

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (BA)

Degree Requirements and Curriculum

In addition to the program requirements listed on this page, students must also satisfy requirements outlined in more detail in the Minimum Requirements for Graduation (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/academic-standards-policies/general-requirements-bachelors-degree/#generaleducationtext>) section of this catalog, including:

- 40 units of upper-division courses
- 2.0 GPA
- Graduation Writing Requirements (GWR)
- U.S. Cultural Pluralism (USCP)

Note: No Major or Support courses may be selected as credit/no credit. In addition, no more than 12 units of cooperative or internship courses can count towards your degree requirements

Code	Title	Units
MAJOR COURSES		
ISLA 1101	Interdisciplinary Studies Major First Year Seminar	1
ISLA 2201	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies	3
ISLA 2255	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Theory and Methods	3
ISLA 3355	Interdisciplinary Research Methods	4
ISLA 4440	Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar	3
ISLA 4460 & ISLA 4461	Senior Project Seminar and Senior Project	4
ISLA 4480	Career Preparation for Interdisciplinary Studies Majors	1
Introductory-level Interdisciplinary Course		
Select from the following:		3
ES 1112	Race, Culture, and Politics in the United States	
HIST 2206	United States Cultures	
HIST 2216	Comparative Social Movements	
ISLA 1123	Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society	
ISLA 2240	Introduction to Media Arts and Technologies	
JOUR 2219	Mass Media in a Cross-Cultural Society	
JOUR 2228	Media, Self and Society	
RELS 2201	Religion, Dialogue, and Society	
WGQS 2201	Gender and Sexuality in US Society and Politics	
WGQS 2301	Gender and Sexuality in Visual and Popular Culture	
Upper-Division ISLA Courses		
Select from the following: ¹		6-8
COMS/ISLA 3395	Science Communication	
ISLA 3303	Values and Technology	
ISLA 3305	Public Engagements with STEM	
ISLA 3320	Issues in Values, Media and Culture	
ISLA/WGQS 3335	Feminist Studies of Popular Culture and Whiteness	
ISLA 3340	Media Arts and Technologies: Storytelling	
ISLA 3341	Media Arts and Technologies: Cinematic Process	
ISLA 3345	Independent Cinema and Film Festivals	
ISLA 3350	The Global Environment	
ISLA/LAES 4411	Community and Meaning-Filled Design	
ISLA 4456	Advanced Project-Based Learning in Science, Technology & Society	
Concentration		
(See list of Concentrations below) ¹		18
GENERAL EDUCATION (GE)		
(See GE program requirements below)		43

FREE ELECTIVES

 Free Electives ² 29-31
Total Units **120**
¹ If a course is taken to meet a Major or Support requirement, it cannot be double-counted as an Elective for the concentration.

² If a General Education (GE) course is used to satisfy a Major or Support requirement, additional units of Free Electives may be needed to complete the total units required for the degree.

Concentrations
Ethics, Law, and Social Justice

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
Ethics		
Select from the following:		6
PHIL 3328	Technologies and Ethics of Warfare	
PHIL 3331	Ethics	
PHIL 3332	History of Ethics	
PHIL/WGQS 3336	Feminist Ethics, Gender, Sexuality and Society	
PHIL 3343	Power, Alienation, and Political Life	
PHIL 4439	Topics in Ethics and Political Philosophy	
Law		
Select from the following:		6-8
ES 4406	Indigenous Peoples, International Law, and Policy	
JOUR 3306	Copyright, Trademark, Patent, and Commercial Speech in Digital Media	
PHIL 3334	Philosophy of Law	
POLS 3334	Jurisprudence	
POLS 3341	U.S. Constitutional Law	
POLS/WGQS 4417	Feminist Legal Theory	
POLS 4445	Voting Rights and Representation	
PSY 3375	Forensic Psychology	
RELS 3374	Religion and Violence	
RELS 3378	Religion and Contemporary Values	
SOC 4402	Gender, Crime, and Violence	
Social Justice		
Select from the following:		6-8
ES 3325	African American Genders and Sexualities	
ES 3380	Critical Race Theory	
ES 3381	Social Constructions of Whiteness	
POLS 3343	Civil Rights in the U.S.	
POLS 3344	Civil Liberties	
POLS 4419	Social Movements and Political Protest	
POLS/WGQS 4457	U.S. Reproductive Politics	
POLS 4459	The Politics of Poverty	
RELS/WGQS 3370	Religion, Gender, and Society	
WGQS 3301	Contemporary Issues in Women's and Gender Studies	
WGQS 3302	Contemporary Issues in Queer Studies	
Total Units		18

