

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (BA)

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

The B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies aligns with Cal Poly's "Learn by Doing" mission and reflects a core value of the university by promoting interdisciplinary inquiry. The major is designed to empower students and challenges them to think critically about the assumptions and strategies underlying disciplines as part of developing their own interdisciplinary research or creative projects. Interdisciplinarity is about making creative links across boundaries, synthesizing wide-ranging perspectives, and challenging rigid classifications. The curricular structure for the IS degree provides an integrated, interdisciplinary, and individualized approach to student education. The program features a small number of core courses within the major. The goal of these core courses is to challenge students to be self-conscious and reflective about the integration of their disciplinary and interdisciplinary learning experiences. The bulk of the IS curriculum requires students to take courses across more than one discipline from multiple departments. But the structure of their course choices asks them to analyze, synthesize and harmonize links between disciplines, as opposed to staying within the boundaries of each discipline. This approach to curricular structure emphasizes a truly interdisciplinary, rather than multidisciplinary, educational experience. It also leads to a more individualized course of study that values an intentional, student-driven path through the program's curriculum.

Concentrations

Ethics, Law, and Social Justice

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

This concentration is designed to foster critical inquiry into the dynamic interrelationships between ethics, legal institutions and social justice. Students will examine how historical and contemporary social forces influence the legal system and how law affects society. They will analyze and evaluate how personal and societal value systems, as well as identities and their intersections shape attitudes towards and treatment within the legal and judiciary systems.

Global Citizenship and Social Sustainability

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

Students in this concentration are challenged to conceptualize, understand and analyze issues of sustainability from social, cultural, and environmental perspectives in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world. The concentration asks students to reflect on the idea that long-term sustainability requires attention to social equity, cultural preservation, and economic development as well as to environmental stewardship.

Health and Society

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

Students pursuing this concentration will examine the social and societal dimensions of mental and physical health. They will investigate how gender, race, social class, sexuality and ethnicity shape health in both national and global contexts, as well as the political, ethical, environmental, cultural, and social influences on health and health institutions.

Science, Technology, and Society

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

In this concentration students investigate and analyze the complex relationships between science, technology, and society in an increasingly technical world. Students will identify, assess and develop solutions to complex problems transcending the traditional divide between the humanities and social sciences and scientific, technical and professional fields.

Visual, Media, and Cultural Studies

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

Students pursuing this concentration will enhance their critical grasp of how art, media, and related forms of cultural production simultaneously shape and are shaped by our social and political worlds. They will apply interdisciplinary approaches to articulate, contextualize, and analyze how historical and contemporary developments in visual, media, and cultural studies have not only transformed individual experiences but also social relations and systems of power, privilege, and oppression. Gaining critical understanding of these complex and rapidly changing contexts requires the integration of history, theory, and practice with critical engagement from humanistic and social scientific perspectives.

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/academic-standards-policies/general-requirements-bachelors-degree/#generaleducationtext) section of this catalog, including:

- · 40 units of upper-division courses
- 2.0 GPA
- · Graduation Writing Requirements (GWR)
- · U.S. Cultural Pluralism (USCP)

Note: No Major or Support courses may be selected as credit/no credit. In addition, no more than 12 units of cooperative or internship courses can count towards your degree requirements

