty.

**Program Restrictions, Allowances and Recommendations**

1. Once the ISM course contract is filed, any changes to coursework must be approved by the student’s Primary Faculty Advisor and
resubmitted to the Associate Dean for Diversity, Outreach and Initiatives and to the student’s CLAS Academic Advisor.

2. A minimum of 30 credit hours must be completed in liberal arts and sciences course work.

3. A maximum of one discipline (15 credits) may be outside CLAS.

4. A third optional discipline may be a mixture of course work, excluding courses from the first and second disciplines.

5. An ISM title must be consistent with the academic theme and disciplines in the program plan.

6. Students may petition the Associate Dean for Diversity, Outreach and Initiatives to fulfill their introduction and capstone outside of ISMA 3100 Learning Across Disciplines and ISMA 4900 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone.

7. The ISM proposal should be approved before students have taken one-third of the classes listed in their course contracts.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

**Student**
- creates the ISM proposal and course contract (in collaboration with faculty advisors)
- meets regularly with ISM Primary Advisor to assess progress through ISM
- fulfills requirements of ISM course contract

**Associate Dean for Diversity, Outreach and Initiatives**
- approves student proposals for ISM
- signs off on ISM course contracts
- maintains records of ISM applications
- certifies graduation

**Primary Faculty Advisor**
- approves ISM course contract
- meets with ISM advisees to monitor progress
- oversees advisees’ capstone projects

**Other Faculty Advisors**
- approve course contract
- help with capstone projects when needed

**CLAS Academic Advisor**
- reviews overall course contract
- approves exempt core area

### Coursework Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take the following</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISMA 3100</td>
<td>Learning Across Disciplines 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISMA 4900</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Coursework</td>
<td>36-42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete a minimum of 15 credit hours in two disciplines.

Complete the remainder credit hours by contracting with additional disciplines or by creating a “grab bag”: choosing courses from a variety of disciplines that suit the ISM plan. Up to 15 credit hours for an ISM can come from outside of CLAS.

**Example Breakdowns**

Sample breakdowns of what ISM coursework might look like:

**Discipline I: 15 hours**
- Discipline II: 15 hours
- Discipline III: 9 hours
- Discipline IV: 9 hours

**Total: 48 credit hours**

**Discipline I: 18 hours**
- Discipline II: 15 hours
- "Grab Bag" from four disciplines: 12 hours

**Total: 45 credit hours**

**Discipline I: 24 hours**
- Discipline II: 18 hours

**Total: 42 credit hours**

**Example Themes**

Examples of Interdisciplinary Studies Major themes could include:

1. Global Health
2. Victorian Studies
3. Gender and Media
4. Applied Sciences
5. Urban Studies
6. Consumers and Consumption
7. Disability Studies
8. Health and Sexuality
9. Human Rights
10. Human-centered design and innovation
11. Food Studies
12. Science, Technology, and Society
13. Latin American Studies

**Example Course Contracts**

An example course contract for Global Health could look like:

**Discipline I: Anthropology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 1000</td>
<td>Anthropology: Past and Present</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or   ANTH 2102</td>
<td>Culture and the Human Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 3210</td>
<td>Urban Food Systems and Sustainability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 4070</td>
<td>Culture of Development and Globalization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 4080</td>
<td>Global Health Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 4300</td>
<td>Migrant Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**

15

**Discipline II: Public Health**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PBHL 2001</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Health</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBHL 3041</td>
<td>Health, Culture and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBHL 3070</td>
<td>Perspectives in Global Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PBHL 3071 Global Topics In Sexual and Reproductive Health 3
PBHL 4020 Global Health: Comparative Public Health Systems 3
Total Hours 16

Grab Bag

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4500</td>
<td>Health Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 4660</td>
<td>Health Economics.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETST 3002</td>
<td>Ethnicity, Health and Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 3501</td>
<td>Geography of Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 3440</td>
<td>Medical Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total Hours 15

**Example of learning objectives**

Global Health

1. Develop knowledge of current global health issues.
2. Identify the theories, methods, and analytical perspectives of anthropology and public health to understand global health systems.
3. Synthesize the theories, methods, and analytical perspectives of anthropology and public health, with input from other disciplines, to answer interdisciplinary questions.
4. Communicate ideas effectively in writing and through speaking.
5. Critically evaluate a variety of textual and statistical evidence.
6. Demonstrate ethical approaches to studying a variety of cultural perspectives.

To learn more about the Student Learning Outcomes for this program, please visit our website (https://clas.ucdenver.edu/academic-programs/interdisciplinary-studies-major/).

To review the Degree Map for this program, please visit our website (https://www.ucdenver.edu/student/advising/undergraduate/degree-maps/clas/).