

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

ACADEMIC PROGRAM DIGITAL PRESS KIT



PRESS-KIT INFORMATION

PURPOSE: This press kit was created as one means of sharing with others the purpose, value, and academic focus of the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major housed in the College of Liberal Arts, here at Colorado State University.

DESIGN: This press kit is designed to give someone a concise, accessible, but thorough sense of what the major is, what its academic focus is, why it might be valuable, and what it gives students who choose to pursue this major. It is designed to be a 'one-stop-shop' for any information media outlets, admissions personnel, or advising contacts may need to better understand and communicate the existence and value of our academic undergraduate BA degree.

THE INTENDED AUDIENCE: The intended audience of this press kit are students considering a degree in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts, parents, university admissions staff, university support programs, and academic advisors.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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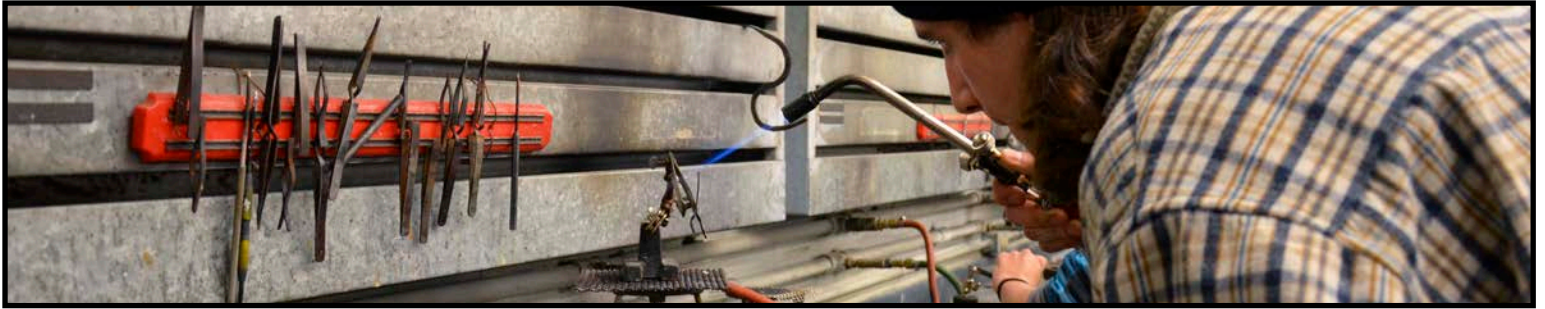
WEB | <https://libartsmajor.colostate.edu/>



**INTERDISCIPLINARY
LIBERAL ARTS**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

PROGRAM MISSION & INFORMATION



WHO WE ARE?

The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major is a BA degree program combining the humanities, the arts, languages and literature, and social sciences to foster interdisciplinary knowledge, core career competencies, personal development, professional excellence, interpersonal confidence and expertise, and a deeper understanding of our complex world. You will build your own unique and individualized interdisciplinary liberal arts experience by creating your unique curriculum based on a self-driven selection of liberal arts subjects, professional expertise, communication skills, information literacy, creative practices & interpersonal competency. You choose classes and extra-curricular opportunities that suit who you are, where you are going, and what you eventually want to do after graduation.

OUR MISSION:

The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Major Program serves the people of Colorado by providing a program of study for students with broad interests that cross disciplinary boundaries. Students in this major develop broad-based understandings of the human condition, study various cultures and cultural artifacts, and develop an appreciation for the variety and breadth of human knowledge by pursuing a concentration either in the arts and humanities or in the social sciences or some combination of both. The program aims to develop students' abilities to be critical thinkers, committed citizens, responsible participants, and ethical actors in the larger human and global community.

OUR KEY VALUES:

- **BUILDING** broad-based understandings of the human condition, respecting cultures and cultural artifacts while also acquiring a set of Career-enhancing skillsets, such as fact-based persuasion, written-verbal-digital communication, creative design, & collaborative agency.
- **NURTURING** appreciation for the variety and breadth of human knowledge and artistic endeavor.
- **DEVELOPING** critical thinkers and problem-solvers.
- **EMPOWERING** committed citizens with a responsibility for ethical involvements in the larger human/global community.
- **SAVORING** the whole human experience, one equally rich in the expressive, visual, and performance arts.

