

# INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, BA - INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED MAJOR

## Introduction

Please click here (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/>) to see Individually Designed Major department information.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Studies Option provides students with the opportunity to design 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. Interdisciplinary Studies tends to be more focused than traditional majors and should not be considered a default major for students uncertain about their course of study.

These degree requirements are subject to periodic revision by the academic department, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 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 (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/#policiestext>) to go to information about declaring a major.
- In order to declare the Interdisciplinary Studies Option, students are required to submit a course contract. Interdisciplinary Studies students must also submit a proposal form which describes the major they propose to design. Copies of completed Interdisciplinary Studies course contracts must be filed with the Individually Designed Major Faculty Advisor and with your CLAS Academic Advisor.
  - The Interdisciplinary Studies course contract must include:
    - A list of the courses in your chosen clusters as well as potential alternate courses. You should work closely with the Individually Designed Major Faculty Advisor and faculty advisors in your chosen clusters to create your course contract.
    - Signatures from your Individually Designed Major Faculty Advisor, from any Faculty Advisors from minors used in your contract, and from your CLAS Academic Advisor.
  - The Interdisciplinary Studies proposal form must include:
    - a name for the theme of your major.
    - a 400-word description of the major you propose to construct.
    - a description of the major theme which explains the disciplinary or interdisciplinary clusters you will be including in your course of study, how they relate to each other, and how they form a coherent body of knowledge.

- approval from your Individually Designed Major Faculty Advisor.

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

## Program Requirements

The Interdisciplinary Studies program plan requires course work over two or three disciplinary or interdisciplinary clusters. The Interdisciplinary Studies 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 nine upper division level credit hours in Clusters I and II.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of C- (1.7) in all courses that apply to the major and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to major requirements.
4. A minimum of nine credits in Clusters I and II, in addition to IDMA 3100 Learning Across Disciplines and IDMA 4900 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone (24 total credit hours) must be completed with CU Denver faculty.

## Program Restrictions, Allowances and Recommendations

1. Once the Interdisciplinary Studies course contract is filed, any changes to coursework must be approved by the student's Individually Designed Major Faculty Advisor
2. A minimum of 30 credit hours must be completed in liberal arts and sciences course work.
3. A maximum of one disciplinary cluster may be outside CLAS.
4. One cluster can be based on a pre-formed thematic cluster with an already-approved group of classes provided by the major on the website.
5. A third optional cluster may be a mixture of course work, excluding courses from the first and second clusters.
6. An Interdisciplinary Studies title must be consistent with the academic theme and clusters in the program plan.
7. Students may petition the IDM Faculty Advisor to fulfill their introduction and capstone outside of IDMA 3100 Learning Across Disciplines and IDMA 4900 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone .

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

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Student

- Creates the Interdisciplinary Studies course contract and proposals in collaboration with the Individually Designed Major Faculty Advisor
- Meets regularly with IDM Faculty Advisor to assess progress
- Fulfills requirements of Interdisciplinary Studies course contract

### IDM Faculty advisor

- Approves Interdisciplinary Studies course contract
- Approves student proposals for Interdisciplinary Studies
- Meets with Interdisciplinary Studies advisees to monitor progress
- Maintains records of Interdisciplinary Studies applications
- Oversees advisees' capstone projects
- Certifies graduation

### CLAS Academic Advisor

- Reviews overall course contract
- Maintains records of Interdisciplinary Studies contracts

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Complete the following required courses:</b>		
IDMA 3100	Learning Across Disciplines <sup>1</sup>	6
IDMA 4900	Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Complete a minimum of 15 credit hours in each of two approved interdisciplinary clusters. At least one cluster must be within a single discipline. The second cluster can be drawn from the following approved interdisciplinary thematic clusters.</b>		<b>36</b>

Aging and End of Life Cluster (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/interdisciplinary-studies-ba/#aging>)

Art and Visual Culture Cluster (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/interdisciplinary-studies-ba/#art>)

Biology and Society Cluster (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/interdisciplinary-studies-ba/#biology>)

Cities, Spaces, and Society Cluster (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/interdisciplinary-studies-ba/#cities>)

Drugs and Addiction Cluster (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/interdisciplinary-studies-ba/#drugs>)

Food and Nutrition Cluster (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/interdisciplinary-studies-ba/#food>)

Media Cluster (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/interdisciplinary-studies-ba/#media>)

