Interdisciplinary Studies Major (BA)

A Bachelor of Arts Degree consists of 30 credits of Core Curriculum and at least one Major (36–60 credits), for a total of 120 credits.

The 60-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, grounded in their Authentic Statement of Purpose. Starting in the Gateway Seminar, students assemble a vision for course work, travel, service, and other enrichment experiences that will support that vision. Course work is drawn from two or three concentration areas and the required Interdisciplinary Studies courses. Concentration areas include any of the approved BA major or minor programs. The INTD requirements include two Special Topics seminars, which vary each semester and engage students in the practice of interdisciplinary thinking and writing. Other program requirements include the annual INTD BA Program Retreat that provides an opportunity to build community in a contemplative setting; Design Thinking for Personal and Social change course that integrates inner vision with a creative life/work plan; and two Capstone seminars, which provide the tools and container for thesis research, 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 The Gateway Seminar (3)

Milestone

• INTD325 Interdisciplinary Studies BA Program Retreat (1)
• COR350 Design Thinking for Personal and Social Change (3)

• Special Topics Courses:
  Choose 6 credits (topics vary)

• INTD490 Special Topics (3)

• Concentration Area Courses
  Choose 41 credits from within 2 or 3 concentration areas
  Choose two or three concentration areas (from approved BA major or minor programs) with at least 12 credits in each concentration area, in accordance with the approved Learning Agreement.

Capstone

• INTD380 Capstone I: Thesis Proposal Development (3)
• INTD480 Capstone II: Thesis Research and Writing (3)

Total Course Credits 60

Course Listings

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.

INTD301
The Gateway Seminar (3.0)
The gateway course introduces students to the purpose and processes of the Interdisciplinary Studies BA major. Through an exploration of traditional, integrative, contemplative, and social justice models of higher education, students formulate a philosophical foundation for their individualized, interdisciplinary program of studies at Naropa. Guided by the “heart, head, and hands” model of contemplative interdisciplinary studies, students create a Learning Agreement, which is a statement of authentic purpose, a plan for acquiring needed competencies through coursework, inner and outer experiences, and practices to fulfill their self-designed educational journey. Students are introduced to the theory and methodology of interdisciplinary studies and learn to apply these to their intended focus of study.

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,
Naropa Course Catalog 2017—2018

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.

**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 dialogue 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. Course fee.

**INTD380**
Capstone I: Thesis Proposal Development (3.0)
This course aims to foster INTD research methods by providing students with skills necessary for work in their chosen areas of study, through a critical comparative examination of the practices, protocols, theories, and methods of disciplinary education as these have developed intellectually and institutionally over the past several centuries. In systematically comparing the methods and rhetorical strategies of different disciplines, and focusing upon the history of modern educational practices, the course develops critical thinking and research skills essential to laying a foundation for work during the subsequent thesis-writing semester. At the same time, the seminar fosters the community-building work of interdisciplinary studies as a contemplative forum for the discussion of broad academic issues confronting university education today. Prerequisite: COR115.

**INTD480**
Capstone II: Thesis Research and Writing (3.0)
The final component of the Bachelor of Arts program, the Capstone Seminar is designed to guide students through their senior thesis, a scholarly paper with annotated bibliography and a portfolio of course work that reflects the student’s cumulative knowledge at the end of the degree program. This thesis is evaluated by two mentors from the student’s chosen fields of study, as well as by the chair of Interdisciplinary Studies. Prerequisite: INTD301 for INTD majors only. Open to INTD and PAX majors only.

**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.

Fall 2017: The Hybrid: We research hybridity to create both a vocabulary and an environment for our own projects and concerns. What is a hybrid form? Answering this question depends upon research across and into other disciplines. To this end, the course includes encountering works by writers, artists, philosophers, and practitioners who occupy or navigate or devour or think the space where one way of writing [being] [doing] is becoming another, or joining with another, in diverse ways. In our own writing for this class, we will generate templates for, then build, a hybrid project. The method of instruction for this class combines short lectures with class discussion, workshops, and in-class experiments.

**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.