Student Learning Objectives of IAS Majors

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School of IAS

- Develop proficiency in skills such as writing and critical thinking that are needed for productive careers, and gain mastery of a broad curriculum in the humanities, social sciences and environmental science;
- Achieve knowledge of the theories, concepts and methods of cross-cultural analysis;
- Understand the complexity of relations between groups, societies, cultures and natural environments; the history of these relations and the forces of social change;
- Gain a knowledge and appreciation of cultures other than their own while exploring the expression of cultural identity, thought and beliefs through literature and the other arts; and
- Build experience in the analysis of environmental issues and their scientific basis.

American Studies

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of American cultures, nationhood and social movements in various social and political contexts
- Demonstrate an understanding of how cultural meaning is created, and how studying cultural ideas and practices can provide us with multiple ways of making power visible
- Situate American cultures and communities within a global context
- Analyze and synthesize material from primary and secondary sources in order to create a coherent, evidence-based argument
- Employ methodologies from the humanities and the social sciences to analyze a variety of historical, cultural, social and political questions.

Arts, Media and Culture

When you have finished the course work for this major, you are expected to meet these learning outcomes.

- You will cultivate insight unique to human beings and will be able to identify and explain interrelations among texts of apparently disparate discourses: literature, film and visual arts.
- You will acquire the interpretive skills necessary to analyze individual texts of various kinds - literary, filmic, art, televisual, musical - closely and critically. Students will be not just literate but visually or audiovisually literate.
- You will understand the importance of history and culture as they shape and are in turn shaped by arts and media.
- You will gain practical experience in the creative processes of one of the arts or media studied in the major.
- You will be able to express the knowledge and experience described in the items listed above in clear, concise and persuasive writing.

Communication

Through a critical and cultural studies framework that addresses power differentials in society and through a rigorous schedule of courses in media theory and skills, you, as a Communication major, are expected to:

- Be able to conduct thorough and critical research for both media theory and skills assignments, which is consistent with the LEAP learning outcomes of "Intellectual and Practical Skills" and "Integrative Learning;"

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• Understand and analyze the power of the visual image and the written word and their ability to convey and sustain ideologies of gender, class, ethnicity and orientation, which is consistent with the LEAP learning outcome of "Personal and Society Responsibility;"
• Understand and analyze the ethical, legal, political and economic contexts of the mass media, which is consistent with the LEAP learning outcome of "Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World;"
• Understand and analyze the interdependency of global media systems and develop a critical and historical approach to media production and consumption, which is consistent with the LEAP learning outcome of "Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World;"
• Develop skills to write, edit and produce across varied media platforms, which is consistent with the LEAP learning outcomes of "Intellectual and Practical Skills;"
• Be prepared for a variety of jobs in mass media such as newspaper and magazine writing, reporting and editing, television and video production and web design.

Hispanic Studies
Hispanic Studies students will:
• Develop oral, writing and reading proficiency in Spanish at the Advanced Level as defined by American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards.
• Become knowledgeable about the complexity of cultures in the Spanish-speaking world and be able to engage in ongoing critical debate about them.
• Acquire proficiency in the 5 Cs (communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, communities) for language studies in Spanish as defined by the National Foreign Language Standards.
• Learn terminology and concepts from at least two of these fields: literature and literary criticism; film and film criticism; cultural studies and cultural theory, and be able to apply the terminology and concepts to the critical analysis of works from Spain, Spanish America, and U.S. Latinos.
• Become global citizens, able to interact compassionately, intelligently and insightfully with other cultures, particularly those of the Spanish-speaking world, and to engage in the scholarship and activism that constitute Hispanic Studies in the U.S.
• Acquire competence necessary for employment in a variety of fields related to the Spanish language and literary and cultural studies and/or a graduate program in Spanish or Latin American Studies.

Writing Studies
As a student in Writing Studies major, you are expected to:
• Write in multiple genres for diverse audiences.
• Apply writing and communication design skills in multiple contexts and for a range of purposes.
• Develop an effective and self-aware writing process from invention to production.
• Collaborate effectively in writing and information design.
• Demonstrate an understanding of the role of writing in creating knowledge through artistic expression, critical inquiry and applied research.
• Develop the ability to learn, adapt and use technologies and new media essential to their lives and careers.

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Law and Policy
As a graduate in this major, you will be expected to meet these specific student learning objectives:

- Develop effective and persuasive analytical, writing and communication skills, and apply these skills to complex contemporary social and legal problems;
- Acquire substantive knowledge and understanding about the institutions and beliefs embedded in legal practices and specific public policies;
- Critically examine legal, political and economic institutions as they relate to social and policy choices;
- Critically evaluate theories and methods used to examine tradeoffs in policy and legal decisions;
- Analyze, display and interpret data to explain social and policy issues;
- Understand the role of ethics and the ethical dimension of laws and policy making.

Politics, Philosophy and Economics
- Students will develop a more thorough knowledge of social institutions through focused engagement with both contemporary and enduring social issues.
- Students will strengthen their analytical skills.
- Students will develop their ability to write with style and precision.
- Students will become more competent with quantitative analysis.
- Students will develop their ethical and logical reasoning.
- And students will learn to synthesize and evaluate information through an application of knowledge and methods across different disciplines.

