

College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences  
**Interdisciplinary Studies Major**  
Guidelines

The interdisciplinary studies major is designed to meet the following learning goals:

- Learn and integrate - Through independent learning and collaborative study, attain, use and develop knowledge in the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences, with the intended ability to integrate information from across disciplines.
- Think and create - Use multiple thinking strategies to examine real-world issues, explore creative avenues of expression, solve problems and make consequential decisions.
- Communicate – Acquire, articulate, create and convey intended meaning using verbal and non-verbal methods of communication that demonstrate respect and understanding in a complex society.
- Clarify purpose and perspective – Explore one's life purpose and meaning through transformational experiences that foster an understanding of self, relationships and diverse global perspectives.
- Productive citizenship – Integrate knowledge and personal abilities to attain a level of competence sufficient for productive citizenship and sustained learning.
- Multi-disciplinary approach – Acquire a wide social and academic perspective through a broad-based self-designed curriculum.

A student may present a curriculum not included among the ones listed in the catalogue provided the program is focused toward meeting the student's particular educational goal by combining the offerings of two or more major departments and provided it has been appropriately approved (See item 6 below). The general requirements of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences for either the B.A. or B.S. degree apply.

Application for admission to this curriculum may be made at any time prior to the senior year. Normally, it should be presented during the sophomore year.

The program requires a minimum of 120 credits, of which at least 50 credits must be in courses numbered 200 or above, including a minimum of 36 credits in courses numbered 300 or above. It is recommended that 50 credits are distributed between two or more disciplines; one of the departmental fields must be in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences.

The following information will assist both the student in the presentation of a program and the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee to evaluate the feasibility of the student's program:

1. Major Advisor: First Discipline. This will be the faculty person in one of the chosen fields with whom curriculum goals must be approved. It is not necessary that the major advisor be in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences.
2. Second Discipline Advisor. This faculty person must also be involved in the planning and approval of the student's curriculum goals. If more than two fields are being combined, other advisors in those fields may be consultants without responsibility for the total program.
3. On a separate sheet list the courses making up the Interdisciplinary Program as directed on the Program Outline. (Item #5). Asterisk (\*) those courses which have already been completed. Courses in the program should not include introductory or 100 level courses, unless one of the Advisors approves these from supportive fields.
4. In addition, be sure to include the following:
  - (a) Indicate how Letters, Arts and Social Sciences requirements (Humanities, Science, Social Science, Foreign Language) are to be met. Asterisk those courses already completed.
  - (b) Indicate all Upper Division Credits in the same manner, and show the total number which will be completed by graduation. (The University requirement is 36).
5. The original Program Outline form and the additional items requested in #4 are then to be submitted to the advisors and Chairperson named on the Program Outline for their final approval and signatures. Submit signed forms and program outline to Associate Dean who will review the program.
6. If there are no questions, and approval by the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences Dean is granted, the program is sent to the Registrar who records it as the student's official curriculum. Copies will then be returned to the student, the major and second discipline advisors, and the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Science. If there are any questions, the Associate Dean will confer with faculty advisors and, subsequently, meet with the student to resolve the issues. If the Program is not approved, the student will be notified.
7. The degree will read: B.A. (or B.S.) in Interdisciplinary Studies.
8. At semester registration times, it is the usual procedure to have the student's major advisor lift the advisor hold. If there are questions of change of program for any reason, the advisors must be in agreement, and the information recorded with the completion of a curricular adjustment form.

9. Advisors and the student are mutually responsible for reviewing the program and any changes for their effect on graduation requirements. Advisors sign the student's application for the baccalaureate degree. Any changes in the program should be approved by the advisors before the student's final semester.
10. Students are required to submit a portfolio to the Associate Dean in their final semester of their degree program that provides evidence of successfully achieving stated learning goals. This should include: three-four papers from various classes that illustrate particular learning goals and a final essay (2-3 typed pages) that discusses how their program and experience have led to the achievement of stated learning goals.

Interdisciplinary Studies Degree Program Outline  
 College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences  
 University of Idaho

Each candidate for this degree will prepare this form in conference with his/her major professor and coordinating professor and secure the necessary approvals. Upon approval by the Dean, one copy will be forwarded to the registrar and become the student's curriculum for graduation. Copies will be duplicated and sent to the Dean, the major professor, the coordinating professor, each of the department chairpersons, and the student.

|  |  |       |
|--|--|-------|
| DEGREE SOUGHT: BA___ BS___                     |  | Date: |
| STUDENT'S NAME:                                |  | ID#   |
| CREDITS COMPLETED:                      as of: |  | GPA:  |

| DISCIPLINE | Major Professor | Department Chair |
|------------|-----------------|------------------|
| First:     |                 |                  |
| Second:    |                 |                  |

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES for your Interdisciplinary Program:

COURSE OUTLINE: On a separate sheet, list the courses making up the program using the following headings:

| FIRST DISCIPLINE  | Subject | Course Number | Short Title | Credits |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|-------------|---------|
| SECOND DISCIPLINE | Subject | Course Number | Short Title | Credits |
| RELATED FIELDS    | Subject | Course Number | Short Title | Credits |

NOTE: In addition to the program outlined above, both General University Requirements and General Requirements for the BA or BS Degrees in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences must be satisfied in order to qualify for a degree.

TITLE OF THE DEGREE:  
 Interdisciplinary Studies in \_\_\_\_\_

| APPROVALS:             |  |
|------------------------|--|
|                        |  |
| Major Professor        | Chair of Major Department                        |
|                        |  |
| Coordinating Professor | Dean, College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences |