

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

Associate Dean of Continuing Studies: Mark L. Parker

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.

Requirements

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 three curriculum areas:

- Core
- Concentration
- Capstone

The six core domains, constituting 36 credit hours, must be completed successfully by all BIS students. All degree students must also 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. Free electives are taken by students who enter the program with fewer than 60 credits.

Core Domains:

Epistemology and Critical Thinking (6 credits)		
INTD 310	Epistemology & Critical Thinking	6
Science and the Scientific Method (6 credits)		
INTD 320	The Scientific Method: Understanding the Results of Quantitative Research	6
SCIE 301	Environmental Science	3
SCIE 310	Scien Basis of Sustainability	3
Qualitative Research in the Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 credits)		
ECON 310	Socio-Economic Studies	3
	or POLS 306 Comparative Politics	
	or POLS 318 International Terrorism	
	or SOCI 335 Intro to Cultural Competence	
SOCI 209	Methods of Social Science Research	3
Critical Theory in Literature and the Humanities (6 credits)		
ENGL 250	Crime in Literature	3
	or ENGL 271 Military Literature	
RELG 300	Comparative Religion	3
Human Communication and Technology (6 credits)		
COMM 315	Tech-Mediated Communication	3
COMM 301	Business & Professional Writing	3
	or COMM 303 Data Analysis and Writing	
	or COMM 303 Strategic Communications	
Political, Social, and Economic History (6 credits)		
HIST 310	Historical Studies	3
HIST 402	Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	3

HIST 411	History of Diplomacy I	3
HIST 412	History of Diplomacy II	3
HIST 425	American Foreign Policy 20th Cent	3
Total Cr.		36

Concentrations

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

Leadership Studies

MNGT 401	Sem in Leadership I: Fundamentals	6
MNGT 402	Sem in Leadership II Styles EQ	6
MNGT 403	Leadership of Change	3
MNGT 404	Leadership in Tech-Driven World	3
Total Cr.		18

Justice Studies

CRMJ 201	Foundations Criminal Justice	3
CRMJ 303	The Study of Crime	3
CRMJ 306	Procedural Due Process	3
PHLS 324	Criminal Justice Ethics	3
POLS 316	Domestic Terrorism	3
POLS 318	International Terrorism	3
Total Cr.		18

Strategic Studies

PHLS 210	Ethics in the Modern World	3
POLS 302	National Security Policy	3
POLS 306	Comparative Politics	3
POLS 318	International Terrorism	3
SSDA 315	Insurgency and Conflict	6
Total Cr.		18

Capstone

The six-credit capstone course, INTD 400, 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.

INTD 400	Capstone	6
Total Cr.		6

General Education

Students are required to meet general education competencies (<http://catalog.norwich.edu/onlineprograms/catalog/generaleducation/>) in writing, literature, history, arts and humanities, science, social science, and math and may do so by transfer credit or enrollment in courses offered through the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies.

Transfer Credit and Student Progress in the Program

CLEP and DSST exams may be accepted for transfer credit by the academic program manager, depending on the requirements of the Norwich course for which credit is sought. CLEP and DSST transcripts must be applied to a student's record by the time they have earned 100 credits in their program. No credit derived from CLEP or DSST exams will be applied to the student's record after this point.

Students must complete all core and elective coursework, including any courses necessary to fulfill required general education competencies, before being enrolled in a field study course unless given prior written approval by the program manager.

Students must complete all required coursework including any required field study courses before being enrolled in a capstone course, unless given prior written approval by the program manager.

All transfer credit must be applied to the student's record before being enrolled in a capstone course.