

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

Program Overview

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The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) is an upper-division bachelor's degree completion program. Intended for students with prior professional and academic experience who are interested in completing the bachelor's degree but whose professional and personal situations do not require a degree in a specific discipline, the BIS provides students with a solid academic foundation in the major disciplinary areas of the academy and the interrelationships among those areas. Students learn how knowledge is created and validated in both scientific and non-scientific areas of inquiry, and how such knowledge may be applied toward the improvement of the human condition. Throughout the program emphasis is placed on 'learning to learn' and on applying what has been learned in personal, local, and global contexts. By also completing a required concentration in a specialized area of inquiry, graduates of the program will have demonstrated the ability to evaluate knowledge both broadly across disciplines and in depth within a specific field.

Curriculum Requirements

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) is designed for students with at least 30 credit hours of prior college coursework or its equivalent in eligible military or professional training. The program consists of four curriculum areas:

- Electives
- Core Courses
- Required Concentration
- Capstone

The electives are taken by students who enter the program with fewer than 60 credits. The core courses are taken by all students. All BIS students must complete an 18-credit concentration in a specialized area or discipline. The capstone is the culminating activity for the program and is required for completion of the degree.

Electives

Students who matriculate the BIS with between 30 and 59 credits of prior coursework or its equivalent will take the appropriate number of credits needed to reach the 60 credit minimum from among the following elective courses. Students with fewer than 59 prior credits may be required to take certain of these courses in order to fulfill the General Education requirements for the bachelor's degree. [Courses marked with an *asterisk are under development; courses marked with a † may be used to fulfill a General Education requirement]:

- COMM 215 Technology-Mediated Communication (3)
- ECON 310 Socio-Economic Studies (3)
- ENGL 101 English Composition† (3)
- ENGL 250 Crime in Literature† (3)
- HIST 210 History of the U.S. Constitution† (3)
- HIST 310 Historical Studies† (3)
- MATH 102 Liberal Arts Mathematics† (3)
- MATH 232 Elementary Statistics† (3)
- MNGT 315 Leadership (3)
- PHLS 205 Critical Thinking (3)
- RELG 300 Comparative Religion† (3)

- SCIE 301 Environmental Science† (3)
- SOCI 330 Military Sociology† (3)
- SOCI 335 Introduction to Cultural Competence (3)

Core Courses

Students in the BIS are required to complete the following core courses for a total of 36 credits:

- *INTD 310 Epistemology & Critical Thinking (6)
- *INTD 320 Quantitative Research & The Scientific Method (6)
- *INTD 321 Qualitative Research in the Social & Behavioral Sciences (6)
- *INTD 330 Critical Theory in Literature & The Humanities (6)
- *INTD 340 Human Communication and Technology (6)
- *INTD 350 Political, Social, and Economic History (6)

Concentrations

Students in the BIS program are required to complete one of the following 18-credit concentrations:

Leadership Studies

- *MNGT 401 Seminar in Leadership I: Fundamentals (6)
- *MNGT 402 Seminar in Leadership II: Leadership Styles & EQ (6)
- *MNGT 403 Leadership of Change (3)
- *MNGT 404 Leadership in a Technology-Driven World (3)

U.S. Historical Studies

- *HIST 410 Introduction to History & Historiography (6)

and two of the following four courses:

- *HIST 415 Civil War & Reconstruction (6)
- *HIST 417 America in the Gilded Age & Progressive Era (6)
- *HIST 418 The U.S. from 1900 to 1945 (6)
- *HIST 419 America in the Cold War (6)

International Studies

- *INTL 400 Seminar in International Studies (6)
- HIST 411 History of Diplomacy I (3)
- HIST 412 History of Diplomacy II (3)
- *INTL 411 International Law I (3)
- *INTL 412 International Law II (3)

Justice Studies

- *JUST 400 Seminar in Justice Studies (6)
- CRMJ 303 The Study of Crime (3)
- POLS 316 Domestic Terrorism (3)
- PHLS 324 Criminal Justice Ethics (3)
- POLS 325 Immigration Law & Policy (3)

Strategic Studies

- *STRA 400 Seminar in Strategic Studies (6)
- POLS 302 National Security Policy (3)
- POLS 306 Comparative Politics (3)
- POLS 318 International Terrorism (3)
- SSSA 315 Insurgency & Conflict (3)

Capstone

The capstone course, *INTD 400 (6), is the culminating academic activity for BIS students. In it, students propose, develop, and deliver a final substantive research project that combines the general knowledge acquired in the core courses with the specific knowledge of the concentration. The final project requires students to draw upon at least two different academic disciplines for research methodology, seminal literature and sources, and intellectual frameworks in order to bring an interdisciplinary perspective to the subject. The capstone course may not be fulfilled through transfer credit.