

*"Surge like an ocean,  
Don't scatter yourself like a storm.  
Life's waters flow from the darkness.  
Search the darkness, but don't run from it."  
—Rumi, "Search the Darkness," from Love Is a Stranger*

### Program Description

The Interdisciplinary Studies (INTD) major provides a creative and challenging invitation for students to design a unique major exceeding the scope of a single perspective. Students begin the program by taking the required Interdisciplinary Studies Gateway Seminar, which surveys the history of disciplines and how they constitute major and minor degree programs. This gateway course then turns to study the various disciplines as they are constituted at Naropa. With this background, students work with an advisor, the Gateway Seminar instructor, and two faculty mentors to design a unique focus of study within two or three disciplines called a Learning Agreement. This approach ensures that students bring an informed, interdisciplinary, and committed perspective to designing their focus of study. The Advanced INTD Research Seminar (INTD380) fosters interdisciplinary research methods by providing students with skills necessary for work in their chosen areas of study and across the disciplines. Students are required to take two Special Topics courses (INTD490). The final component of the program is the Capstone Seminar (INTD480), taken in the final semester and designed to guide students through their senior thesis and portfolio.

### BA in Interdisciplinary Studies Requirements\*

- Students design their Learning Agreement for the major in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Gateway Seminar (INTD301).
- Approval by the chair of Interdisciplinary Studies of a Learning Agreement outlining the student's focused, achievable, individualized program.
- Sixty credits generally earned at 300-level classes and above. These credits will be accumulated by completing the courses listed in the student's approved Learning Agreement, and will include credits earned from the required Gateway Seminar (INTD301), Advanced INTD Research Seminar (INTD380), 9 credits of Special Topics Seminar (INTD490) and Capstone Seminar (INTD480).
- Course work to be applied to the major may include up to 9 credit hours of independent study and 6 credit hours of transfer and/or consortium credits.<sup>†</sup>
- Interdisciplinary Studies students must attend the Gateway and Capstone semesters and Advanced Research and Special Topics courses in residence.

*\*This fact sheet describes the 2011-12 curriculum for the Interdisciplinary Studies major. Naropa University faculty and staff are committed to regular review and revision of the curriculum, to reflect new findings and understandings in the field, feedback from alumni and the professional community, and faculty expertise. Please inquire with the Office of Admissions and/or the School of the Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

*<sup>†</sup>This does not constitute an increase in the total number of transfer credits allowed. A maximum of 60 transfer credits will be accepted.*

### Learning Agreement

The Learning Agreement is an intensive investigation into the areas of academic interest. The student will be guided through this investigation by a careful consideration and interaction with the professor teaching the Gateway Seminar. In order to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the Bachelor of Arts program, the Learning Agreement must incorporate disciplines from at least two but no more than three of the BA programs offered at Naropa. Students must select a minimum of 12 credit hours at the 300 level or above from each BA program's list of required courses, provided in the course catalog. This is to ensure that they receive basic fluency, literacy, and methodology for each discipline.

### Gateway Seminar

The Gateway Seminar (INTD301) is the student's introduction to the Bachelor of Arts program. Kept small by design, the Gateway Seminar must be taken in the student's first semester in the program. The seminar is designed to include reading and writing assignments on the history of disciplines, how disciplines are constituted at Naropa University, and the practice of interdisciplinarity. In the final phase, students design their own Learning Agreement in Interdisciplinary Studies.

### Advanced INTD Research Seminar

The Advanced INTD Research Seminar (INTD380) aims to foster interdisciplinary research methods by providing students with skills necessary for work in their chosen areas of study. Methods include a critical comparative examination of the practices, protocols, and theories of education within a discipline as these have developed intellectually and institutionally over the past several centuries. In systematically comparing the methods and rhetorical strategies of different disciplines and focusing upon the history of modern educational practices, the course develops critical thinking and research skills essential to laying a foundation for work during the subsequent thesis-writing semester. At the same time, the seminar fosters the community-building work of Interdisciplinary Studies as a contemplative forum for the discussion of broad academic issues confronting university education today.

### Special Topics Seminar

The Special Topics Seminar (INTD490) investigates the application of theories and methods of interdisciplinarity to specific historical, critical, and theoretical issues and problems. Specific topics are announced each semester. Interdisciplinary Studies students are required to take two Special Topics courses. The topics for these courses are student generated.

### Capstone Seminar

The final component of the major in Interdisciplinary Studies is the Capstone Seminar, a 3-credit course designed to guide students through their senior thesis. The senior thesis is a scholarly paper, annotated bibliography, reading list, and portfolio of course work that reflects the student's cumulative knowledge at the end of the degree program. This thesis will be evaluated by the student's mentors.

## Minor in Gender and Women's Studies

Gender and women's studies is an inherently interdisciplinary exploration into both academic and experiential understandings of the ways in which gender permeates fields of study as structured at Naropa University. Through critical analysis of the intersections of gender and women's studies with issues including race, class, religion, sexual orientation, and culture, students are able to cultivate a contemplative awareness of their relationship with globally interwoven social structures. The Gender and Women's Studies minor prepares students to envision and create a world free from gender oppression.