Code	Title	Units
MAJOR COURSES		
ISLA 1101	Interdisciplinary Studies Major First Year Seminar	1
ISLA 2201	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies	3
ISLA 2255	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Theory and Methods	3
ISLA 3355	Interdisciplinary Research Methods	4
ISLA 4440	Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar	3
ISLA 4460	Senior Project Seminar	4
& ISLA 4461	and Senior Project	
ISLA 4480	Career Preparation for Interdisciplinary Studies Majors	1
Introductory-level Interdisciplinary Course		
Select from the following:		3
ES 1112	Race, Culture, and Politics in the United States	
HIST 2206	United States Cultures	
HIST 2216	Comparative Social Movements	
ISLA 1123	Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society	
ISLA 2240	Introduction to Media Arts and Technologies	
JOUR 2219	Mass Media in a Cross-Cultural Society	
JOUR 2228	Media, Self and Society	
RELS 2201	Religion, Dialogue, and Society	
WGQS 2201	Gender and Sexuality in US Society and Politics	
WGQS 2301	Gender and Sexuality in Visual and Popular Culture	
Upper-Division ISLA Courses		
Select from the following: 1		6-8
COMS/ISLA 3395	Science Communication	
ISLA 3303	Values and Technology	
ISLA 3305	Public Engagements with STEM	
ISLA 3320	Issues in Values, Media and Culture	
ISLA/WGQS 3335	Feminist Studies of Popular Culture and Whiteness	
ISLA 3340	Media Arts and Technologies: Storytelling	
ISLA 3341	Media Arts and Technologies: Cinematic Process	
ISLA 3345	Independent Cinema and Film Festivals	
ISLA 3350	The Global Environment	
ISLA/LAES 4411	Community and Meaning-Filled Design	
ISLA 4456	Advanced Project-Based Learning in Science, Technology & Society	
Concentration		



Total Units	120
Free Electives ²	29-31
FREE ELECTIVES	
(See GE program requirements below)	43
GENERAL EDUCATION (GE)	
(See list of Concentrations below) 1	18

If a course is taken to meet a Major or Support requirement, it cannot be double-counted as an Elective for the concentration.

Concentrations

Ethics, Law, and Social Justice

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
Ethics		
Select from the following:		6
PHIL 3328	Technologies and Ethics of Warfare	
PHIL 3331	Ethics	
PHIL 3332	History of Ethics	
PHIL/WGQS 3336	Feminist Ethics, Gender, Sexuality and Society	
PHIL 3343	Power, Alienation, and Political Life	
PHIL 4439	Topics in Ethics and Political Philosophy	
Law		
Select from the following:		6-8
ES 4406	Indigenous Peoples, International Law, and Policy	
JOUR 3306	Copyright, Trademark, Patent, and Commercial Speech in Digital Media	
PHIL 3334	Philosophy of Law	
POLS 3334	Jurisprudence	
POLS 3341	U.S. Constitutional Law	
POLS/WGQS 4417	Feminist Legal Theory	
POLS 4445	Voting Rights and Representation	
PSY 3375	Forensic Psychology	
RELS 3374	Religion and Violence	
RELS 3378	Religion and Contemporary Values	
SOC 4402	Gender, Crime, and Violence	
Social Justice		
Select from the following:		6-8
ES 3325	African American Genders and Sexualities	
ES 3380	Critical Race Theory	
ES 3381	Social Constructions of Whiteness	
POLS 3343	Civil Rights in the U.S.	
POLS 3344	Civil Liberties	
POLS 4419	Social Movements and Political Protest	
POLS/WGQS 4457	U.S. Reproductive Politics	
POLS 4459	The Politics of Poverty	
RELS/WGQS 3370	Religion, Gender, and Society	
WGQS 3301	Contemporary Issues in Women's and Gender Studies	
WGQS 3302	Contemporary Issues in Queer Studies	

Total Units 18

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.



