

Interdisciplinary Studies Major (BA)

A Bachelor of Arts degree (120 credits) consists of [Core Curriculum](#) (30 credits) and at least one [major](#) (36–60 credits), as well as [minors](#) and/or elective courses of the student's choosing.

The 42-credit Interdisciplinary Studies (INTD) major begins with the creation of a Learning Agreement in which students formulate a philosophy and action plan for their program of study. Starting in the Gateway Seminar (Integrative Inquiry: Ways of Knowing), students assemble a vision for course work, travel, service, and other enrichment experiences that will support that vision. Students select courses to their unique self-authored plan of study. In the final year of the program they complete two Capstone seminars, which provide the tools and container for thesis research, creative work, writing, and presentation.

Opportunities for Honors Directed Reading and Research are available for advanced students who wish to deepen knowledge in their focused area of study or practice research in collaboration with mentors. The student's Learning Agreement evolves and is refined over the course of study and culminates in a written thesis. Guided by mentors from the student's chosen disciplines or concentrations, the thesis may have research, performance, artistic, or service-oriented dimensions.

Program Vision

The Interdisciplinary Studies BA program invites students to design a unique program of study that integrates different disciplinary perspectives in the work of personal and social transformation. In this contemplative, interdisciplinary approach to the undergraduate journey, students bring together the head (academic, analytic, and conceptual skills); heart (values, passions, and interests); and hands (applications, experiences, service) to find "where their deep gladness meets a need in the world" (Frederick Buechner).

Interdisciplinary Studies Major Requirements

Required Courses

Gateway

- INTD301 [Integrative Inquiry: Ways of Knowing](#) (3)

In INTD301, students craft a Learning Agreement unique to their self-authored plan of study. This Learning Agreement will serve as the guide through the Milestone phase of the program and be reviewed and revised as their journey unfolds. Students transferring in 60 credits must take INTD301 in their first semester.

Milestone

33 credits

Students take a minimum of 33 credits from any offered Naropa courses to support their self-authored plan of study. Up to 18 credits can be transferred in from other schools. Of the 33 Milestone credits, a minimum of 12 upper division (300 level +) credits are required. INTD301, INTD380, and INTD480 do not count

towards this total. If a student revises their Learning Agreement, all previous credits taken will still count towards the 33 credit Milestone requirement total.

Capstone

- INTD380 [Capstone I: Discovery and Design](#) (3)
- INTD480 [Capstone II: Integrative Thesis](#) (3)

Total Credits: 42

Interdisciplinary Studies Course Listings (INTD)

INTD210

Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies (3.0)

Gender and women's studies begins with Hanisch's premise that the personal is political as a means of thinking about personal issues as broader political and structural issues, resulting in various levels of privilege and oppression. We investigate first-wave feminism, second-wave concerns and critiques, and third-wave ideologies and queer theories. We examine the constructed nature of gender and identity via historical, theoretical, and cross-cultural texts to develop conscious approaches to thinking about the intersections of race, sexuality, and class. In addition, the course seeks to sharpen our critical awareness of how gender operates in cultural contexts and in our own lives in order to participate in social change. We read a diverse group of historical and contemporary feminist and queer writers, activists, and theorists.

INTD250

Perceptions in Media (3.0)

An investigation into how images have powers of persuasion and manipulation, including their political, social, cultural, economic, and philosophical effects and ramifications. We examine not only film, but also television, the Internet, and commercial marketing. The goal of the course is to heighten individual perceptions and generate counter-messages of our own, making a dynamic and positive impact on the contemporary cultural landscape.

INTD301

Integrative Inquiry: Ways of Knowing (3.0)

This course introduces students to the art of problem-posing, joining visionary creative thinking and dreaming with the hands-on conceptual and artistic work of designing a Learning Agreement. We engage in self-inquiry as well as critical, creative, and social learning, connecting our own values, passions, and commitments to the lives and work of change-makers working in diverse fields locally and globally. We consider the theory and practice of self-authorship in the context of a vibrant learning community, working alone and together to connect prior learning with future selves, integrating, honoring and building capacity through joining head, heart, and hands.

INTD310

Feminist and Queer Theory Methods of Inquiry (3.0)

Feminist and queer scholarship informs methods of information gathering and distribution, and challenges philosophies of science and how science has begun to address these challenges. The course examines how feminist, queer, and contemplative ways of knowing can inform the research process, and explores postcolonial, diasporic, and critical race perspectives on feminist epistemology. Students take a contemplative tour through diverse methods of inquiry, including but not limited to memoir, observation, participant observation, archival research, and experimentation. Through personal reflection and observation of gender in the world, students create diverse work products that both bear witness to gender in the everyday world and stand in resistance to oppressive power structures.