### Required Courses

INTD210	Intro to Gender and Women's Studies (3)
INTD310	Feminist and Queer Methods of Inquiry (3)
SUBTOTAL	6

### Emphasis Electives

Choose 6 credits from the following:

PAX415	Women, Feminism and Peacemaking (3)
REL212	Feminism, Queer Theory and Religion (3)
REL334	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
PSYB355	Dynamics of Intimate Relationships (3)
WRI365	Reading and Writing: Experimental Women Writers (3)
SUBTOTAL	6

### TOTAL CREDITS 12

## Careers of Program Graduates

In an increasingly complex world, questions and issues are arising without answers in the traditional disciplines as organized and departmentalized in universities. In preparing our students for this world of paradigm shift, Naropa University enables them to study, explore, and research between and across the disciplines. We build a more holistic way of looking at questions and issues of the 21st century and provide the interdisciplinary tools to work in the world "to meet it and change it for the better." This degree enables students to hold more flexible, spontaneous, and open-minded approaches to tasks facing them in their career and educational future. We promote and teach a method of integrating knowledge in positive connections. The interdisciplinary academic and experiential track facilitates students' development of a more comprehensive understanding and a cognitive advancement. Interdisciplinary Studies students are well prepared for graduate studies in many fields.

- Small film producer for Asia Network, Boulder, CO
- MA graduate student in Art History, University of Beijing, Beijing, China
- Celtic shamanic counselor, Ireland
- National Book Award author of *Ecology of Celtic Spirituality*
- Founder of Personal Life Media, Boulder, CO
- English teacher and editor of an English-language newspaper, Khartoum, Sudan
- Emergency medical technician, Summit Medical Center, Frisco, CO
- Specialist in disabilities education, New York Public Schools, New York, NY

## Interdisciplinary Studies Ranked Faculty

Barbara Catbagan

BA, Colorado State University; MEd, Colorado State University

Barbara is an educator with more than twenty years of experience. Barbara's background in diversity, multicultural education, and social justice includes having been the multicultural specialist for a large school district and the director of the Human Rights Resource and Education Office for the city of Fort Collins. She is a certified mediator and consultant who has worked with groups throughout Colorado.

Acharya Gaylon Ferguson, PhD

BA, Yale University; MA, Stanford University; PhD, Stanford University.

Gaylon Ferguson received his undergraduate training at Yale University and his MA and PhD in cultural anthropology from Stanford University in 1992 and 1996, respectively. He has since taught at Stanford and the University

of Washington. He served as teacher in residence at the Karne-Choling Buddhist Meditation Center (2001-05) and as visiting teacher in residence at the San Francisco Zen Center. He has also served as a visiting teacher at the Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Woodacre, CA. Gaylon is an Acharya in the Shambhala lineage and has served as lead teacher for Shambhala Sutrayana Seminars. While a visiting scholar at Naropa before joining the Interdisciplinary Studies Department as associate professor in July 2006, he taught courses in West African religions and Buddhist studies. Among his recent publications is an article in *Dharma, Color, and Culture: New Voices in Western Buddhism* from Parallax Press and the new book *Natural Wakefulness: Discovering the Wisdom We Were Born With* from Shambhala Publications. Dr. Ferguson brings to the Interdisciplinary Studies program both interdisciplinarity and expertise in anthropology, diversity awareness, and contemplative educational practices.

## Declaring a Major in Interdisciplinary Studies

Most students enter Naropa University as first-year students and declare a major after completing 30 credits. In addition to adhering to university requirements and deadlines, Interdisciplinary Studies requires

- a meeting with the department chair or attendance in the Gateway Seminar (INTD 301);
- 30 credits completed or in progress.

## BA in Interdisciplinary Studies Admission Requirements Campus Tours

You are strongly encouraged to visit Naropa University. Events for prospective students are scheduled every fall and spring. See [www.naropa.edu/admissions/ugrad\\_events.cfm](http://www.naropa.edu/admissions/ugrad_events.cfm) for more information. The visitation coordinator will be happy to arrange for you to meet with an admissions counselor or a member of our faculty, visit a class or take a campus tour. Arapahoe Campus tours are offered Monday through Friday at 2 p.m. in the main lobby of the Administration Building. The visitation coordinator can be contacted at 303-546-3548 or 1-800-772-6951 (within North America) or by email at [admissionevents@naropa.edu](mailto:admissionevents@naropa.edu). You can also use our online Visitation Request form or you may view our campus from the online tour.

### Priority Deadlines

Naropa University uses a rolling admission policy. Applicants may apply as early as September for summer and fall admission. Applications received between September 1 and the priority deadline will be given equal consideration. Applications received after the priority deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

- January 15 for fall semester admission
- October 15 for spring semester admission

Please contact the Office of Admissions at 303-546-3572 or 1-800-772-6951 (within North America) for more information.

### Application Requirements

There are three ways of applying to Naropa University:

1. Apply online at [www.naropa.edu/apply](http://www.naropa.edu/apply) or [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).
2. Download the Naropa undergraduate application form at [www.naropa.edu/ugradapply](http://www.naropa.edu/ugradapply).
3. Request that an application be sent to you in the mail.

To apply for admission to the Interdisciplinary Studies major, the following is required:

1. Parts A and B of application form.
2. \$50 nonrefundable fee in the form of a check or money order, payable to "Naropa University." Applicant's name must be clearly indicated on the check.
3. Part C of application form—three essays (all must be typed).
4. Official college transcript for every university attended (must be sent in a sealed envelope from the registrar), showing proof of 30 semester credits.
5. Letter of recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor. If you have

been out of school for more than three years, please request a letter of recommendation from a supervisor. This letter must be on or attached to the form provided.

6. A phone or in-person interview.

If you have fewer than 30 semester credits, you must apply to Naropa University as an undeclared student. See [www.naropa.edu/ugradapply](http://www.naropa.edu/ugradapply) for specific admission requirements. If you have 30 or more semester credits, you may apply directly to the major.