

## MAJOR IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES BACHELOR OF ARTS 2010–11

*“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 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 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 (INTD 380) 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 (INTD 490). The final component of the program is the Capstone Seminar (INTD 480) taken in the final semester and designed to guide students through their senior thesis and portfolio.

### INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES REQUIREMENTS\*

- Approval by the chair of Interdisciplinary Studies of a Learning Agreement outlining the student’s focused, achievable, individualized program.
- Students design their Learning Agreement for the major in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Gateway Seminar (INTD 301).
- 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 (INTD 301), Advanced INTD Research Seminar (INTD 380), 6 credits of Special Topics (INTD 490) and Capstone Seminar (INTD 480).
- 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.†
- Interdisciplinary Studies students must attend the Gateway and Capstone semesters and Advanced Research and Special Topics courses in residence.

*\*This fact sheet describes the 2009–10 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 Department of Interdisciplinary Studies for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

*†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 (INTD 301) is the student’s entryway into 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 (INTD 380) 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, 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 (INTD 490) 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 a 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

INTD 210	Intro to Gender and Women's Studies (3)
INTD 310	Feminist and Queer Methods of Inquiry (3)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>

### Emphasis Electives

Choose 6 credits from the following:

PAX 415	Women, Feminism and Peacemaking (3)
REL 212	Feminism, Queer Theory and Religion (3)
REL 334	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
WRI 340	Literature Seminar: Women Writers, Open Texts (3)
WRI 365	Reading and Writing: Experimental Women Writers (3)
WRI 436	Trends in Contemporary Literature: Introduction to Feminist Theory (3)

**SUBTOTAL 6**

**TOTAL CREDITS 12**

## Careers

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 a student to study, explore and research between and across the disciplines. We build a more holistic way of looking at questions and issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and provide the interdisciplinary tools to work in the world "to meet it and change it for the better." This degree enables a student to hold a more flexible, spontaneous and open-minded approach 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 a student's development of a more comprehensive understanding and a cognitive advancement.

- Small film producer for Asia Network, Boulder, CO
- MA graduate student in Art History, University of Beijing, Beijing, China
- Celtic shamanic counselor, Ireland
- 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

**Alan Hartway, Chair**

**BA, St. Joseph College; Graduate Studies, Catholic Theological Union; MFA, The Naropa Institute; PhD (cand.), University of Colorado.**

Alan Hartway has taught at Naropa since 1999 and was an undergraduate advisor until 2004. He is currently faculty instructor and the chair of Interdisciplinary Studies. He was an adjunct faculty for St. Mary of the Plains College of Dodge City, KS. He is an ordained Catholic priest in the Society of the Precious Blood; he has served as pastor for twelve years, director of publications for his community and director of formation for priesthood candidates for five years. He is also currently contracted full time with Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Mead, Colorado. Alan graduated with an MFA in Writing and Poetics from Naropa in 1996. He has studied with the Foundation for Shamanic Studies. He is currently engaged in graduate degree work at the University of Colorado in classics and Greek.

**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 Karame-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 Seminaries. As 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.

**Stuart J. Sigman, PhD**

**BA, Hunter College, City University of New York; MA, University of Pennsylvania; PhD, University of Pennsylvania.**

Stuart J. Sigman joined the Naropa University community as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty in July 2006. He serves also as professor in Interdisciplinary Studies. Previously, he served Emerson College (Boston, MA) as founding dean of the School of Communication for eight years. He came to Emerson after having served in faculty positions at West Virginia University, Penn State University, the State University of New York (Buffalo and Albany campuses) and the Union Institute and University; he also served as a visiting faculty member at Bond University in Australia. Stuart received his BA from Hunter College, City University of New York, in 1976, completing an honors degree with concentrations in theatre, communication and linguistics. He received his MA and PhD from the Annenberg School of Communications, University of Pennsylvania, in 1979 and 1982 respectively. His research has appeared in such journals as *Human Communication Research*, *Journal of Applied Communication*, *Critical Studies in Mass Communication* and the *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*. He has been an invited speaker at Ithaca College, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the École des Hautes Études Commerciales-Université de Montréal and the Centro Internazionale di Semiotica e Linguistica (Urbino, Italy). He was named a Fulbright Senior Specialist for a five-year term beginning 2003.

## **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.

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

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 [admissions@naropa.edu](mailto:admissions@naropa.edu). You can also use our online Visitation Request form or you may view our campus from the online tour.

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.

Please note that if you are applying as a transfer student directly into a major, that academic department might require a supplemental application. See [www.naropa.edu/ugradapply](http://www.naropa.edu/ugradapply) for details.

## **Suggested 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 suggested deadline will be given equal consideration. Applications received after the suggested 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 800-772-6951 (within North America) for more information.

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.

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

## **Application Requirements**

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 – 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. Letters of Recommendation: One from a teacher and one from another teacher, counselor or someone who knows the applicant well other than a family member or current therapist. These must be on the forms provided.
6. Interdisciplinary Studies supplemental application (for transfer students with 30 or more credits who are applying directly to the department).
7. A phone or in-person interview.

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**Supplemental Application**

Applying to the Interdisciplinary Studies major requires that you compose a Plan of Study with your full legal name, address, phone number, email address and date prominently displayed on the first page. Your Plan of Study is the dynamic basis from which we will sculpt your program to create your Learning Agreement. Your responses must persuasively explain why your degree plan requires that you study in two academic disciplines. Please address the questions below clearly and succinctly. Your essay should be approximately 500 words in length.

1. What are the central ideas, problems and/or questions that inform the focus for your Bachelor of Arts?
2. What two disciplines do you need to focus on to help you understand those ideas, address those problems and answer the questions at issue?
3. What is your current understanding of a holistic and integrative approach to learning?
4. How does your life experience and undergraduate education so far prepare you for work in Interdisciplinary Studies?
5. How do you envision employing your interdisciplinary education after completing your BA at Naropa?
6. What have you recently read and how is it relevant to your proposed BA Interdisciplinary Studies program?