

A photograph of a graduation ceremony. In the foreground, a person's arm is raised, pointing upwards. The background shows a large crowd of people in a stadium-like setting, likely a graduation ceremony. The image is framed by a green border.

find your *energy*



INTERDISCIPLINARY
LIBERAL ARTS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS DIGITAL PRESS KIT

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

PROGRAM DIGITAL PRESS KIT



PRESS-KIT INFORMATION

PURPOSE: This press kit highlights the purpose, value, and academic focus of the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major within the College of Liberal Arts at Colorado State University.

DESIGN: This press kit provides a concise, accessible, yet thorough overview of the major, its academic focus, its potential value, and the benefits it offers to students who choose to pursue it. It is designed to be a ‘one-stop shop’ for any information that 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 is 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/>

PROGRAM LOCATION INFORMATION

C 124, Clark Building
College of Liberal Arts
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO. 80523



INTERDISCIPLINARY
LIBERAL ARTS
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INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

PROGRAM MISSION & INFORMATION



WHO ARE WE?

The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major is a BA degree program that combines the humanities, the arts, languages, 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 interdisciplinary liberal arts experience by creating a curriculum tailored to your 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 offering a program of study for students with broad interests that span multiple disciplines. Students in this major develop a broad-based understanding of the human condition, study various cultures and cultural artifacts, and cultivate an appreciation for the breadth and variety of human knowledge by pursuing a concentration in the arts and humanities, the social sciences, or 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 involvement 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 now, as opposed to who you were when you chose 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 is 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.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

WHAT IS INTERDISCIPLINARITY?



WHAT IS INTERDISCIPLINARITY?

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

HOW IS INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS DIFFERENT?

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

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INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

WHY CHOOSE INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS AS YOUR MAJOR?

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

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

REASON 2 | YOU'LL ACQUIRE A UNIQUE AND DIVERSE CAREER SKILL SET

Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts is designed to provide you with an unlimited opportunity to build whatever skill set you decide will be advantageous for enhancing your success in the 21st-century career workplace of your choice.

REASON 3 | YOU'LL GAIN AN EXPANSIVE INTERDISCIPLINARY UNDERSTANDING

Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts is designed as an expansive, open undergraduate major, which means you can build your own unique academic experience—one structured on your interests. We provide you with the most expansive undergraduate academic experience of any major on campus. We allow you to go anywhere, be anyone, and change as often as you want, combining whatever humanities, arts, art performance, and social sciences courses you discover make 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 usually 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 be, 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 field 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 liberal arts courses will work for you, no matter how broad these may be.

REASON 5 | YOU'VE GOT SO MANY OPTIONS

The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major offers the greatest variety of 'hands-on' courses, including internships, career practicums, and education abroad experiences, of any undergraduate major on campus. There is a limitless number of internships you can take, as the only limit is what you can come up with. We offer a range of media practicums, including newspaper writing, sports and event production, and feature

magazine writing. And employers love graduates with such experience. Additionally, nearly every type of liberal arts education abroad experience imaginable can be counted 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

Responses from 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 is waiting for you after graduation. Equally, in the long term, you'll eventually be earning as much—or more—than graduates in the technical majors. It is also rewarding to earn an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts degree. You'll end up in places you can't even imagine now.



Fueled by choice

Charged with interdisciplinarity

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

WHAT IS COURSE CLUSTERING?

INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE CLUSTERING

- Part of what makes the ILA Major so unique is that students self-design and self-select a majority of their courses. Students choose courses based on their interests, developing career goals in real-time as they grow into themselves.
- Equally, what makes the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts 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 skill sets around a personal or professional theme, which can open up career paths they may not 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 to bring focus, coherency, agency, design, and purpose to your selection. 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.

INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE CLUSTERING EXAMPLES:

INTEREST 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 on cultural communications

Political Science: courses that focus on state, local, and urban polities; public policy and significant 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.

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.

History: study the creation, sustainability, and demise of civilizations.

