

## 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](mailto: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 30 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:

The Interdisciplinary Studies program plan requires course work over two or three disciplinary or interdisciplinary clusters. The Interdisciplinary Studies program plan must comply with the following policies:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 42 credits from approved coursework.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Once the Interdisciplinary Studies course contract is filed, any changes to coursework must be approved by the student's Individually Designed Major Faculty Advisor.
6. A minimum of 30 credit hours must be completed in liberal arts and sciences course work.
7. A maximum of one disciplinary cluster may be outside CLAS.
8. 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.
9. A third optional cluster may be a mixture of course work, excluding courses from the first and second clusters.
10. An Interdisciplinary Studies title must be consistent with the academic theme and clusters in the program plan.
11. The Interdisciplinary Studies proposal should be approved before students have taken one-third of the classes listed in their course contracts.
12. 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
<b>* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *</b>		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40	<a href="#">CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</a>
CLAS Graduation Requirements		<a href="#">CLAS Graduation Requirements</a>
IDMA Major Requirements	42	18 credit hours must be upper-division
<b>IDMA Required Courses</b>		
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
<b>Cluster I</b>		
Complete a minimum of 15 hours in an approved cluster in a single discipline; at least 9 hours must be upper-division	15	
<b>Cluster II</b>		
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 following preconstructed thematic clusters in the CU Denver Catalog for their second cluster: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aging and End of Life</li> <li>- Art and Visual Culture</li> <li>- Biology and Society</li> <li>- Cities, Spaces, and Society</li> <li>- Drugs and Addiction</li> <li>- Food and Nutrition</li> <li>- Media</li> <li>- Organizations and Leadership</li> <li>- Policy and Security</li> <li>- Sexuality</li> <li>- Violence and Conflict</li> </ul>	15	See the <a href="#">CU Denver Catalog</a> for complete thematic cluster descriptions and approved courses.
<b>Additional Cluster or Approved Alternate Courses</b>	0 - 6	A third <u>optional</u> cluster may be a mixture of course work, excluding courses from the first and second clusters.
<b>Estimated General Electives</b>	38 - 44	General Elective credit hours will vary. Students are highly encouraged to explore and complete additional programs including certificates, minors, double-majors, and dual-degrees. Consult with CLAS Academic Advisor.
<b>Total Minimum Credit Hours:</b>	<b>120</b>	30 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 certificates, minors, double-majors, or dual-degrees.

Year 1 - Fall	CRS
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3
CU Denver Core Mathematics	3
CU Denver Core Arts	3
CU Denver Core Social Science	3
General Elective / First-Year Seminar	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 1 - 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
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>16</b>

Year 2 - Fall	CRS
IDMA 3100	3
CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science without lab	3
CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 2 - Spring	CRS
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
Cluster I Course	3
Cluster II Course	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 3 - Fall	CRS
Cluster I Course	3
Cluster II Course	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	2
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>14</b>

Year 3 - Spring	CRS
Cluster I Upper-Division Course	3
Cluster II Upper-Division Course	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 4 - Fall	CRS
Cluster I Upper-Division Course	3
Cluster II Upper-Division Course	3
Additional Cluster Upper-Division Course	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 4 - Spring	CRS
IDMA 4900 <sup>PE</sup>	3
Cluster I Upper-Division Course	3
Cluster II Upper-Division Course	3
Additional Cluster Upper-Division Course	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>