Global Citizenship and Social Sustainability

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Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
Ethnicity and Culture		
Select from the following:		3-4
ES 3360	Indigeneity and the Land	
HIST 3309	Cultures of the African Diaspora	
HIST 3313	Modern Middle East	
HIST 3316	Modern East Asia	
HIST 3319	A Cultural History of Southeast Asia	
HIST 3335	Modern Europe since 1914	
HIST 3338	Modern Latin America	
SOC 3315	Global Race and Ethnic Relations	
WLC 3312	Humanities in Chicanx/Latinx Cultures	
Global and Cross-Cultural Comm	unication	
Select from the following:		3-4
COMS 3316	Intercultural Communication	
COMS 3320	Intergroup Communication	
COMS 3390	Environmental Communication	
ENGL 3313	Multilingual/Multimodal: Writing Transnational Spaces	
JOUR 3319	Global Communication	
Select any 3000-4000 level CH	IIN, FR, GER, ITAL, JPNS, SPAN, or WLC courses	
Global Political Economy		
Select from the following:		3
POLS 3308	Political Violence and Conflict Resolution	
POLS 3310	Politics of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in the U.S.	
POLS 3321	Comparative Political Culture	
POLS 3325	Global Political Issues	
POLS 3328	Politics of Developing Areas	
POLS 3332	World Food Systems	
POLS 3339	Authoritarian and Democratic Rule	
POLS 4452	Technology and International Development	
POLS 4459	The Politics of Poverty	
Sustainability and Global Environ	·	
Select from the following: 1		3-4
BRAE 3348	Energy for a Sustainable Society	
GEOG 4408	Geography of International Development	
ISLA/AG/EDES/ENGR/GEOG/S 3350	SCM/UNIV The Global Environment	
NR 3323	Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Management	
NR 3324	Social Dimensions of Sustainable Food Systems	
PHIL 3340	Environmental Ethics	
PSC 3320	Energy, Society, and the Environment	
Global Citizenship and Social Sus	stainability Electives	
Select from the following: 1	·	6-8
CRP 3334	Cities in a Global World	
ES/WGQS 3351	Gender, Race, Class, Nation: Critical Computing and Engineering Studies	
GEOG 3308	Global Geography	
HIST 3310	East Asian Cultures and Civilizations	
ISLA 4440	Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar	
PHIL 3361	Indian Philosophy	
PHIL 3362	Chinese and East Asian Philosophy	
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Total Units		18
Select any course that was	not taken to satisfy a requirement above	
WLC 3310	Humanities in World Cultures	
WGQS 3330	Feminist/Queer Transnational Studies	
SOC 3327	Social Change	
SOC 3323	Social Stratification	
SOC 3305	Social Movements	
SOC 3303	Social Work, Social Advocacy, and Social Service Agencies	
RELS/POLS 3380	Religion and Politics in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	
RELS 3302	Abrahamic Religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam	
RELS 3301	Religions of Asia	
PSY 3352	Psychology of Conflict and Justice	
PSY 3311	Environmental Psychology	

¹ If a course is taken to meet a Major or Support requirement, it cannot be double-counted as an Elective for the concentration.

Health and Society

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
Environmental Health		
Select from the following: 1		3-4
AG/EDES/ENGR/GEOG/ISLA/SCM/UNI 3350	V The Global Environment	
PHIL 3340	Environmental Ethics	
ES 3360	Indigeneity and the Land	
NR 3360	Ethnicity, Culture, and the Environment in the United States	
PSY 3311	Environmental Psychology	
SOC 3308	Sociology of the Environment	
WGQS 3301	Contemporary Issues in Women's and Gender Studies ²	
Gender, Race, Culture, and Health		
Select from the following: 1		3-4
ANT 4460	Queer Anthropology	
ES/WGQS 3350	Gender, Race, Culture, Science, and Technology	
ISLA 3320	Issues in Values, Media and Culture	
PSY/WGQS 3324	Psychology of Gender	
PSY 3372	Multicultural Psychology	
SOC/WGQS 3311	Sociology of Gender and Sexuality	
WGQS 3302	Contemporary Issues in Queer Studies	
WGQS 4450	Feminist Theory	
Health Systems		
Select from the following:		3-4
BIO/CHEM 3318	Genetic Engineering Technology	
HLTH 3305	Drugs in Society	
POLS 3332	World Food Systems	
POLS/WGQS 4457	U.S. Reproductive Politics	
Medical Anthropology		
Select from the following:		3-4
ANT 4401	Culture and Health	
SOC 3326	Sociology of the Life Course	
SOC 4470	Special Advanced Topics	
Health and Society Electives		
Select from the following: 1		6-8