Global Citizenship and Social Sustainability

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
Ethnicity and Culture		

Select from the following:

3-4

ES 3360	Indigeneity and the Land
HIST 3309	Cultures of the African Diaspora
HIST 3313	Modern Middle East
HIST 3316	Modern East Asia
HIST 3319	A Cultural History of Southeast Asia
HIST 3335	Modern Europe since 1914
HIST 3338	Modern Latin America
SOC 3315	Global Race and Ethnic Relations
WLC 3312	Humanities in Chicanx/Latinx Cultures

Global and Cross-Cultural Communication

Select from the following:

3-4

COMS 3316	Intercultural Communication
COMS 3320	Intergroup Communication
COMS 3390	Environmental Communication
ENGL 3313	Multilingual/Multimodal: Writing Transnational Spaces
JOUR 3319	Global Communication
Select any 3000-4000 level CHIN, FR, GER, ITAL, JPNS, SPAN, or WLC courses	

Global Political Economy

Select from the following:

3

POLS 3308	Political Violence and Conflict Resolution
POLS 3310	Politics of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in the U.S.
POLS 3321	Comparative Political Culture
POLS 3325	Global Political Issues
POLS 3328	Politics of Developing Areas
POLS 3332	World Food Systems
POLS 3339	Authoritarian and Democratic Rule
POLS 4452	Technology and International Development
POLS 4459	The Politics of Poverty

Sustainability and Global Environment

 Select from the following: ¹

3-4

BRAE 3348	Energy for a Sustainable Society
GEOG 4408	Geography of International Development
ISLA/AG/EDES/ENGR/GEOG/SCM/UNIV 3350	The Global Environment
NR 3323	Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Management
NR 3324	Social Dimensions of Sustainable Food Systems
PHIL 3340	Environmental Ethics
PSC 3320	Energy, Society, and the Environment

Global Citizenship and Social Sustainability Electives

 Select from the following: ¹

6-8

CRP 3334	Cities in a Global World
ES/WGQS 3351	Gender, Race, Class, Nation: Critical Computing and Engineering Studies
GEOG 3308	Global Geography
HIST 3310	East Asian Cultures and Civilizations
ISLA 4440	Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar
PHIL 3361	Indian Philosophy
PHIL 3362	Chinese and East Asian Philosophy
PSY 3311	Environmental Psychology
PSY 3352	Psychology of Conflict and Justice
RELS 3301	Religions of Asia
RELS 3302	Abrahamic Religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

RELS/POLS 3380	Religion and Politics in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
SOC 3303	Social Work, Social Advocacy, and Social Service Agencies
SOC 3305	Social Movements
SOC 3323	Social Stratification
SOC 3327	Social Change
WGQS 3330	Feminist/Queer Transnational Studies
WLC 3310	Humanities in World Cultures
Select any course that was not taken to satisfy a requirement above	
Total Units	18

