

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY: Major in Interdisciplinary Studies leading to a Bachelor of Arts**

A major in Interdisciplinary Studies offers students whose academic interests do not match existing majors an opportunity to create a program to meet their academic goals. Flexibility and choice are its distinctions, together with structure sufficient to permit its use as a basis for graduate education. This is not a program for students registered as "undecided". This major may be used by a student who prefers a broad Liberal Arts background, or who wants to examine a set of intellectual issues bridging courses in multiple disciplines, or who wants to pursue a special area of study that cannot be satisfied in a regular major, double major, or combined major and minor.

The Interdisciplinary Studies program will be supervised by an Interdisciplinary Studies adviser, a faculty member who undertakes the role as part of his or her regular advising duties, coordinating the program as a whole (with program review responsibilities) and monitoring the individual study plans of students in the program. This program adviser will not ordinarily be a student's primary Academic Adviser. The primary adviser will be selected from a field appropriate to the plan of study selected by the student.

Before being admitted to the program, the student will work with the Interdisciplinary Studies adviser and one or more other faculty members to design an interdisciplinary course of study and will then submit a detailed written proposal. The proposal must include a coherent body of study and a rationale for course selection. It must be designed using one of the following options:

**Option A:** At least forty (40) semester hours of work in any one of the five Academic Divisions, with a listing of specific classes to be taken, and at least twenty (20) semester hours in a second Division, with a listing of specific classes to be taken.

**Option B:** At least twenty-seven (27) semester hours of work in any one of the five Academic Divisions, with a listing of specific classes to be taken; at least eighteen (18) semester hours in a second Academic Division, with a listing of specific courses to be taken; and at least fifteen (15) semester hours in a third Academic Division, with a listing of specific courses to be taken.

For both Option A and Option B, the proposed course work must include at least forty (40) semester hours of upper-level work (courses numbered 300 or above). **THE COURSES LISTED AS FULFILLING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS MAY NOT BE USED TO FULFILL LIBERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS.**

The proposed course of study must also include the following:

1. At least four (4) semesters of a modern foreign language
2. The capstone course required in the student's primary field of concentration

This proposal must be approved by the Academic Adviser, the Interdisciplinary Studies Adviser, and the Provost/V.P. for Academic Affairs. It must then be filed with the Registrar. In order to be certified for graduation, a student must have successfully completed all of the course work outlined in this approved plan. Any modifications to the program after it is filed must be approved by the Academic Adviser, the Interdisciplinary Studies Adviser, and the Provost/V.P. for Academic Affairs.

**Senior Thesis.** In addition to the required course work, a student must complete a senior thesis. The student may register for up to three (3) semester hours of credit in individual studies if he or she wishes to receive academic credit for the thesis. However, these semester hours may not be counted toward fulfillment of the semester-hour requirements of the study plan itself, and the student is not required to register for academic credit for the thesis. The thesis project must represent a culmination of the student's program and must be planned in consultation with a committee consisting of the Interdisciplinary Studies adviser, the Academic Adviser, and one additional faculty member in a field related to the student's program. This committee must review and approve the student's thesis proposal before the student proceeds with the project. The committee will also review the final thesis, with the options of approving the thesis without revision, requiring revisions before reconsidering for approval, or rejecting the thesis outright. After the thesis is approved, the student will meet with the committee to provide an oral defense of the project.

In addition to these major requirements, the student must complete all requirements for The Liberal Studies Program.

Each student must, to meet the standard graduation requirement, earn at least a 2.00 cumulative average in the courses defined in writing as the major program.



