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 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 (Integrative Inquiry: Ways of Knowing), 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 which provides an opportunity to build community in a contemplative setting; a Leadership and Service course; 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 Integrative Inquiry: Ways of Knowing (3)

Milestone

- INTD325 Interdisciplinary Studies BA Program Retreat (1)

Leadership and Service

Choose 3 credits

- COL450 Internship (3)
- COL350 Design Thinking for Personal and Social Change (3)
- ART495 Community Building and Self-Reflection in the Visual Arts (3)
- ENV420 Environmental Service Learning: Ecological Restoration (3)
- COL360 Lion’s Roar: Writing for Publication (3)
- WRI307w Professional Development: Teaching Practicum: Designing a Writing Workshop (3)

Coursework in Concentration Area

Choose 47 credits from within 2 or 3 concentration areas (as well as any additional INTD courses). 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 approved Learning Agreement.

Capstone

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

Total 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.

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)

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 course work, 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, 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. Course fee.

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)
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: 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 with a minimum fifteen-page manuscript. 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.