Organizations and Leadership Cluster (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/interdisciplinary-studies-ba/#org>)

Policy and Security Cluster (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/interdisciplinary-studies-ba/#policy>)

Sexuality Cluster (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/interdisciplinary-studies-ba/#sexuality>)

Violence and Conflict Cluster (<https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/undergraduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/individually-structured-major/interdisciplinary-studies-ba/#violence>)

**Students can fulfill the remainder of their credit hours by contracting with additional disciplines or by designing their own interdisciplinary clusters by choosing courses from a variety of disciplines that suit their academic goals.**

*Up to 15 credit hours of an Interdisciplinary Studies course contract can come from outside of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.*

**Total Hours** **42**

<sup>1</sup> Should be taken early in the academic career (i.e. sophomore year.)

<sup>2</sup> Should be taken toward the end of the academic career (i.e. senior year.)

### Age and End of Life Cluster

Code	Title	Hours
ANTH 3666	Anthropology of Death	
PHIL 3550	Philosophy of Death and Dying	
PSYC 2205	Lifespan Developmental Psychology for Health Majors	
PSYC 3822	Aging, Brain and Behavior	
RLST 4460	Death and Concepts of Afterlife	
SOCY 3570	Death & Dying: Social & Medical Perspectives	
SOCY 4650	Sociology of Adulthood and Aging	

### Art and Visual Culture Cluster

Code	Title	Hours
COMM 4621	Visual Communication	
ENGL 2250	Introduction to Film	
ENGL 3070	Studies in Film History	
ENGL 3075	Film Genres	
ENGL 3080	Global Cinema	
ENGL 3300	Topics in Film	
ENGL 3301	Topics in Film: Lit and Film History	
ENGL 3302	Topics in Film: Gender in Lit and Film	
ENGL 3303	Topics in Film: Genre and Global Culture	
ENGL 4420	Film Theory and Criticism	
ETST 3036	American Indian Cultural Images	

FITV 1001	Fundamentals of Film and Television
FITV 1200	The Culture of Television
FITV 3200	History of Cinematic Arts I
FITV 3611	Drama of Diversity
FINE 1001	Introduction to Art
FINE 1450	Visual Culture: Ways of Seeing
FINE 2600	Art History Survey I
FINE 2610	Art History Survey II
FINE 3630	History of Photography
FINE 3636	Through the Lens: Photography and Diversity
FINE 3640	Topics in Art History I: Art Before Modernism
FINE 3644	Topics in Art History II: Modern and Contemporary
FINE 3775	Asian Art After 1850
FINE 4523	Topics in Art History I: Art Before Modernism
FINE 4524	Topics in Art History II: Modern and Contemporary Art
FINE 4525	Museum Studies
FINE 4600	History of Modern Design:Industrial Revolution-Present
FINE 4610	Pre-Columbian Art
FINE 4620	American Art
FINE 4630	History of Latin American Art:1520-1820
FINE 4670	Greek and Roman Art
FINE 4680	Art of the Medieval Multiverse
FINE 4700	Italian Renaissance Art
FINE 4705	Northern Renaissance Art
FINE 4710	Baroque and Rococo Art
FINE 4730	Arts of Japan
FINE 4750	Arts of China
FINE 4770	Art of India and Southeast Asia
FINE 4970	Modernist Art
FINE 4980	Gender in Contemporary Art
FINE 4990	Contemporary Art: 1960 to Present
FINE 4993	Topics Seminar in Art History I: Art before Modernism
FINE 4994	Topics Seminar in Art History II: Modern and Contemporary Art
GEOG 2080	The Power of Maps: Introduction to Geospatial Sciences
HIST 3070	Studies in Film History
HIST 4228	Western Art and Architecture
HIST 4231	History in Museums

### Biology and Society Cluster

Code	Title	Hours
ANTH 4600	Medical Anthropology	
BIOL 3104	Behavioral Genetics	
PHIL 4242	Medicine, Health Care, and Justice: Bioethics	
PSYC 2220	Biological Basis of Behavior	
PSYC 3262	Health Psychology	
PSYC 3263	Hormones and Behavior	
PSYC 3724	Developmental Neuroscience	

