

BA INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Program Learning Objectives

1. Identify and think critically about the assumptions, strategies, and potential biases underlying discipline-based and interdisciplinary inquiries.
2. Conduct interdisciplinary research and/or engage in creative activities that incorporate and synthesize information, theory, and methodological approaches from more than one discipline in a culturally-competent way.
3. Apply interdisciplinary approaches to understand, contextualize, and propose solutions to complex issues or problems, especially those relating to students' emphasis areas.
4. Communicate effectively both in writing and orally.
5. Collaborate productively in pluralistic settings and with people of diverse experiences, identities, and worldviews.
6. Make reasoned, ethical, and socially responsible decisions.
7. Engage in self-motivated and self-directed learning, in order to become life-long learners.
8. Employ the intellectual and practical skills necessary to create and engage with a more inclusive, just and equitable world.

Degree Requirements and Curriculum

In addition to the program requirements listed on this page, students must also satisfy requirements outlined in more detail in the Minimum Requirements for Graduation (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/generalrequirementsbachelorsdegree/#generaleducationtext>) section of this catalog, including:

- 60 units of upper-division courses
- Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR)
- 2.0 GPA
- U.S. Cultural Pluralism (USCP)

Note: No Major or Support courses may be selected as credit/no credit.

MAJOR COURSES

Introductory-level Interdisciplinary Course

Select from the following: ¹ 4

ES 112	Race, Culture, and Politics in the United States
HIST 206	United States Cultures
HIST 216	Comparative Social Movements
ISLA 123	Introduction to Science, Technology & Society
JOUR 219	Multicultural Society and the Mass Media
JOUR 228	Media, Self and Society
RELS 201	Religion, Dialogue, and Society
WGQS 201	Gender and Sexuality in US Society and Politics
WGQS 210	Gender and Sexuality in Visual and Popular Culture

ISLA 201	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies	4
ISLA 255	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Theory and Methods	4

Basic Statistics Course

Select from the following: ^{1,2} 4

STAT 130	Introduction to Statistical Reasoning (B4)
STAT 217	Introduction to Statistical Concepts and Methods (B4)
STAT 218	Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences (B4)

Communication Course

Select from the following: ^{1,3} 4

COMS 213	Organizational Communication
COMS 322	Persuasion
COMS 385	Media Criticism
ENGL 311	Advanced Rhetorical Inquiry and Composing
ENGL 312	Translingual Rhetorical Inquiry and Writing
ENGL 317	Technical Editing
ENGL 467	Topics in Rhetoric and Writing ⁴
PSY 304	Intergroup Dialogues

Upper-Division ISLA Electives

Select from the following: ^{1,3} 8

COMS/ISLA 395	Science Communication	
ISLA 303	Values and Technology	
ISLA 305	Topics in Public Engagements with STEM ⁴	
ISLA 320	Topics and Issues in Values, Media and Culture ⁴	
ISLA/WGQS 335	Feminist Studies of Popular Culture and Whiteness	
ISLA 340	Media Arts and Technologies: Storytelling	
ISLA 341	Media Arts and Technologies: Cinematic Process	
ISLA 350	The Global Environment	
ISLA 465	Internship	
ISLA 355	Interdisciplinary Research Methods	4
ISLA 440	Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar ^{4,5}	4
ISLA 461	Senior Project	4

Concentration

See list of Interdisciplinary Studies concentrations below. 32

GENERAL EDUCATION (GE)

(See GE program requirements below.) 68

FREE ELECTIVES

Free Electives ⁶ 40

8 units of free electives may need to be at the 300-400 level to ensure completion of the required minimum of 60 units of upper-division courses.

Total units 180

- ¹ Required in Major or Support; also satisfies General Education (GE) requirement.
- ² Any GE Upper-Division STAT course may be substituted to fulfill this Major requirement. Non-GE courses teaching statistical or quantitative analysis methods may be substituted to satisfy this requirement but only with the consent of the ISLA Department Chair. A major support substitution should be initiated with the ISLA Department Chair for any upper-division STAT course. In those cases, students will then have to take an additional course to satisfy the GE requirement.
- ³ If course is taken to meet the Communication Course or Upper-Division Electives requirement, it cannot be double-counted in the Concentration. Please consult with academic advisor.
- ⁴ Topics courses may be used to satisfy a Major requirement and are repeatable in the Concentrations with a different topic. Total credit limited to 8 units.
- ⁵ ISLA 440 total credit limited to 8 units.
- ⁶ If a General Education (GE) course is used to satisfy a Major or Support requirement, additional units of Free Electives may be needed to complete the total units required for the degree.

Concentrations

Students may select one of the following concentrations:

- Ethics, Law and Social Justice (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofliberalarts/interdisciplinarystudiesliberalarts/bainterdisciplinarystudies/ethics-law-and-social-justice-concentration/>)
- Global Citizenship and Social Sustainability (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofliberalarts/interdisciplinarystudiesliberalarts/bainterdisciplinarystudies/global-citizenship-and-social-sustainability-concentration/>)
- Health and Society (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofliberalarts/interdisciplinarystudiesliberalarts/bainterdisciplinarystudies/health-and-society-concentration/>)
- Science, Technology and Society (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofliberalarts/interdisciplinarystudiesliberalarts/bainterdisciplinarystudies/science-technology-and-society-concentration/>)
- Visual Media and Cultural Studies (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofliberalarts/interdisciplinarystudiesliberalarts/bainterdisciplinarystudies/visual-media-and-cultural-studies-concentration/>)

General Education (GE) Requirements

- 72 units required, 4 of which are specified in Major and/or Support.
- If any of the remaining 68 units is used to satisfy a Major or Support requirement, additional units of Free Electives may be needed to complete the total units required for the degree.
- See the complete GE course listing (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/generalrequirementsbachelorsdegree/#generaleducationtext>).
- A grade of C- or better is required in one course in each of the following GE Areas: A1 (Oral Communication), A2 (Written Communication), A3 (Critical Thinking), and B4 (Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning).

Area A English Language Communication and Critical Thinking

A1	Oral Communication	4
A2	Written Communication	4
A3	Critical Thinking	4
Area B	Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning	
B1	Physical Science	4
B2	Life Science	4
B3	One lab taken with either a B1 or B2 course	
B4	Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (4 units in Major) ¹	0
Upper-Division B		4
Area C	Arts and Humanities	
Lower-division courses in Area C must come from three different subject prefixes.		
C1	Arts: Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theater	4
C2	Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English	4
Lower-Division C Elective - Select a course from either C1 or C2		4
Upper-Division C		4
Area D	Social Sciences - Select courses in Area D from at least two different prefixes	
D1	American Institutions (Title 5, Section 40404 Requirement)	4
D2	Lower-Division D	4
Upper-Division D		4
Area E	Lifelong Learning and Self-Development	
Lower-Division E		4
Area F	Ethnic Studies	
F	Ethnic Studies	4
GE Electives in Areas B, C, and D		
Select courses from two different areas; may be lower-division or upper-division courses.		
GE Electives		8
Total units		68

¹ Required in Major or Support; also satisfies General Education (GE) requirement.