

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Individually Designed Major (IDMA) with an Interdisciplinary Studies option provides students with the opportunity to construct an individualized major that meets their unique needs and interests. This flexible program allows students to follow academic pursuits that transcend traditional department or college boundaries, combining coursework from two, three, or even more academic disciplines to explore a particular theme. The IDMA tends to be more focused than traditional majors and should not be considered a default major for students uncertain about their course of study.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major advisor.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising

clas_advising@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CLAS Advising website [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 1030

303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

Individually Designed Major – Interdisciplinary Studies Advising

[CLAS Major Advisor Contact Information](#)

Visit the program website [here](#)

Student Commons Building (SCB) 3115

303-315-0451

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) credit hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS credit hours with letter grades at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** credit hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:*

- 16 credit hours Pass/Fail
- 12 credit hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 credit hours of internship credit
- 8 credit hours of physical education credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with the major advisor to confirm major requirements. In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Individually Designed Major - Interdisciplinary Studies B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. The Interdisciplinary Studies program plan requires course work over two or three disciplinary or interdisciplinary clusters.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 42 credits from approved coursework.
3. Students must complete a minimum of 18 upper division (3000 level and above) credit hours with a minimum of 9 upper division level credit hours in Clusters I and II.
4. Students must earn a minimum grade of C- (1.7) in all courses that apply to the major and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to major requirements.
5. A minimum of 9 credits in Clusters I and II, in addition to IDMA 3100 Learning Across Disciplines and IDMA 4900 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone (24 credit hours) must be completed with CU Denver faculty.
6. Once the Interdisciplinary Studies course contract is filed, any changes to coursework must be approved by the student's Individually Designed Major Faculty Advisor.
7. A minimum of 30 semester hours must be completed in liberal arts and sciences course work.
8. A maximum of one disciplinary cluster may be outside CLAS.
9. One cluster can be based on a pre-formed thematic cluster with an already-approved group of classes provided by the major on the website.
10. A third optional cluster may be a mixture of course work, excluding courses from the first and second clusters.
11. An Interdisciplinary Studies title must be consistent with the academic theme and clusters in the program plan.
12. The Interdisciplinary Studies proposal should be approved before students have taken one-third of the classes listed in their course contracts.
13. Students may petition the IDM Faculty Advisor to fulfill their introduction and capstone outside of IDMA 3100 Learning Across Disciplines and IDMA 4900 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone.

LYNXCONNECT RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver LynxConnect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the LynxConnect [website](#) for more information.

Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40	CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements
CLAS Graduation Requirements	15 - 29	CLAS Graduation Requirements
IDMA Major Requirements	42	18 credit hours must be upper-division
IDMA Required Courses		
IDMA 3100 Learning Across Disciplines	3	
IDMA 4900 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone	3	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in COMM 2500 or HEHM 3100 or IDMA 3100 or PBHL 2001 or SOCY 3440
Cluster I		
Complete a minimum of 15 hours in an approved cluster in a single discipline; at least 9 hours must be upper-division	15	
Cluster II		
Complete a minimum of 15 hours in an approved disciplinary or interdisciplinary cluster; at least 9 hours must be upper-division. Students may complete coursework from one of the preconstructed thematic clusters in the CU Denver Catalog for their second cluster.	15	See the CU Denver Catalog for complete thematic cluster descriptions and approved courses.
Additional Cluster or Approved Alternate Courses	0 - 6	A third <u>optional</u> cluster may be a mixture of course work, excluding courses from the first and second clusters.
Estimated General Electives	9 - 29	General Elective credits will vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.
Total Minimum Credit Hours:	120	45 credit hours must be upper-division

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

Year One	Fall	CRS
	ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3
	CU Denver Core Mathematics	3
	CU Denver Core Arts / First-Year Seminar	3
	CU Denver Core Social Science	3
	General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15	

Spring	CRS	
	ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
	CU Denver Core Humanities	3
	CU Denver Core Behavioral Science	3
	CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science with lab	4
	General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	16	

Year Two	Fall	CRS
	IDMA 3100	3
	CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science without lab	3
	CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3
	CLAS Humanities	3
	Upper-Division General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15	

Spring	CRS	
	CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
	CLAS Communicative Skills	3
	Cluster I Course	3
	Cluster II Course	3
	Upper-Division General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15	

Year Three	Fall	CRS
	Cluster I Course	3
	Cluster II Course	3
	CLAS Second Language Semester I	5
	CLAS Social Science	3
Total Credit Hours	14	

Spring	CRS	
	Cluster I Upper-Division Course	3
	Cluster II Upper-Division Course	3
	CLAS Second Language Semester II	5
	CLAS Behavioral Science	3
Total Credit Hours	14	

Year Four	Fall	CRS
	Cluster I Upper-Division Course	3
	Cluster II Upper-Division Course	3
	Additional Cluster Upper-Division Course	3
	CLAS Nat/Phys Science with lab	4
	Upper-Division General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	16	

Spring	CRS	
	IDMA 4900 ^{PE}	3
	Cluster I Upper-Division Course	3
	Cluster II Upper-Division Course	3
	Additional Cluster Upper-Division Course	3
	Upper-Division General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15	