PSYC 3810	Neuropsychology
SOCY 4220	Population Change and Analysis

### Cities, Spaces, and Society Cluster

Code	Title	Hours
ARCH 1110	Introduction to Architecture	
ARCH 2230	Architectural History I	
ARCH 3230	Architectural History II	
ARCH 3693	Rome: Architecture & Urbanism	
ECON 4318	Urban Economics	
ENVS 1342	Environment, Society and Sustainability	
GEOG 1602	Urban Studies and Planning	
GEOG 3401	Geography of Food and Agriculture	
GEOG 4680	Urban Sustainability and Resiliency: Perspectives and Practice	
GEOG 4450	Urban Food and Agriculture: Perspectives and Research	
GEOG 4640	Urban Geography	
GEOG 4085	GIS Applications for the Urban Environment	
HIST 4225	Urban America	
HIST 3349	Social Movements in 20th Century America	
HIST 3345	Immigration and Ethnicity in American History	
HIST 3482	Rome: City and Empire	
LDAR 4435	Community Engaged Design Practice	
LDFS 4000	Food Justice in City & Schools	
MUSC 3730	Introduction to Music Cities	
PSCI 3914	The Urban Citizen	
PSCI 4075	Gentrification and Social Equity	
PSCI 4124	Denver Politics	
PUAD 4628	Social Problems and Policies in the Urban Environment	
SOCY 3001	Urban Sociology	
SOCY 4590	Crime, Justice, and the City	
URPL 3000	Planning the Built Environment	

### Drugs and Addiction Cluster

Code	Title	Hours
ANTH 3045	Cannabis Culture	
ANTH/PBHL 4090	Psychedelic Anthropology	
ECON 3400	Economics of Sex and Drugs	
PSYC 3265	Drugs, Brain and Behavior	
SOCY 3040	Drugs, Alcohol & Society	

### Food and Nutrition Cluster

Code	Title	Hours
CHEM 2300	Nutritional Chemistry	
COMM 4601	You Are What You Eat: Food as Communication	
GEOG 3401	Geography of Food and Agriculture	
GEOG 4450	Urban Food and Agriculture: Perspectives and Research	
LDFS 4000	Food Justice in City & Schools	

**Media Cluster**

Code	Title	Hours
COMM 1021	Introduction to Media Studies	
COMM 2051	Introduction to Strategic Communication	
COMM 3072	Media Communication Skills with AI	
COMM 3650	Media and Society	
COMM 3660	Social Media for Social Change	
COMM 4051	Advanced Strategic Communication	
COMM 4610	Communication, Media, and Sex	
COMM 4621	Visual Communication	
COMM 4660	Queer Media Studies	
COMM 4665	Principles of Advertising	
CRJU 3251	Crime and the Media	
CSCI 4920	Computer Game Design and Programming	
DACD 3820	Animation 1: Introduction to Animation and Rigging	
ENGL 1601	Storytelling: Literature, Film, and Television	
ENGL 2250	Introduction to Film	
ENGL 3075	Film Genres	
ENGL 3084	Digital Writing and Storytelling	
ENGL 3106	Writing for Print Media	
ENGL 4190	Advanced Topics in Writing, Rhetoric, & Linguistics	
ENGL 4420	Film Theory and Criticism	
ENGR 3400	Technology and Culture	
ENGR 3600	International Dimensions of Technology and Culture	
ETST 3036	American Indian Cultural Images	
ETST 3272	Global Media	
FINE 3424	Interaction Design I	
INTE 4300	Critical Digital Literacies	
INTE 4340	Learning with Digital Stories	
ISMG 3000	Technology In Business	
PHIL 4920	Philosophy of Media and Technology	
PSCI 4014	Media and Politics	
WGST 3020	Gender, Sexuality and Race in American Popular Culture	

**Organizations and Leadership Cluster**

Code	Title	Hours
BLAW 3050	Business Law and Ethics	
COMM 2045	Workplace Communication	
COMM 2051	Introduction to Strategic Communication	
COMM 4111	Theories of Leadership	
COMM 4240	Organizational Communication	
COMM 4255	Negotiations and Bargaining	
COMM 4260	Communication and Conflict	
ECON 4740	Industrial Organization	
ENGL 3154	Technical Writing	
ENGL 3170	Business Writing	
ENTP 3210	Leadership for New and Innovative Ventures	
ETST 4165	Cultural Diversity Awareness in the Workplace	
HDFR 4003	Leadership and Organizations	
MGMT 3000	Managing Individuals and Teams	

