

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Individually Structured Major (ISMA) 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 ISMA tends to be more focused than traditional majors and should not be considered a default major for students uncertain about their course of study. To declare the Individually Structured Major, students must work with their ISMA and CLAS advisors to submit an application and review major policies and requirements.

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/faculty 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

Find your CLAS Advisor [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) Building 1030

303-315-7100

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

Brandon Mills

brandon.s.mills@ucdenver.edu

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 semester 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) semester hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS hours at CU Denver

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

- 56 semester hours in major department/prefix courses
- 16 semester hours Pass/Fail
- 12 semester hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 semester hours of internship credit
- 8 semester hours of physical education credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

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

1. The ISM program plan requires course work over two or three disciplines. A discipline is defined as a single department or program such as biology, ethnic studies or math.
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 Disciplines I and II.
4. Students must earn a minimum grade of C- (1.7) in all major courses taken at CU Denver and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. All graded attempts in required and elective courses are calculated in major GPA. Students cannot complete major or ancillary course requirements as pass/fail.
5. A minimum of 9 credits in Disciplines I and II, in addition to ISMA 3100 Learning Across Disciplines and ISMA 4900 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone (24 credit hours) must be completed with CU Denver faculty.
6. The ISM proposal should be approved before students have taken one-third of the classes listed in their course contracts. Once the ISM course contract is filed, any changes to coursework must be approved by the student's Primary Faculty Advisor and resubmitted to the Associate Dean for Diversity, Outreach and Initiatives and to the student's CLAS Academic Advisor.
7. An ISM title must be consistent with the academic theme and disciplines in the program plan.
8. A minimum of 30 semester hours must be completed in liberal arts and sciences course work.
9. A maximum of one discipline (15 credits) may be outside CLAS.
10. A third optional discipline may be a mixture of course work, excluding courses from the first and second disciplines. Students must work with the ISMA advisor to obtain approval for a constructed discipline.
11. Students may petition the Associate Dean for Diversity, Outreach and Initiatives to fulfill their introduction and capstone outside of ISMA 3100 and ISMA 4900.

LYNX CONNECT RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver Lynx Connect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the Lynx Connect [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
ISMA Major Requirements	48 - 54	24 semester hours must be upper-division
ISMA Required Courses		
ISMA 3100 Learning Across Disciplines	3	
ISMA 4900 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone	3	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in ISMA 3100
Discipline I		
Complete a minimum of 15 hours (max of 24 hours); at least 9 hours must be upper-division	15 - 24	
Discipline II		
Complete a minimum of 15 hours (max of 24 hours); at least 9 hours must be upper-division	15 - 24	
Additional Discipline(s) or Approved Alternate Courses	0 - 18	A third <u>optional</u> discipline may be a mixture of course work, excluding courses from the first and second disciplines. The maximum hours allowed across all disciplines is 48.
Estimated General Electives	0 - 23	General Elective credits will vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.
Total Minimum Program Hours:	120	45 semester 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
	CLAS Communicative Skills	3
	CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science without lab	3
	CLAS Humanities	3
	CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3
	Upper-Division General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15	

Spring		CRS
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity		3
ISMA 3100		3
Discipline I Course		3
Discipline II Course		3
Upper-Division General Elective		3
Total Credit Hours		15

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

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

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

Spring		CRS
ISMA 4900		3
Discipline I Upper-Division Course		3
Discipline II Upper-Division Course		3
Upper-Division General Elective		3
Upper-Division General Elective		3
Total Credit Hours		15