

Office of the Provost

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Effective for students beginning degree Summer Sem. 2007 thru Spring Sem. 2008

Exploring the Interdisciplinary Studies Major

The Interdisciplinary Studies major is designed to allow students to create a unique individualized degree. It is available through the following five colleges: Agriculture; Education and Human Services; Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences; Natural Resources; and Science. The Interdisciplinary Studies degree is also available through the University's Regional Campuses and Distance Education centers.

Students who think the Interdisciplinary Studies major may be right for them, but are not sure, should ask themselves the following questions:

1. Students must have a minimum of 45 semester credits completed before the major may be declared. Do I have 45 or more semester credits on my transcript? If not, how close am I?
2. Interdisciplinary Studies *cannot* duplicate existing majors. Have I explored the educational opportunities at USU? Have I reviewed the *General Catalog* to see what is already available at USU? Have I visited Career Services (University Inn 102) to explore career development programs? Why don't any of the existing majors meet my needs?
3. Which areas of study am I proposing to combine? Do they logically go together? Does USU offer the areas of study I am proposing to combine? What would the program I am proposing lead me to? Are there job opportunities out there?
4. If my degree crosses two or more colleges, which college would I propose to serve as the lead college?

If, after reviewing the above, students feel that they have a unique interest in a subject matter and USU can help, this may be the right major for them. Interested students should make an appointment with the advising center in the college from which the degree will be awarded.

Admission Requirements For This Major

1. Students may apply for admission to the Interdisciplinary Studies major after completing 45 credits with a minimum GPA of 2.0, submitting an Application for Interdisciplinary Studies, and receiving approval for the Application.
2. Transfer students from other institutions or from other USU majors need to complete a minimum of 45 credits, achieve the required GPA, and have an approved Application for Interdisciplinary Studies for admission to this major in good standing.

The Program

The organization of academic departments and their associated degree programs reflects the history and traditions of study in those fields. The Interdisciplinary Studies major is intended to serve the needs of students who want to design a unique individualized academic program, obtain a broadly-based education, and diversify their professional potential. The degree is *not* intended to replace existing majors or curricula. Rather, it is designed to provide the *small number* of students whose degree needs cannot be met with other majors with a program which is less restrictive and more responsive to their individual plans and interests. **This degree cannot be used as part of a dual major.**

A student majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies must complete at least 45 credits in the major and satisfy all of USU's graduation requirements. Students will work with a faculty member or members who will assist in course selection and will oversee the successful completion of the program. The courses taken for

this degree must receive prior approval and must provide coherent, carefully planned programs of study in the area of interest, which must involve two or more disciplines. Students who complete their programs will receive the Bachelor of Science degree *or* (if they meet the language requirement) the Bachelor of Arts degree.

Degrees Offered Through This Program

Interdisciplinary Studies: Bachelor of Science (BS), Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Academic Advisement

Students interested in the Interdisciplinary Studies degree should contact the advising center in the college from which the degree will be awarded. Students who would like to explore the degree, but are unsure which college they should enroll in, may discuss their interests with Susan Haddock in the Office of University Advising, (435) 797-3373, susan.haddock@usu.edu. The Interdisciplinary Studies major is *not* available to students enrolled in the College of Business, the College of Engineering, or the Department of Computer Science.

Advisors for the participating colleges are as follows:

Agriculture

Lisa Allen, (435) 797-2215, lisa.allen@usu.edu

Education and Human Services

Terri Gass, (435) 797-1443, terri.gass@usu.edu

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Mary Leavitt, (435) 797-3883, mary.leavitt@usu.edu

Natural Resources

Maureen Wagner, (435) 797-2448, maureen@cc.usu.edu

Science

Richard Mueller, (435) 797-2479, rmueller@biology.usu.edu

Graduation Requirements: BS or BA* Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies

*A BA degree requires foreign language training. For further information, see the *General Catalog*.

Minimum University Requirements**

Total credits	120
Grade point average (most majors require higher GPA)	2.00 GPA
Credits of C- or better	100
Credits of upper-division courses (#3000 or above)	40
USU credits	30
(20 of which must be upper division, including 10 required by major)	
Completion of approved major program of study	See college advisor
Credits in minor (if required)	12
Credits in American Institutions (ECON 1500; HIST 1700, 2700, or 2710; POLS 1100; or USU 1300)	3
University Studies requirements	See below

**Colleges and departments may require more credits or a higher GPA. See college advisor.

University Studies Requirements for Interdisciplinary Studies Major

Note: Approved University Studies courses and requirements are listed in the back section of each semester's *Schedule of Classes*.