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Health and Society

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
Environmental Health		
Select from the following: ¹		3-4
AG/EDES/ENGR/GEOG/ISLA/SCM/UNIV 3350	The Global Environment	
PHIL 3340	Environmental Ethics	
ES 3360	Indigeneity and the Land	
NR 3360	Ethnicity, Culture, and the Environment in the United States	
PSY 3311	Environmental Psychology	
SOC 3308	Sociology of the Environment	
WGQS 3301	Contemporary Issues in Women's and Gender Studies ²	
Gender, Race, Culture, and Health		
Select from the following: ¹		3-4
ANT 4460	Queer Anthropology	
ES/WGQS 3350	Gender, Race, Culture, Science, and Technology	
ISLA 3320	Issues in Values, Media and Culture	
PSY/WGQS 3324	Psychology of Gender	
PSY 3372	Multicultural Psychology	
SOC/WGQS 3311	Sociology of Gender and Sexuality	
WGQS 3302	Contemporary Issues in Queer Studies	
WGQS 4450	Feminist Theory	
Health Systems		
Select from the following:		3-4
BIO/CHEM 3318	Genetic Engineering Technology	
HLTH 3305	Drugs in Society	
POLS 3332	World Food Systems	
POLS/WGQS 4457	U.S. Reproductive Politics	
Medical Anthropology		
Select from the following:		3-4
ANT 4401	Culture and Health	
SOC 3326	Sociology of the Life Course	
SOC 4470	Special Advanced Topics	
Health and Society Electives		
Select from the following: ¹		6-8
ANT 3345	Human Behavioral Ecology	
BIO 3312	Human Genetics	
BIO 3315	Biology of Cancer	
COMS 4402	Rhetorics of Science, Technology, and Medicine	

COMS 4418	Health Communication
ENGL 3317	Humanistic Perspectives in Technical and Professional Editing
ISLA 3305	Public Engagements with STEM
ISLA 4440	Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar
PHIL 3339	Biomedical Ethics
PSY 3310	Psychology of Death
PSY 3318	Psychology of Aging
PSY 3320	Health Psychology
PSY 3344	Behavioral Genetics
PSY 4465	Cross-Cultural International Psychology
PSY 4480	Cognitive Neuroscience
RELS 3372	Spiritual Extremism: Asceticism, Mysticism, and Madness
SOC 3326	Sociology of the Life Course
Select any course that was not taken to satisfy a requirement above	

Total Units **18**

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² Topic courses require department approval. Please contact department for a list of approved topics.

Science, Technology, and Society

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
Gender, Race, Culture, Science, and Technology		
Select from the following: ¹		3-4
ANT 4425	Meaning, Gender, and Identity in Anthropological Theory	
ES/WGQS 3350	Gender, Race, Culture, Science, and Technology	
ES/WGQS 3351	Gender, Race, Class, Nation: Critical Computing and Engineering Studies	
ISLA 3320	Issues in Values, Media and Culture	
ISLA/LAES 4411	Community and Meaning-Filled Design	
SOC 3308	Sociology of the Environment	
WGQS 3301	Contemporary Issues in Women's and Gender Studies	
WGQS 3302	Contemporary Issues in Queer Studies	
Philosophy of Science and Technology		
Select from the following:		3
PHIL 3321	Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 3322	Philosophy of Technology	
PHIL 3323	Ethics, Science, and Technology	
PHIL 3327	Robot Ethics	
PHIL 3328	Technologies and Ethics of Warfare	
PHIL 3340	Environmental Ethics	
Science Communication		
Select from the following: ¹		3-4
COMS 3317	Technology and Human Communication	
COMS 3390	Environmental Communication	
COMS/ISLA 3395	Science Communication	
COMS 4402	Rhetorics of Science, Technology, and Medicine	
COMS 4418	Health Communication	
ENGL 3317	Humanistic Perspectives in Technical and Professional Editing	
ISLA 3305	Public Engagements with STEM	
MSCI 4440	Communicating Ocean Sciences to Informal Audiences	
Science, Technology, and Society Electives		
Select from the following: ¹		9-12

AG/EDES/ENGR/GEOG/ISLA/SCM/UNIV The Global Environment	
3350	
BRAE 3348	Energy for a Sustainable Society
ERSC/GEOG 3325	Climate and Humanity
HIST 3350	The Scientific Revolution: 1500-1800
HIST 3355	History of Network and Information Technologies
HIST 4407	Science and Society in the Cold War United States
ISLA 3303	Values and Technology
ISLA 4440	Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar
ISLA 4456	Advanced Project-Based Learning in Science, Technology & Society
POLS 4451	Technology and Public Policy
PSC 3320	Energy, Society, and the Environment
WLC 3370	Language, Technology and Society
Select any course that was not taken to satisfy a requirement above	

Total Units
18

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Visual, Media, and Cultural Studies