INTD320

Arts-Based Research (3.0)

In this course, students learn the purposes, epistemological roots, and methods of arts-based research, surveying the various arts-based approaches to conducting social science research. We will experiment with the ways a range of art-forms— narrative, poetry, music, visual art, dance, and performance, can be used at various stages in the research process (data collection, analysis, and representation of findings). We will integrate contemplative and critical, reflexive inquiry in this transdisciplinary approach to knowing, making connections between identity, culture, and social transformation. A primary outcome of the course is to design and implement a research project that addresses a complex social issue, question, or problem that has personal meaning and social significance. Prerequisite: INTD301 or instructor permission.

INTD325

Interdisciplinary Studies BA Program Retreat (1.0)

This weekend retreat at the Shambhala Mountain Center takes place at the beginning of each fall semester. Engaging in contemplative practices together connects students to Naropa's spiritual and cultural roots, instills a sense of community with faculty and peers, and restores energy and balance for the new academic year. This weekend intensive experience creates a space for dialog and reflection about students' evolving interdisciplinary studies program. Interdisciplinary Studies majors are required to attend at least one retreat during their program. Open to declared INTD majors with at least 30 credits.

INTD348

Classics of International Film (3.0)

This course critically evaluates the history of cinema from the mid - to late twentieth century. Exploring the film heritage of various cultures, we discover how films reflected the times and conditions in which they were generated. Some of the themes that are examined are suppression of censorship within certain cultures and contexts, and the immediate as well as long-term effects of selected films upon their respective societies and the world at large.

INTD376

Introduction to Screenwriting: Sitting Quietly, Doing Everything (3.0)

For writers and artists who want to become skilled in the art of visual storytelling. The course examines the singular demands of screenwriting: revealing character through action and the dynamics and nuances of dialog, as well as what constitutes structure, sequences, and scenes. What makes a strong beginning, a consistent world, and an inevitable conclusion? How are elements such as transition and point of view most skillfully presented? At the end of the course, each writer will possess the necessary tools to effectively relate to an existing script and generate original work within this very particular form.

INTD380

Capstone I: Discovery and Design (3.0)

In this collaborative learning environment, students explore personal and intellectual connections to what really matters in their lives and work as citizens, artists, parents, social innovators, and reflective scholars. They read and write autoethnographies, weaving their own experiences, ideas, social locations, and authentic purpose with broader social, historical, political, artistic, and cultural contexts. Assignments are designed to develop and refine creative and critical writing abilities. Along the way, we engage in contemplative practices and experiential activities that may lead to unexpected connections and hybrid forms of expression such as visual essays and photojournalism. Students leave the course with a thesis design proposal, including a preliminary literature review. Prerequisite: COR115.

INTD480

Capstone II: Integrative Thesis (3.0)

Students in this capstone seminar integrate contemplative inquiry, critical reflection, and creativity to address complex and socially significant problems, questions, or issues. Building on work produced in Capstone I, students implement an original research, creative, service-based, or social innovation project, culminating in a final product that reflects substantial research and work. This product could be a thirty-page academic paper or its equivalent in creative, innovative, or service-oriented content. Regardless of the nature of their final project, students are encouraged to create artifacts in a range of media+visual art exhibits, film, theater, music, and poetry as well as socially innovative curricula, programs, and models. The semester ends in celebration and ceremony, featuring student presentations of their work.

INTD490

Special Topics Seminar (3.0)

The Special Topics Seminar investigates the application of theories and methods of interdisciplinarity to specific historical, critical, and theoretical issues and problems. Specific topics are announced each semester.

INTD491**Honors Directed Reading (3.0)**

The Honors Directed Reading seminar is designed to enable Interdisciplinary Studies students to read in their respective fields of study as proposed in their Learning Agreement, or about concepts that are currently significant, controversial, or seminal in their fields of which texts the student would not otherwise be assigned in a course at Naropa. By permission of instructor. Open to INTD majors only.

INTD492**Honors Directed Research (3.0)**

The Honors Directed Research seminar is designed to enable Interdisciplinary Studies students to do research in their respective fields of study as proposed in their Learning Agreement, or about concepts that are currently significant, controversial, or seminal in their fields of which texts the student would not otherwise be assigned in a course at Naropa. By permission of instructor. Open to INTD majors only.

INTD499**Independent Study: Interdisciplinary Studies (0.5-4.0)**

This course offering is an opportunity for students to engage in in-depth, concentrated study with a particular faculty member for a semester. The design of study and course work are decided upon by the student and faculty member. Independent Studies will count for a standard 3 credits. If a variable credit (0.5 - 4 credits) Independent Study is desired, a student must receive additional approval. See the Independent Study Application for further details.

WRI250**Perceptions in Media (3.0)**

An investigation into how images have powers of persuasion and manipulation, including their political, social, cultural, economic, and philosophical effects and ramifications. We examine not only film, but also television, the Internet, and commercial marketing. The goal of the course is to heighten individual perceptions and generate counter-messages of our own, making a dynamic and positive impact on the contemporary cultural landscape.