tal Units		18
Select any course that was	s not taken to satisfy a requirement above	
SOC 3326	Sociology of the Life Course	
RELS 3372	Spiritual Extremism: Asceticism, Mysticism, and Madness	
PSY 4480	Cognitive Neuroscience	
PSY 4465	Cross-Cultural International Psychology	
PSY 3344	Behavioral Genetics	
PSY 3320	Health Psychology	
PSY 3318	Psychology of Aging	
PSY 3310	Psychology of Death	
PHIL 3339	Biomedical Ethics	
ISLA 4440	Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar	
ISLA 3305	Public Engagements with STEM	
ENGL 3317	Humanistic Perspectives in Technical and Professional Editing	
COMS 4418	Health Communication	
COMS 4402	Rhetorics of Science, Technology, and Medicine	
BIO 3315	Biology of Cancer	
BIO 3312	Human Genetics	
ANT 3345	Human Behavioral Ecology	

If a course is taken to meet a Major or Support requirement, it cannot be double-counted as an Elective for the concentration.

Topic courses require department approval. Please contact department for a list of approved topics.

Science, Technology, and Society

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
Gender, Race, Culture, Science, and Techr	nology	
Select from the following: 1		3-4
ANT 4425	Meaning, Gender, and Identity in Anthropological Theory	
ES/WGQS 3350	Gender, Race, Culture, Science, and Technology	
ES/WGQS 3351	Gender, Race, Class, Nation: Critical Computing and Engineering Studies	
ISLA 3320	Issues in Values, Media and Culture	
ISLA/LAES 4411	Community and Meaning-Filled Design	
SOC 3308	Sociology of the Environment	
WGQS 3301	Contemporary Issues in Women's and Gender Studies	
WGQS 3302	Contemporary Issues in Queer Studies	
Philosophy of Science and Technology		
Select from the following:		3
PHIL 3321	Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 3322	Philosophy of Technology	
PHIL 3323	Ethics, Science, and Technology	
PHIL 3327	Robot Ethics	
PHIL 3328	Technologies and Ethics of Warfare	
PHIL 3340	Environmental Ethics	
Science Communication		
Select from the following: 1		3-4
COMS 3317	Technology and Human Communication	
COMS 3390	Environmental Communication	
COMS/ISLA 3395	Science Communication	
COMS 4402	Rhetorics of Science, Technology, and Medicine	
COMS 4418	Health Communication	
ENGL 3317	Humanistic Perspectives in Technical and Professional Editing	



otal Units		18
Select any course that was n	ot taken to satisfy a requirement above	
WLC 3370	Language, Technology and Society	
PSC 3320	Energy, Society, and the Environment	
POLS 4451	Technology and Public Policy	
ISLA 4456	Advanced Project-Based Learning in Science, Technology & Society	
ISLA 4440	Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar	
ISLA 3303	Values and Technology	
HIST 4407	Science and Society in the Cold War United States	
HIST 3355	History of Network and Information Technologies	
HIST 3350	The Scientific Revolution: 1500-1800	
ERSC/GEOG 3325	Climate and Humanity	
BRAE 3348	Energy for a Sustainable Society	
AG/EDES/ENGR/GEOG/ISLA 3350	/SCM/UNIV The Global Environment	
elect from the following: 1		9-12
cience, Technology, and Societ	ty Electives	
MSCI 4440	Communicating Ocean Sciences to Informal Audiences	
ISLA 3305	Public Engagements with STEM	

If a course is taken to meet a Major or Support requirement, it cannot be double-counted as an Elective for the concentration.

