

Barre Center for Buddhist Studies

149 Lockwood Rd
Barre MA 01005



(978) 355-2347
www.dharma.org

ISPP Addendum *(Curriculum and Program Cost)*

Curriculum

The intention of the ISP program is to offer experienced students of the dharma an opportunity to explore more extensively and more deeply the basic teachings of the early Buddhist tradition. This is done by looking closely at a wide range of traditional teachings and exploring their meaning carefully in the context of lived experience—both meditative experience and the experiences of daily life. The program combines group study with on-going self-regulated study following a shared structured curriculum.

The curriculum of the ISPP—both the four study-retreats as well as the self-study quarters between retreats—is organized around the traditional three modules of *sīla* (ethics), *samādhi* (meditation) and *paññā* (wisdom).

1) Sīla: The Ethical Foundation

Theme: Wholesome and Unwholesome States

Study Retreat: Sunday June 10 – Friday June 15, 2012

Sourcebook: Part One: Ethical Foundations

2) Samādhi: The Practice of Meditation

Theme: Insight Meditation

Study Retreat: Sunday October 7 – Friday October 12, 2012

Sourcebook: Part Two: Cultivation of Concentration

3) Paññā: Growth in Understanding

Theme: Dependent Origination

Study Retreat: Sunday February 3 – Friday February 8, 2013

Sourcebook: Part Three: Wisdom

The fourth study-retreat, which concludes the program, focuses upon the Buddha himself.

4) Buddha: His Life and Teaching

Theme: The Buddha as Man, Teacher, Archetype, Inspiration

Study Retreat: Sunday June 2 – Friday June 7, 2013

Sourcebook: Understanding the Historical Buddha

Study-Retreats: Each four 5-day intensive study-retreats focuses on a particular theme, includes a detailed investigation of a particular text, and consists of equal parts of classroom time, small group discussion, silent meditation, and free time (for reading, resting, talking, walking, etc.). The study-retreats are co-led by Andrew Olendzki and

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Gloria Taraniya Ambrosia, who work together to integrate careful textual study with direct meditative experience, and who both share an interest in the relevance of understanding these teachings to all aspects of life.

Texts: A customized sourcebook is given out for each of the three 4-month periods in between the study-retreats. These present a wealth of material organized into sections suitable for systematic study, and serve as a basis both for the study-retreats and for self-study modules. The sourcebooks present a wide range of textual material on a particular theme in a systematic format, so that all students in the program can explore the same teachings at the same time. The sourcebooks contain suttas in translation, along with some commentary, guidelines for practice, recommended reading, and other suggestions for further exploration. In addition, *The Noble Eightfold Path* by Bhikkhu Bodhi (BPS Pariyatti Editions) will be provided.

Self-Study Components: Each student will have the opportunity to undertake the self-study component of the curriculum in both a cooperative way and to establish an on-going relationship with:

- a) a mentor (an experienced meditation teacher);
- b) a partner (a fellow student for regular one-on-one communication);
- c) a regional group (for those who live in the same general area); and
- d) an online forum for discussion.

[Program Cost: begins on next page.]

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Program Cost

ISPP Tuition:

\$495	Study-retreat: June 10-15, 2012
\$495	Study-retreat: October 7-12, 2012
\$495	Study-retreat: February 3-8, 2013
\$495	Study-retreat: June 2-7, 2013
\$400	Program fee

\$2,380	Total Tuition

The tuition covers room, board, books, administration, Andrew's remuneration, and between-retreat programming. \$495 is the standard cost of a five-day course at BCBS.

Dana:

Gloria Taraniya Ambrosia, who leads the practice component as well as provides interviews and dharma talks in each of the study-retreats, is offering teachings on a dana basis. Likewise, mentors are offering monthly support and guidance to students on a dana basis. The work of Taraniya and the mentors are sustained by the generosity of each student.

Payment:

50% of the program cost will be due upon acceptance of the offer of admission or by close of business March 15, 2012 (April 15, 2012 for those admitted from the waitlist). The balance will be due on or before April 30, 2012.

Cancellation and Refunds:

Payments are refundable in full if we are notified of program cancellation on or before May 15, 2012. All payments (deposit and balance) will be retained in full if canceling after May 15, 2012.

Scholarship Policy:

Limited scholarship funds are available to support students. However, all applications will be considered equally, regardless of ability to pay (i.e., "needs-blind" admission). Upon an offer of admission, the admitted applicant will have the opportunity to request a form for scholarship assistance, if needed. BCBS will make a good effort to award the amount requested but, depending on the needs of others admitted to the program, may not be able to meet the full request. In that case, it will be incumbent on the admitted applicant to secure financial support independently.