

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR

High School Preparation

Recommended as part of or in addition to UC's "a-g" admission requirements:

English composition,
Mathematics,
Social science courses,
Natural science courses,
Foreign languages.

Transfer Preparation

Students cannot declare or be admitted into the Interdisciplinary Studies major when they apply to UCSB. Rather, they must petition the College of Letters and Science for admission into the major after they are enrolled at UCSB.

Please see the UCSB *General Catalog* (www.catalog.ucsb.edu) or your school counselor for more information on course preparation. California community college students should see www.assist.org.

The Interdisciplinary Studies major is a demanding and rewarding one, appropriate for students whose educational goals can be achieved only by combining courses from three departments. To enter the Interdisciplinary Studies major, students must develop and obtain approval of an Interdisciplinary Studies proposal. A specified number of lower-division courses and 56 upper-division units, including a senior project or thesis, are required. Each of these requirements is described in detail below.

The Proposal

To gain admission to the Interdisciplinary Studies major, students must develop a written proposal that brings studies in three different departments to bear on a single and clearly defined academic goal. (Both freshmen and transfer students must be already in residence at UCSB before submitting their proposal.) The proposal must contain a statement of purpose, which should include compelling reasons for selection of the Interdisciplinary Studies major over one of UCSB's other majors; a convincing rationale based on a coherent intellectual theme for selection of the three departments; and an outline of course work that will be completed in each of the three departments (the curriculum). The proposal will be subject to thorough and rigorous review by the chairs of the selected departments and the Dean of Undergraduate Education of the College of Letters and Science. The curriculum included in an approved proposal is binding, just as are requirements for all other majors. Advisors are available to help students plan their Interdisciplinary Studies programs and develop their proposals. Students interested in the Interdisciplinary Studies major should meet with an advisor early in their academic careers.

The Course Work

As preparation for the major, students must complete a minimum number of required lower-division (freshman and sophomore level) courses in each of their three selected departments. Students may obtain a list of the current lower-division course requirements from the college office.

Students must also complete upper-division (junior and senior level) courses distributed among their three selected departments. Students must complete at least four courses in each department. As was noted above, these courses must be written into the student's proposal and approved by each of the department chairs. The requirement includes the senior thesis described below. Most departments and programs in the College of Letters and Science may be considered for inclusion in the Interdisciplinary Studies major.

The Senior Thesis

One of the upper-division courses in the Interdisciplinary Studies major must be a senior thesis or a research project, which ties together the various strands of the major.

Interdisciplinary Studies and Careers

Interdisciplinary Studies majors often have specific career goals that parallel the specific academic goals of their major. Interdisciplinary Studies, like all liberal arts majors, can

prepare students for continued study in graduate school and professional programs leading ultimately to careers in areas such as business, law, the health sciences, social services, and education. Students interested in graduate or professional programs should investigate the specific admission criteria for those programs early in their academic careers. In this way, they may be able to incorporate course work needed to meet those criteria into their Interdisciplinary Studies major, or they may discover that their academic and career goals can be better met through an existing major rather than the Interdisciplinary Studies major.

For more information on the Interdisciplinary Studies major, please call or write to:

College of Letters and Science
1117 Cheadle Hall
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2080
805/893-2038
e-mail: rfletcher@lsc.ucsb.edu
website: www.catalog.ucsb.edu (Click on “College of Letters and Science” and then “Interdisciplinary Studies.”)