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
Art, Dance, Music, and Theatre		
Select from the following:		3
ART 3314	History and Contemporary Practices of Photography	
ART/WGQS 3327	Intersectional Feminist Art Histories	
DANC 3321	Cultural Influence on Dance in the United States	
MU 3324	Music and Society	
TH 3305	Diversity in U.S. Theatre	
TH 3390	Global Theatre and Performance	
Literature		
Select from the following:		3
ENGL 3345	Women Writers of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries	
ENGL 3346	Multiethnic Literature of the U.S.	
ENGL 3347	African American Literature	
ENGL 3348	Asian American Literature	
ENGL 3349	Trans Literatures	
ENGL 3381	Topics in Diversity in Twentieth- and Twenty-First Century US Literature	
FR 3350	French Literature in English Translation	
GER 3305	German Literature	
GER 3350	German Literature in English Translation	
SPAN 3305	Literary Works in Spanish	
SPAN 3340	Chicanx/Latinx Works in Spanish	
SPAN 3350	Hispanic Literature in English Translation	
SPAN 3351	Chicanx/Latinx Works in English	
SPAN 4410	Advanced Literary Studies in Spanish	
SPAN 4416	Don Quijote	
WLC 3350	Literatures in World Cultures	
Popular Culture		
Select from the following: ¹		3-4
COMS 3319	Critical Cultural Studies and Communication	
COMS 3384	Media Effects	
COMS 3385	Media Criticism	

ENGL 3371	Film Styles and Genres	
ENGL 3372	Film Directors	
ENGL 3373	Topics on Gender Representations in Film	
ENGL 3375	World Cinema	
ES 3310	Hip-Hop, Poetics, and Politics	
ES 3311	Beyonce: Race, Feminism, and Politics	
ES 3340	Cultural Production and Ethnicity	
ISLA 3320	Issues in Values, Media and Culture	
KINE 3324	Sports, Media, and United States Popular Culture	
SPAN 3307	Spanish and Latin American Film	
WGQS 3301	Contemporary Issues in Women's and Gender Studies	
WGQS 3302	Contemporary Issues in Queer Studies	
WGQS 4401	Seminar in Women's, Gender, and Queer Studies	
WLC 3307	World Cultures through Film	
Technology and Human Expression		
Select from the following: ¹		3-4
COMS 3317	Technology and Human Communication	
HIST 3355	History of Network and Information Technologies	
ISLA 3303	Values and Technology	
ISLA 3340	Media Arts and Technologies: Storytelling	
ISLA 3341	Media Arts and Technologies: Cinematic Process	
MU 3311	Introduction to Music Technology and Composition	
MU 3312	Sound Art and Advanced Production Techniques	
WLC 3370	Language, Technology and Society	
Visual, Media, and Cultural Studies Electives		
Select from the following: ¹		6-8
ISLA 4440	Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar	
Select any course that was not taken to satisfy a requirement listed above		
Total Units		18

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General Education (GE) Requirements

General Education (GE) Requirements

- 43 units required.
- See the complete GE course listing (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/academic-standards-policies/general-requirements-bachelors-degree/#generaleducationtext>).
- A grade of C- or better is required in one course in each of the following GE Areas: 1A (English Composition), 1B (Critical Thinking), 1C (Oral Communication), and 2 (Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning).

Lower-Division General Education

Area 1	English Communication and Critical Thinking	
1A	Written Communication	3
1B	Critical Thinking	3
1C	Oral Communication	3
Area 2	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning	
2	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning	3
Area 3	Arts and Humanities	
3A	Arts	3
3B	Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English	3
Area 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area 4 courses must come from at least two different course prefixes.)	
4A	American Institutions (Title 5, Section 40404 Requirement)	3

4B	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
Area 5	Physical and Life Sciences	
5A	Physical Sciences	3
5B	Life Sciences	3
5C	Laboratory (may be embedded in a 5A or 5B course)	1
Area 6	Ethnic Studies	
6	Ethnic Studies	3
Upper-Division General Education		
Upper-Division 2/5	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning or Physical and Life Sciences	3
Upper-Division 3	Arts and Humanities	3
Upper-Division 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area 4 courses must come from at least two different course prefixes.)	3
Total Units		43