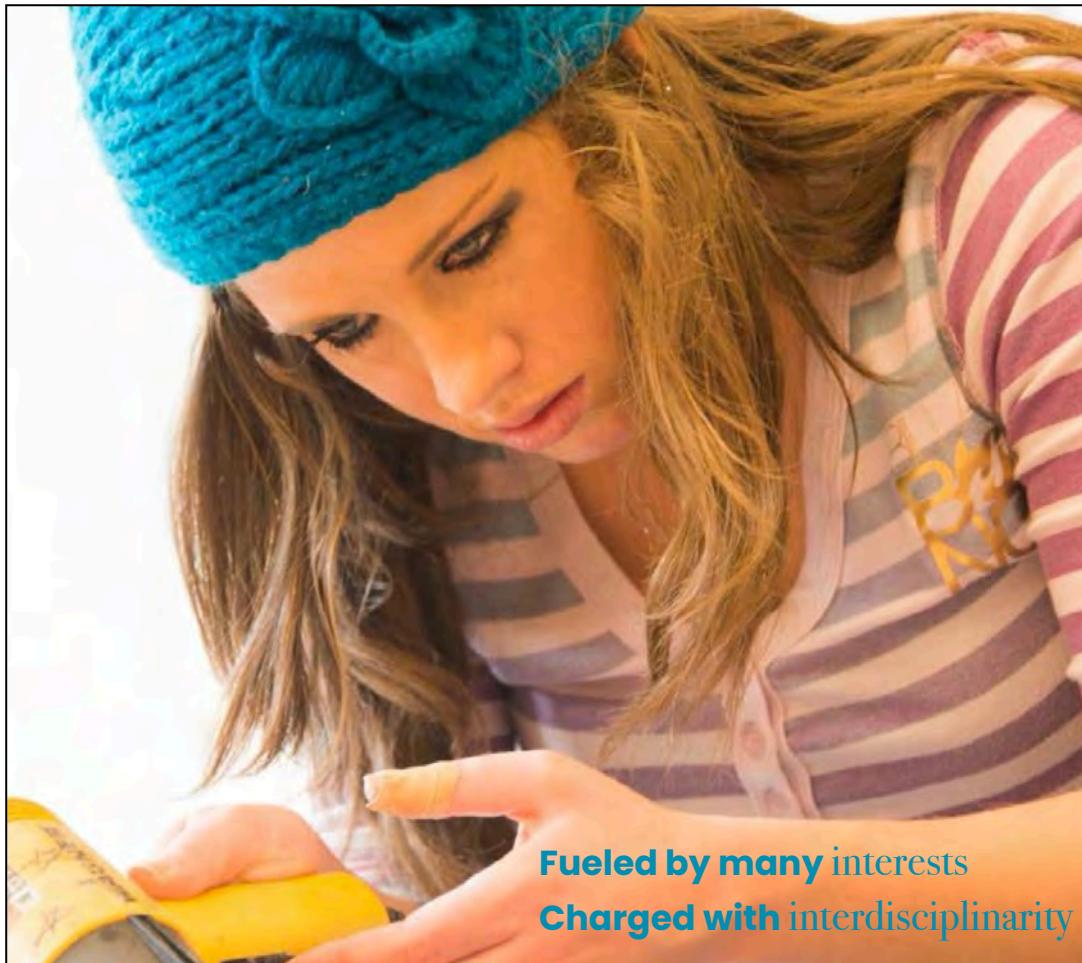
Journalism/Technical Communication: visual, virtual, and written communications for diverse purposes and audiences.

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

For a more detailed list of possible Interdisciplinary Course Clustering examples, see the following document: <https://libartsmajor.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/58/2017/12/Sample-Course-Clusters-with-CLA-Discipline-Descriptions.pdf>.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

Key interdisciplinary liberal arts career skills



The clear advantage of your Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Bachelor of Arts degree is a set of invaluable ILA 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 isn't anywhere you can't end up.

