



Photo credit: Keegan Houser

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.

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 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/ for office hours and locations.

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

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES FIELD

Bachelor of Arts

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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.



Photo credit: Edwaert Collier Vanitas

“ 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

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.

Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.

Berkeley

Interdisciplinary Studies Field Program

263 Evans Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720
isf.ugis.berkeley.edu

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES FIELD

Bachelor of Arts

DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY



| | FIRST YEAR | SECOND YEAR | THIRD YEAR | FOURTH YEAR | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| Explore your major | <p>Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.</p> <p>Review major and college requirements.</p> <p>Take classes about social problems or social issues that interest you.</p> <p>Start preparing a research plan for the ISF application.</p> | <p>Complete lower division prerequisites and apply to the major.</p> <p>Use the ISF program template to develop your course of study.</p> <p>Review major guidelines for study abroad.</p> <p>Consider completing a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.</p> | <p>Focus on upper division requirements and electives based on your field of study.</p> <p>Read through the ISF Senior Thesis guidelines in preparation for your study.</p> <p>Ask your major advisor about the ISF Honors Program.</p> | <p>Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.</p> <p>Complete your senior thesis.</p> <p>Challenge yourself with a graduate-level course.</p> <p>Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.</p> | <h3>WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?</h3> <p>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.</p> <h3>Jobs and Employers</h3> <p>Account Associate, Accenture Analyst, Riviera Partners Business Develop. Assoc., Oracle Communications Coordinator, UCOP Data Analyst, BALANCE Engineer, PG&E Fellow, Americorps Financial Analyst, Citigroup Interaction Designer, VMWare Marketing Manager, Freshslice Pizza Media Planner, Digitas Operations Research Analyst, Zoox Technical Trainer, AMN Healthcare Volunteer, Peace Corps</p> <h3>Graduate Programs</h3> <p>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</p> <p>Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.</p> |
| Connect and build community | <p>Join the ISF Facebook group and stay updated on news and events.</p> <p>Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.</p> <p>Enroll in UGIS 98: College Success in L&S.</p> | <p>Join a student organization such as Cal Convergent and DiversaTech that fits your intended area of study for ISF.</p> <p>Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.</p> | <p>Consult with outside faculty with research specialties related to your thesis.</p> <p>Welcome new students to UC Berkeley as a Golden Bear Orientation Leader.</p> | <p>Get support for your thesis project in the Townsend Honors Thesis Workshop.</p> <p>Connect with alumni groups and build your network as you prepare to graduate.</p> <p>Join the “ISF Alumni LinkedIn Group”.</p> | |
| Discover your passions | <p>Enroll in a Discovery Course to explore new and exciting fields of study.</p> <p>Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.</p> <p>Learn about ISF research fields and consider which field(s) appeal to you.</p> | <p>Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar such as UGIS 39.</p> <p>Assist faculty in their research through URAP.</p> <p>Attend debates, talks, and panels by a variety of professionals through Berkeley Forum.</p> <p>Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database.</p> | <p>Get inspired by projects of recent ISF graduates.</p> <p>Check the Institute of International Studies for research funding.</p> <p>Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.</p> <p>Explore self-reflection and internship development in UGIS W157: Experiential Learning.</p> | <p>Teach your own DeCal course.</p> <p>Submit your work to the Berkeley Undergraduate Journal.</p> <p>Keep pursuing your interests through a fellowship or gap year after graduation.</p> | |
| Engage locally and globally | <p>Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.</p> <p>Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.</p> | <p>Contribute to a community organization with an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.</p> <p>Go on a service-learning trip with the Alternative Breaks Program.</p> <p>Consider a Berkeley Global Internship in the United States or abroad.</p> | <p>Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program.</p> <p>Find service opportunities through the Public Service program.</p> | <p>Hone your leadership skills with the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program.</p> <p>Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.</p> | |
| Reflect and plan your future | <p>Visit Berkeley Career Engagement and the Career Counseling Library.</p> <p>Check out the Berkeley Career Engagement Yearly Planner.</p> <p>Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.</p> | <p>Discuss career options and goals with a Career Educator.</p> <p>Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter externship.</p> <p>Learn about graduate and professional school. See Step-by-Step for planning help.</p> <p>Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.</p> | <p>Conduct informational interviews.</p> <p>Going to graduate school? Take required exams and discuss options with advisors and professors.</p> <p>Update your resume and LinkedIn profile.</p> <p>Attend career and graduate school fairs.</p> | <p>Utilize job board tools in your job search.</p> <p>Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.</p> <p>Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting.</p> <p>Apply to jobs, graduate school, and other opportunities.</p> | |