Environmental Science
Students who complete this degree will:

- Be conversant in theoretical concepts of the biological and physical sciences and their application to understanding and studying the environment;
- Develop a basic understanding of the humanities and social sciences, and the interdisciplinary connections between these subjects and the natural sciences, in order to understand and solve environmental issues;
- Develop advanced scientific skills necessary to achieve an understanding of and solutions to environmental problems including physical and biological measurement techniques, statistical data analysis, hypothesis formulation and conceptual modeling, research project design and working collaboratively;
- Exhibit the ability to interpret and communicate information related to environmental issues in written and oral forms appropriate to both scientific and non-technical audiences;
- Demonstrate the ability to apply interdisciplinary training to environmental problems of local, regional, national or global significance;
- Understand the role of individuals and participate in the creation of solutions for environmental problems;
- Participate in engaged inquiry as a means of connecting classroom learning to real-world environmental problem solving and establishing the skills needed for life-long learning.

Our student learning objectives follow the model set forth by Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP). LEAP is an initiative that champions the value of a liberal education—for individual students and for a nation dependent on economic creativity and democratic vitality. The initiative focuses campus practice on fostering essential learning outcomes for all students, whatever their chosen field of study.

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Environmental Studies
Students who complete this degree will:
• Demonstrate a basic scientific literacy tied to core content in scientific disciplines vital to understanding environmental issues.
• Exhibit advanced capabilities for interpreting and communicating information related to environmental issues in written and oral forms appropriate to both scientific and non-technical audiences.
• Cultivate skills critical to interpreting scientific concepts for public understanding, including familiarity with the scientific method, information literacy, statistical data analysis, hypothesis formulation and conceptual modeling, research project design and working collaboratively.
• Be conversant in the theoretical and applied concepts in the humanities and social sciences, and the interdisciplinary connections between these subjects and the natural sciences, in order to understand and solve environmental issues.
• Recognize the interconnectedness and interdependence of political, economic and social complexities inherent in environmental problem solving, and demonstrate the ability to apply this interdisciplinary training to environmental problems of local, regional, national or global significance.
• Understand the role of individuals and participate in the creation of solutions for environmental problems.
• Participate in engaged inquiry as a means of connecting classroom learning to real-world environmental problem solving and establishing the skills needed for life-long learning.

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Mathematics (to begin Fall 2015)
Students graduating with a B.S. in Mathematics will be able to understand, communicate, and apply mathematics. In particular a student will be able to:
• Comprehend, discover, and communicate common principles from algebra, geometry, and analysis,
• Use probability or statistics correctly and effectively,
• Recognize, understand and also make his/her own mathematically rigorous arguments,
• Interpret and present results to a technical audience, both in writing and verbally,
• Describe how mathematical or quantitative based arguments effect society,
• Modify problems to make them tractable,
• Use technology to aid in solving problems,
• Apply quantitative theory, modeling, or mathematical principals to other disciplines to solve problems.

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Psychology
Upon completion of your degree, students in the Psychology major should:

- Be familiar with the major theoretical approaches and historical trends in psychology.
- Understand the core concepts and methodologies of psychology, including what scientific psychology is, the contributions and limitations of different methods of empirical research and be able to apply research methods, including design, data analysis and interpretation.
- Be able to read and interpret verbally and in writing psychological research.
- Understand that human behavior may have some common determinants and also great diversity including individual differences and variations based on differences such as culture, ethnicity, social class, gender and sexual orientation. Maintain awareness and sensitivity to diverse populations.
- Be able to synthesize theories and methodologies across disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.
- Understand the application of psychological principles to the understanding of social issues.

Ethnic, Gender and Labor Studies
As a student in EGL, you will develop the following skills:

- Learn to assess socially meaningful identities in a variety of cultural and critical contexts, and to communicate across social boundaries in a multi-cultural world.
- Learn how to integrate and link ethnic, gender and labor studies.
- Develop comparative research and critical thinking skills for understanding the range of lived experiences in local and global communities and to understand how power operates in society.
- Develop research and writing skills in an integrative learning approach including a range of humanities and social science perspectives.
- Understand various analytical and/or rhetorical frameworks related to various areas of study within ethnic, gender and labor studies and relevant to the world of work, civic engagement and community development.

History
As a student in the History major, you will learn the following:

- oral and written communication
- diverse areas of history and the relevant historical facts and context
- historiographic and interpretive differences, especially regarding causation
- use of primary and secondary source evidence
- how to work independently and in groups

Global Studies
- Students will develop knowledge of human cultures through the study of the humanities, social sciences, languages and the arts.
- Students will be able to engage in cultural and cross-cultural inquiry, analysis and critiques of historical, political and literary texts.
- Students will develop a broad understanding of contemporary global issues and be able to situate them in a theoretical framework
• Students will have a basic knowledge of world history and the way history of specific regions overlaps to form recognizable cultural patterns.
• Students will be aware of the value of interdisciplinary and multicultural approaches to the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge.
• Students will develop their ability to communicate orally and in writing with style and precision.
• Students will become proficient in a second language and be aware of the ways that culture shapes meaning.
• Students will have the intellectual tools, skills and knowledge to be engaged and knowledgeable citizens in a rapidly changing world.
• Students will acquire and develop skills to enable them to be lifelong learners.

IAS major
As a graduate in the Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences major, you will possess a broad-based and liberal arts education. You will be expected to:
• understand the interdisciplinary nature of local, regional, national and global issues.
• develop skills in written, oral and visual communication and interpretation vital to success in any field of knowledge or profession.
• improve critical thinking skills that lead to the development of informed and involved citizenry.
• improve the understanding of the methodologies used by the humanities, social sciences and the natural sciences, and of the ways these methodologies complement each other in the examination of complex ideas.