OUR PROGRAM GOALS:

- **PROVIDING** you both a beneficial yet practical collegiate experience and a set of diverse skills invaluable for success in hundreds of career fields after graduation.
- **GIVING** you the time and scope you need to discover a distinct sense of self that is closer to the truth and reality of who you are than the one you had before choosing your major.
- **DELIVERING** to you a collegiate experience that stresses the intrinsic value of a diverse education, one that develops autonomy, personal agency, confidence, a sense of community, and the understanding of both the private and public good that comes from pursuing an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts BA degree.
- **HELPING** you develop your capacity for identifying, formulating, and solving complex problems, one of the most valuable skills sought by any employer and expected of you in any career or occupation you decide to pursue after graduation.
- **ENHANCING** your sensitivity and agency regarding diversity, complexity, and tolerance—characteristics that make your perception of the world more animated and your engagement with life richer in both purpose and satisfaction.

OUR PROGRAM AMBITION:

Continue being both the most diverse, unique, and flexible undergraduate liberal arts experience available at Colorado State University and a high quality, practical undergraduate program of study that prepares you for your life in the world after graduation with an individualized career skillset perfectly suited to your career goals or a career world we haven't yet imagined will exist.



INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

WHAT IS INTERDISCIPLINARITY?



INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS

BACHELORS OF ARTS

WHAT IS INTERDISCIPLINARITY?

Interdisciplinarity is an academic field of study that works across disciplines utilizing a broad-based critical approach & methodology to knowledge known as Integrative Thinking, a critical & creative learning practice that utilizes three modes of successful intelligence: Creative, Analytical and Practical.

The **INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR** is a program of study for students with broad interests that cross disciplinary boundaries. You will develop broad-based understandings of the human condition, explore various cultures and cultural artifacts, and build an appreciation for the variety and breadth of human knowledge. You will create your own unique set of career skills, academic experiences, and intellectual understanding by self-selecting courses under a course selection process we call **COURSE CLUSTERING**.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

WHY CHOOSE THIS MAJOR?

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS

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WHY CHOOSE I-LA?

REASON 1 | YOU'LL GET TO DESIGN YOUR OWN PROGRAM OF STUDY

The key feature of Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts is you are in the driver's seat. You choose your upper division courses via a process we call: COURSE CLUSTERING.

REASON 2 | YOU'LL ACQUIRE A KEY CAREER SKILL SET

Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts focuses on providing you with a career enhancing skillset necessary for success in the 21st Century career workplace.

REASON 3 | YOU'LL GAIN AN EXPANSIVE INTERDISCIPLINARY UNDERSTANDING

Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts is designed as an expansive, open major, which means you can build your own unique academic experience—one structured on your own interests. We provide you with the widest possibly of liberal arts experience of any undergraduate major. We allow you to go anywhere, be anyone, and combine whatever humanities, arts, arts performance, and social sciences you discover makes sense for where you are headed after graduation.

REASON 4 | YOU'LL NOT HAVE TO LEAVE BEHIND ANY OF YOUR INTERESTS

So often when choosing a program of study at the university level, you are asked to choose a path that—by necessity—is often more concentrated or narrow than you'd like, forcing you to 'leave behind' other interests that don't fit perfectly with your choice of major. Because our major is designed to be as flexible and open as a major can, you don't have to leave behind your other interests. You can build a program of study that allows you to balance the courses you need for the career you are headed toward while giving you 'the space' to not only enjoy your other interests but also work these interests into your program of study. Yes, all LA courses will work for you.



REASON 5 | YOU'VE GOT SO MANY GREAT OPTIONS

We allow the greatest variety of internship, career practicum, and education abroad experience of any undergraduate major on campus. There is a limitless number of internships you can take—since the only limit is what you can't come up with. We've got a host of media practicums, from newspaper writing, sports and event productions, to feature magazine writing. And employers love graduate who have them.* Also, nearly every kind of education abroad liberal arts experience imaginable counts toward your degree requirements. We are wide open to wherever in the world you want to go and study

REASON 6 | YOU'VE GOT HUNDREDS OF CAREERS WAITING FOR YOU

Countless surveys of hundreds of top employers—as well as college graduates—all point to the same reality after graduation: an entire world of employment and career opportunities waiting for you after graduation. Equally, in the long term, you'll be earning as much—or more—than graduates in the technical majors. Not only is it rewarding to earn an interdisciplinary Liberal Arts degree. You'll go places with it you will never imagine were possible.

What's invaluable about your Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts BA degree is the fact that you will gain credentials—your own individualized skill set and intellectual expertise—that only you will possess after graduation. No other undergraduate Liberal Arts degree at CSU will give you this.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

WHAT IS COURSE CLUSTERING?

INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE CLUSTERING

- Part of what makes the ILA Major so unique is the fact that students self-design and self-select a huge majority of their courses. Students choose courses based on their interests, developing career goals in real-time as they grow into themselves.
- Part of what also makes the ILA Major so exciting, impactful, and invaluable is the fact that students can build for themselves a major that is uniquely theirs, a major strategically designed to custom-fit their future career plans, a major consisting of a distinctly tailored skillset, intellectual expertise, and academic experience fine-tuned for the specific career niche you are seeking after graduation.
- Yes, rather than taking courses for a specific career track, students build their coursework and potential skillsets around a personal or professional theme that then can open up potential career destinations they don't even yet realize. Doing so is what we call INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE CLUSTERING.
- Combining your coursework into clusters by topic of interest or career focus is not required but it is a flexible way for you to bring FOCUS, COHERENCY, AGENCY, DESIGN, and PURPOSE to your selection of coursework. All students, whether or not you choose to cluster your courses, will receive a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts.
- There are an endless number of different ways you can 'cluster' your coursework. The clusters below are just several examples of the INFINITE number of possibilities within the major. There is no limit to what you can imagine for yourself. See below for just the start of thousands of different ways you might cluster your courses in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts.

FOR A MORE DETAILED LOOK AT ILA COURSE CLUSTERING, SEE:

If you are interested in URBAN STUDIES, research and consider taking courses in the following disciplines:

Communication Studies: courses that focus on cultural, societal, and organizational communications
Economics: courses that focus on how the distribution of resources affects diverse communities and social and political change.
Ethnic Studies: focus on diverse racial and ethnic groups functioning within given societies and communities
History: study the creation, sustainability, and demise of civilizations; study great historical leaders.
Journalism & Technical Communication: courses focused cultural communications
Political Science: courses that focus on state, local, and urban politics; public policy and major social issues; law-focused courses.
Sociology: focus on major social issues, social change, and community development.

Minors to consider: Criminal Justice, Diversity in Law, Foreign Language, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Media Studies, Peace & Reconciliation Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology.

If you are interested in CREATIVE STUDIES, research and consider taking courses from the following disciplines:

Anthropology: the creation, evolution, and sustainability of cultures and cultural practices.
Art/Music/Theatre/Dance: Courses exploring artistic works and creative/artistic strategies.
Communication Studies: courses in film theory, virtual communication, and rhetoric as applied to diverse rhetorical situations.
English: courses in creative writing, rhetoric, composition, and literature/literary theory explore creative minds, creative processes, and their effects and influences.
Ethnic Studies: courses focused on cultural development and cultural influence in artwork
History: study the creation, sustainability, and demise of civilizations.
Journalism/Technical Communication: visual, virtual, and written communications for diverse purposes and audiences.

Minors to consider: English, Media Studies, Film Studies, Information Science & Technology

If you are interested in PRE-LAW, research and consider taking courses from the following:

Anthropology: courses that focus on human societies and their cultural setting; variations in beliefs, social customs, and human differences.
Communication Studies: courses that focus on speaking and persuasion abilities; cultural, societal, and organizational communications.
Economics: courses that focus on how the distribution of resources affects diverse communities and social and political change
English: courses focused on writing and rhetorical concepts; persuasion and argumentation; literary theory.
Ethnic Studies: focus on how racial and ethnic groups function within given societies; how race and ethnicity affect justice.
Journalism & Technical Communication: courses focused on the effects of media; cultural communications, communication ethics, and law
Philosophy: focus on the rational investigation of truths, ethics, and morals; perfect argumentation and analytical abilities.
Political Science: courses that focus on law and public policy; the politics behind race, ethnicity, foreign relations, and major social issues
Psychology: study the cognitive process and human behavior
Sociology: focus on criminal justice, major social issues, and social change

Minors to consider: Interdisciplinary Legal Studies, Criminal Justice, Diversity in Law, Foreign Language, Economics, English, Global Environmental Sustainability, International Development Studies, Ethnic Studies, Media Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Women's Studies

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

KEY INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS CAREER SKILL SET



Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts

BACHELORS OF ARTS | CAREER SKILL SET

The clear advantage of your Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Bachelors of Arts degree is a set of invaluable I-LA career skills you can depend on when you graduate. This career skills set empowers you to succeed in a limitless choice of possible careers— from medicine to law, from the arts to Hollywood, from health care or government administration to non-profits, from the US state department to silicon valley. There really isn't anywhere you can't end up.

CRITICAL-THINKING AND PROBLEM-SOLVING
RESEARCHED, FACT-BASED PERSUASION
COMMUNICATION PROFICIENCY
MEDIA | DIGITAL INFORMATION COMPETENCY
COLLABORATIVE AGENCY

QUANTITATIVE REASONING
INTEGRATIVE THINKING
HUMANISTIC & CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING
INTERDISCIPLINARY AWARENESS
CREATIVE DESIGN



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