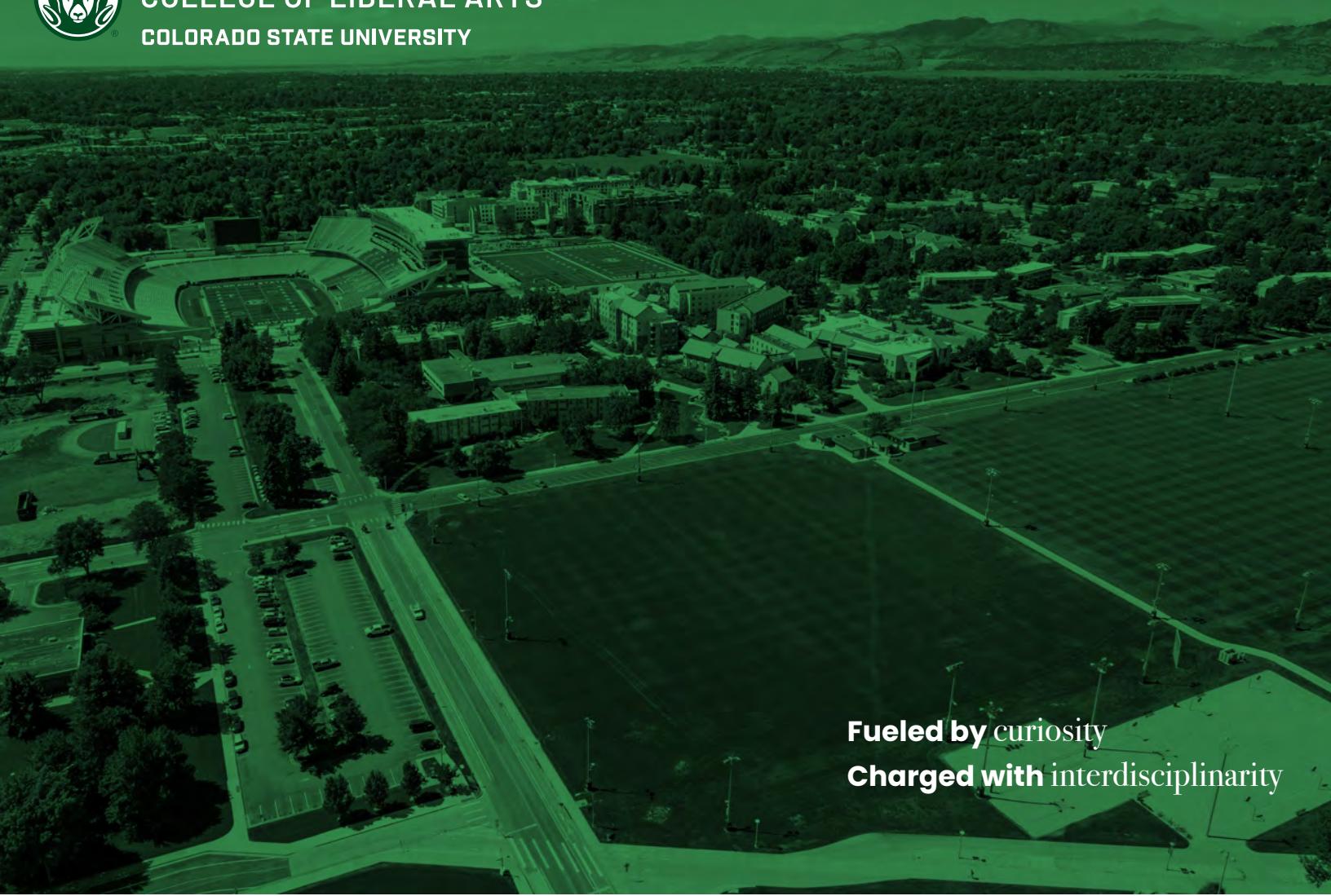
CRITICAL-THINKING AND PROBLEM-SOLVING
RESEARCHED, FACT-BASED PERSUASION
COMMUNICATION PROFICIENCY
MEDIA | DIGITAL INFORMATION COMPETENCY
COLLABORATIVE AGENCY

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

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