MGMT 3010	Managing People for a Competitive Advantage	
MGMT 4370	Organization Design	
PHIL 3250	Business, Society, and Moral Responsibility	
PSYC 3145	Industrial and Organizational Psychology	
PUAD 1001	Why We Care About Government, Nonprofits, and the Public Good	
PUAD 3002	Organizational and Strategic Management	
PUAD 3003	Introduction to Nonprofit Organizations	
PUAD 3005	Collaboration Across Sectors	
PUAD 4002	Leading and Engaging for the Public Good	
PUAD 4009	Human Service Organizations	

**Policy and Security Cluster**

Code	Title	Hours
COMM 4430	Communication, China, and the US	
COMM 4611	Rhetoric of Global Food Policy	
COMM 4682	Political Communication	
COMM 4720	Dynamics of Global Communication	
CRJU 4450	Homeland Security	
ENVS 1342	Environment, Society and Sustainability	
GEOG 4440	Science, Policy and the Environment	
HIST 3121	The World at War, 1914-1945	
HIST 3345	Immigration and Ethnicity in American History	
HIST 4032	Globalization in World History Since 1945	
HIST 4220	U.S. Foreign Policy Since 1912	
HIST 4472	The 1950s: Korean War, the Cold War and Social Transformation	
HIST 4475	The Vietnam War	
HIST 4490	Weapons of Mass Destruction	
PHIL 3280	War and Morality	
PSCI 4146	Indigenous Politics	
PSCI 4216	International Politics: Human Rights	
PSCI 4237	American National Security	
PSCI 4240	International Security	
PSCI 4280	The Politics of War Law	
PSCI 4354	Environmental Politics	
PSCI 4365	Global Ecological Crises	
PSCI 4545	Immigration Politics	
PSCI 4807	Political Violence	
PUAD 4010	Public Service in Emergency Management and Homeland Security	

**Sexuality Cluster**

Code	Title	Hours
BIOL 3074	Human Reproductive Biology	
COMM 4610	Communication, Media, and Sex	
COMM 4660	Queer Media Studies	
ECON 3400	Economics of Sex and Drugs	
ENGL 4306	Survey of Feminist Thought	
ENGL 4308	Contemporary Feminist Thought	
ENGL 4510	Whores and Saints: Medieval Women	
ETST 4305	Women of Color Feminisms	
HIST 3343	Women & Gender in US History	

HIST 4303	Sex and Gender in Modern Britain
HIST 4307	History of Sexuality
HIST 4345	Gender, Science, and Medicine: 1600 to the Present
PBHL 3010	Human Sexuality and Public Health
PBHL 3071	Global Topics In Sexual and Reproductive Health
PBHL 4200	The Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic
PHIL 3500	Ideology and Culture: Racism and Sexism
PHIL 4500	Feminist Philosophy
PHIL 4933	Philosophy of Eros
PSCI 4215	Women's Rights, Human Rights: Global Perspectives
PSCI 4564	Gender and Politics
PSCI 4827	Women and the Law
PSYC 3235	Human Sexuality
PSYC 3263	Hormones and Behavior
PSYC 3611	Psychology of Women
SOCY 2440	Deviance and Social Control
SOCY 3010	Sociology of Human Sexuality
SOCY 3080	Sex and Gender
SOCY 4270	Social Meanings of Reproduction
WGST 3020	Gender, Sexuality and Race in American Popular Culture

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

## Violence and Conflict Cluster

Code	Title	Hours
HIST 3121	The World at War, 1914-1945	
HIST 3706	Age of Revolution	
HIST 4030	Europe During the World Wars	
HIST 4055	The Atlantic Slave Trade: Africa, Caribbean and U.S.	
HIST 4212	Civil War and Reconstruction	
HIST 4220	U.S. Foreign Policy Since 1912	
HIST 4415	Social Revolutions in Latin America	
HIST 4416	The Age of Imperialism	
HIST 4471	The Second World War	
HIST 4475	The Vietnam War	
HIST 4490	Weapons of Mass Destruction	
PHIL 3280	War and Morality	
PHIL 4450	Punishment and Social Justice	
PSCI 4276	Conflicts and Rights in International Law	
PSCI 4280	The Politics of War Law	
PSCI 4286	International Relations: War or Peace?	
PSCI 4807	Political Violence	
PSCI 4878	War, Film, and International Law	
SOCY 4460	Hate Groups and Group Violence	
SPAN 4360	Women and the Spanish Civil War	

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