

Interdisciplinary Studies

The purpose of the Interdisciplinary Studies Major is to provide a quality, comprehensive academic experience for students with academic aspirations not served by any academic department major at University of Northwestern. The Interdisciplinary Studies student, in consultation with faculty advisors, designs a coherent program of study that meets specific academic goals. Students must complete an application process, and the program of study is approved by an advisory committee. The program is open to self-motivated students who have demonstrated the ability to do academic work successfully by achieving a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or by providing other compelling documentation. The student completing this program will receive a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree. The notation on the transcript will indicate the concentration and supporting fields as appropriate. See the Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Dr. Ronald Ginn, for further information.

What can I do with an Interdisciplinary Studies major?

The Interdisciplinary Studies major is closely related to your career goal. Work with a career counselor and other advisors to establish career direction before you create your Interdisciplinary Studies major

How do I create an IDS major?

- Gather informational materials available outside N3205 on the 3rd floor of Nazareth Hall. There are specific eligibility requirements as well as an application.
- If your idea for your IDS major is a major that is offered at other universities, then do some research and make a list of courses that these universities include in that major. Be sure to consult several course listings for universities.
- If your idea includes graduate school, then search several universities that offer that Master's Degree and make a list of any necessary prerequisites that you would need before you start the Master's Degree. Look for the prerequisites that these Master's Programs have in common. Include those courses in your proposed curriculum.
- If your idea is a combination of majors that Northwestern already offers, look through Northwestern's online catalog at the list of our courses. Make a list of possible courses from different departments that you think might be useful to your major.

Other strategies for Success:

- Gain experience in your field of interest. Pursue volunteer work, internships and shadowing experiences.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in your area of interest.
- Research any professional certifications that are common within your field.
- Join related professional organizations and LinkedIn groups.

Professional Associations:

Professional associations are organizations seeking to further the practice, research and visibility of a particular profession. Examples of professional associations include American Marketing Association or the Society of Technical Communication. The value of joining one of these groups as a student is enormous! You will meet professionals in your field, gain knowledge of current trends and best practices, and be well positioned to acquire internship and job opportunities. Ask a professional or talk with a career counselor to strategize which associations you should consider joining