**INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES FIELD**

Bachelor of Arts

**INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR**

The Interdisciplinary Studies Field (ISF) major offers highly motivated students the unique opportunity to design an original program of research and study resulting in a major research project (senior thesis). ISF allows you to take advantage of UC Berkeley’s strengths as a research institution by combining work across disciplines in courses and with faculty where no other structured program exists.

The major is intended for students who wish to focus their studies on a non-U.S. topic, have a clear idea about the research they would like to pursue and the courses that will be most meaningful to them, and who are prepared to write a senior thesis.

**ISF CURRICULUM**

ISF is an individualized cross-disciplinary research program that includes a course of study and a senior thesis. The course of study is made up of courses taken in the social sciences, the humanities, and/or the professional schools and colleges, alongside the required courses in ISF. The capstone experience is a scholarly, rigorously-researched 40-page required senior thesis, a sustained inquiry in the social sciences and humanities based on original, cross-disciplinary research.

**AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR**

- Engage with your research topic through a study abroad experience.
- Apply your skills and experience as a DeCal facilitator.
- Conduct research abroad and travel to conferences with support from the Institute of International Studies, SURF Fellowship Program, or Haas Scholars Program.
- Do a deep dive into a research topic by writing an Honors Thesis in ISF.

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“I am honored to have been in the ISF major because it provided me an innovative and empowering education.”

–Emily Cohen, ISF Class of 2015

**HOW TO USE THIS MAP**

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit [ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps](http://ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps) for the latest version of this major map.

**CONNECT WITH US**

**Cal Day**

Come to Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more. ISF faculty will discuss the possibilities for student interdisciplinary research at Berkeley and tackling the most pressing problems facing society today.

**Golden Bear Orientation**

Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students. Attend an ISF infosession to hear from faculty about this amazing interdisciplinary research major.

**Events**

Attend an ISF Application Workshop to find out more about the major and the application process. Visit [isf.ugis.berkeley.edu](http://isf.ugis.berkeley.edu) for news and updates.

**ADVISING**

Meet with an ISF undergraduate advisor via appointment or drop-in advising. Appointments can be made by contacting advisors directly. Visit [isf.ugis.berkeley.edu/people/](http://isf.ugis.berkeley.edu/people/) for office hours and locations.

Advising Drop-In Hours:

Monday - Friday 9-11:30am, 1:45-5:00pm

**CONNECT WITH US**

**Photo credit: Keegan House**
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DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

**FIRST YEAR**
- Explore your major
  - Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plan.
  - Review major and college requirements
  - Take classes about social problems or social issues that interest you.
  - Start preparing a research plan for the ISF application.

- Connect and build community
  - Join the ISF Facebook group and stay updated on news and events.
  - Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.

- Discover your passions
  - Enroll in a Discovery Course to explore new and exciting fields of study.
  - Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships
  - Learn about ISF research fields and consider which field(s) appeal to you.

- Engage locally and globally
  - Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
  - Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.

- Reflect and plan your future
  - Visit Berkeley Career Engagement and the Career Counseling Library
  - Check out the Berkeley Career Engagement Yearly Planner
  - Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail

**SECOND YEAR**
- Explore your major
  - Complete lower division prerequisites and apply to the major.
  - Use the ISF program template to develop your course of study.
  - Review major guidelines for study abroad.
  - Consider completing a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.

- Connect and build community
  - Join a student organization such as Cal Convergent and DiversiTech that fits your intended area of study for ISF.
  - Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.

- Discover your passions
  - Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar such as UGIS 39.
  - Assist faculty in their research through URAP.
  - Attend debates, talks, and panels by a variety of professionals through Berkeley Forum.
  - Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database.

- Engage locally and globally
  - Contribute to a community organization with an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
  - Go on a service-learning trip with the Alternative Breaks Program.
  - Consider a Berkeley Global Internship in the United States or abroad.

**THIRD YEAR**
- Explore your major
  - Focus on upper division requirements and electives based on your field of study.
  - Read through the ISF Senior Thesis guidelines in preparation for your study.
  - Ask your major advisor about the ISF Honors Program.

- Connect and build community
  - Consult with outside faculty with research specialties related to your thesis.
  - Welcome new students to UC Berkeley as a Golden Bear Orientation Leader.

- Discover your passions
  - Get inspired by projects of recent ISF graduates.
  - Check the Institute of International Studies for research funding.
  - Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.

- Engage locally and globally
  - Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program.
  - Find service opportunities through the Public Service program.

**FOURTH YEAR**
- Explore your major
  - Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
  - Complete your senior thesis.
  - Challenge yourself with a graduate-level course.
  - Complete any "bucket list" courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.

- Connect and build community
  - Get support for your thesis project in the Townsend Honors Thesis Workshop.
  - Connect with alumni groups and build your network as you prepare to graduate.
  - Join the "ISF Alumni LinkedIn Group".

- Discover your passions
  - Teach your own DeCal course.
  - Submit your work to the Berkeley Undergraduate Journal.
  - Keep pursuing your interests through a fellowship or gap year after graduation.

- Engage locally and globally
  - Hone your leadership skills with the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program.
  - Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps. Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?**
As an ISF major, you will learn critical skills of research, analysis, interpretation, and writing that will translate across professional sectors and domains, including academia, non-profit work, business, government, and community service. Your demonstrable record as a scholar and researcher with the capacity to complete original and innovative work will be a bonus for employers, graduate programs, and professional schools seeking unusually and highly-motivated graduates.

**Jobs and Employers**
- Account Associate, Accenture
- Analyst, Riviéra Partners
- Business Develop. Assoc., Oracle
- Communications Coordinator, UCOP
- Data Analyst, BALANCE
- Engineer, PG&E
- Fellow, Americanist
- Financial Analyst, Citigroup
- Interaction Designer, VMware
- Marketing Manager, Freshslice Pizza
- Media Planner, Digitas
- Operations Research Analyst, Zoox
- Technical Trainer, AMN Healthcare
- Volunteer, Peace Corps

**Graduate Programs**
- Anatomy, PhD
- Business Administration, Masters
- Computer Science, PhD
- Education, Masters
- International Development, Masters
- International Relations, Masters
- Information Technology, Masters
- Law, JD
- Latin American Studies, Masters
- Physical Sciences, Masters

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.