Visual, Media, and Cultural Studies

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
Art, Dance, Music, and Theatre		
Select from the following:		3
ART 3314	History and Contemporary Practices of Photography	
ART/WGQS 3327	Intersectional Feminist Art Histories	
DANC 3321	Cultural Influence on Dance in the United States	
MU 3324	Music and Society	
TH 3305	Diversity in U.S. Theatre	
TH 3390	Global Theatre and Performance	
Literature		
Select from the following:		3
ENGL 3345	Women Writers of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries	
ENGL 3346	Multiethnic Literature of the U.S.	
ENGL 3347	African American Literature	
ENGL 3348	Asian American Literature	
ENGL 3349	Trans Literatures	
ENGL 3381	Topics in Diversity in Twentieth- and Twenty-First Century US Literature	
FR 3350	French Literature in English Translation	
GER 3305	German Literature	
GER 3350	German Literature in English Translation	
SPAN 3305	Literary Works in Spanish	
SPAN 3340	Chicanx/Latinx Works in Spanish	
SPAN 3350	Hispanic Literature in English Translation	
SPAN 3351	Chicanx/Latinx Works in English	
SPAN 4410	Advanced Literary Studies in Spanish	
SPAN 4416	Don Quijote	
WLC 3350	Literatures in World Cultures	
Popular Culture		



ENGL 3371	Film Styles and Genres	
ENGL 3371	Film Directors	
ENGL 3373	Topics on Gender Representations in Film	
ENGL 3375	World Cinema	
ES 3310	Hip-Hop, Poetics, and Politics	
ES 3311	Beyonce: Race, Feminism, and Politics	
ES 3340	Cultural Production and Ethnicity	
ISLA 3320	Issues in Values, Media and Culture	
KINE 3324	Sports, Media, and United States Popular Culture	
SPAN 3307	Spanish and Latin American Film	
WGQS 3301	Contemporary Issues in Women's and Gender Studies	
WGQS 3302	Contemporary Issues in Queer Studies	
WGQS 4401	Seminar in Women's, Gender, and Queer Studies	
WLC 3307	World Cultures through Film	
Technology and Human Expre		
Select from the following: 1		3-
COMS 3317	Technology and Human Communication	0
HIST 3355	History of Network and Information Technologies	
ISLA 3303	Values and Technology	
ISLA 3340	Media Arts and Technologies: Storytelling	
ISLA 3341	Media Arts and Technologies: Cinematic Process	
MU 3311	Introduction to Music Technology and Composition	
MU 3312	Sound Art and Advanced Production Techniques	
WLC 3370	Language, Technology and Society	
Visual, Media, and Cultural St		
Select from the following: 1	udico Licotifico	6
ISLA 4440	Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar	O.
	s not taken to satisfy a requirement listed above	
Total Units	s not taken to satisfy a requirement listed above	1

lf a course is taken to meet a Major or Support requirement, it cannot be double-counted as an Elective for the concentration.

General Education (GE) Requirements

- · 43 units required.
- See the complete GE course listing (https://catalog.calpoly.edu/academic-standards-policies/general-requirements-bachelors-degree/#generaleducationtext).
- A grade of C- or better is required in one course in each of the following GE Areas: 1A (English Composition), 1B (Critical Thinking), 1C (Oral Communication), and 2 (Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning).

Lower-Division General Education

English Communication and Critical Thinking	
Written Communication	3
Critical Thinking	3
Oral Communication	3
Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning	
Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning	3
Arts and Humanities	
Arts	3
Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English	3
	Written Communication Critical Thinking Oral Communication Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning Arts and Humanities Arts



Area 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area 4 courses must come from at least two different course prefixes.)	
4A	American Institutions (Title 5, Section 40404 Requirement)	3
4B	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
Area 5	Physical and Life Sciences Physical Sciences Life Sciences Laboratory (may be embedded in a 5A or 5B course) Ethnic Studies Ethnic Studies	3 3 1 3
5A		
5B		
5C		
Area 6		
6 Upper-Division General Education		
Upper-Division 3	Arts and Humanities	3
Upper-Division 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area 4 courses must come from at least two different course prefixes.)	3
Total Units		43

Coming soon