General Education Requirements (27-28 credits)

Competency Requirements (9-10 credits)

Communications Literacy (CL1 and CL2) (6 credits)

ENGL 1010 (CL1) (3 credits) or satisfactory AP, CLEP, IBO, ACT, or SAT score

AND

ENGL 2010 (CL2) (3 credits) or satisfactory IBO score

Quantitative Literacy (QL) (3-4 credits)

MATH 1030 or 1050 or STAT 1040 (3-4 credits)

OR

One MATH or STAT course requiring MATH 1050 as a prerequisite

OR

Satisfactory AP, CLEP, IBO, ACT, or SAT score

Computer and Information Literacy (0 credits)

Passing grade on six computer and information literacy related examinations.

Breadth Requirements (18 credits)

Select at least one approved course from each of the following six categories: **American Institutions (BAI)**, **Creative Arts (BCA)**, **Humanities (BHU)**, **Life Sciences (BLS)**, **Physical Sciences (BPS)**, and **Social Sciences (BSS)**. Classes should be selected in consultation with the major advisor. At least two of the six breadth courses must be University Studies courses with a **USU prefix** (excluding USU 1000, 1010, 1100, 3330, 4900, and 6900). (CLEP or AP credit may be used.)

Depth Education Requirements

Communications Intensive (CI) (2 courses)

For most students, courses taken for the major will meet this requirement.

Quantitative Intensive (QI) (1 course)

For most students, a course taken for the major will meet this requirement.

Depth Course Requirements (4 credits minimum)

Complete at least 2 credits in approved 3000-level or above courses from two of the following three categories: **Humanities and Creative Arts (DHA)**, **Life and Physical Sciences (DSC)**, and **Social Sciences (DSS)**. Selection of depth areas depends upon the emphasis area of the major. Classes should be selected in consultation with the college advisor.

Interdisciplinary Studies Major Departmental/College Requirements (2.0 GPA in major and 2.0 overall GPA)

Students may apply for admission to the Interdisciplinary Studies major after completing 45 credits with a minimum GPA of 2.0, submitting an Application for Interdisciplinary Studies, and receiving approval for the Application.

Transfer students from other institutions or from other USU majors need to complete a minimum of 45 credits, achieve the required GPA, and have an approved Application for Interdisciplinary Studies for admission to this major in good standing.

Students who wish to pursue the degree must submit a letter of application containing the following information:

1. A clear statement of the student's educational objectives.
2. A proposed program of study including specific courses and listing the faculty member the student proposes to work with on the final thesis or project.
3. A brief statement explaining why the student feels the proposed program is worthy of a college degree.

A current unofficial transcript must be attached to the application. The application should be discussed with and reviewed by the student's major advisor.

Students will work with a faculty member or members who will assist in course selection and will oversee the successful completion of the 45 credits in the program. Courses selected must provide coherent, carefully planned programs of study in the area of interest, which must involve two or more disciplines. Courses used for University Studies Breadth Requirements and courses used for Depth Humanities and Creative Arts (DHA), Depth Life and Physical Sciences (DSC), and Depth Social Sciences (DSS) may be counted toward the degree *only with the permission of the college advisor*. However, courses meeting the Communications Intensive (CI) and Quantitative Intensive (QI) requirements may be applied toward requirements for the Interdisciplinary Studies degree.

Courses used to meet the 45-credit minimum requirement may come from any department, with the following restrictions:

1. At least 21 of the 45 credits *must* be numbered 3000 or above.
2. Courses used for the major must include *at least 15 credits each* from two different disciplines. A maximum of 3 internship credits may be counted toward the major. **Note:** Some colleges may require that *more than 15 credits* counted toward the major be taught by departments within their college; check with the college advisor for further information.
3. The coursework must focus on an overarching theme and must be consistent with the student's educational and career goals.
4. As part of the 45 credits, students must complete a 3-credit senior project, thesis, or capstone course supervised by their faculty advisor.
5. Students must pass every course approved for the program of study and must earn a composite GPA of at least 2.0 in the 45 credits of coursework used for the major. **Note:** Some colleges may have a higher GPA requirement; check with the college advisor for further information.
6. Courses used for the major may be used for a minor or to fill University Studies Breadth requirements *only with the permission of the college advisor*.

Requirement Changes

Graduation requirements shown on this sheet are subject to change. Students should check with their assigned advisor concerning possible changes.

Materials for Persons with Disabilities

This requirement sheet is available in large print, audio, and braille format upon request to the USU Disability Resource Center.

Prepared by Registrar's Office, Utah State University

