**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.

**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.

**ISF Curriculum**

ISF is an individuated 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.

**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

**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/ for office hours and locations.

Advising Drop-In Hours:
Monday - Friday 9-11:30am, 1:45-5:00pm

**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 for the latest version of this major map.
# Interdisciplinary Studies Field

**Bachelor of Arts**

## Design Your Journey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST YEAR</th>
<th>SECOND YEAR</th>
<th>THIRD YEAR</th>
<th>FOURTH YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explore</strong></td>
<td><strong>Connect</strong></td>
<td><strong>Discover</strong></td>
<td><strong>Engage</strong></td>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reflect</strong></td>
<td><strong>Build</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Join</strong></td>
<td><strong>Get inspired</strong></td>
<td><strong>Experience</strong></td>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar such as UGIS 99. Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URBAP. Attend debates, talks, and panels by a variety of professionals through Berkeley Forum. Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database.</td>
<td>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. Explore self-reflection and internship development in UGIS W157: Experiential Learning.</td>
<td>Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program. Find service opportunities through the Public Service program.</td>
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<td><strong>Teach</strong></td>
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<td>Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization. Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.</td>
<td>Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals. Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter externship. Learn about graduate and professional school. See Step-by-Step for planning help. Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.</td>
<td>Conduct informational interviews. Going to graduate school? Take required exams and discuss options with advisors and professors. Update your resume and LinkedIn profile. Attend career and graduate school fairs.</td>
<td>Complete your senior thesis. Challenge yourself with a graduate-level course. Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.</td>
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<td>Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library. Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner. Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.</td>
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## 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 unusual and highly-motivated graduates.

### Jobs and Employers

- Account Associate, Accenture
- Analyst, RiverPartners
- Business Development, Associate, Oracle
- Communications Coordinator, UCP Data Analyst, BALANCE
- Director of Operations, PG&E
- Fellow, Americorps
- Financial Analyst, Citigroup
- Interaction Designer, VMware
- Marketing Manager, Freshslice Pizza
- Media Planner, Digits
- Operations Research Analyst, Zoox
- Technical Trainer, AMN Healthcare
- Volunteer, Peace Corps

### Graduate Programs

- Accounting, 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.

**Updated Last: 05.11.2023**