

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies is to provide a quality, comprehensive academic experience for students with academic aspirations not served by any other academic department major at University of Northwestern – St. Paul. The students in this department are motivated to pursue a creative degree plan that prepares them to achieve their academic and career goals and equips them to integrate their Christian faith in learning and career.

Interdisciplinary Studies Major

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science

The Interdisciplinary Studies student, in consultation with faculty advisors, designs a coherent program of study that meets specific academic goals. Students are required to complete an application process under the oversight and direction of the Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. Proposed curricula and outcomes will be approved by a faculty advisory committee consisting of the Chair, and a faculty member from each of two primary disciplines. Ongoing academic advising, recommendations, and support are provided by the advisory committee. The program is open to self-motivated students who have identified clear academic and career goals and have met the minimum GPA requirement of 3.000 or have provided other compelling documentation. See the Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies for further information.

- **B.A. option** requires achieving 1002-level competency in an approved foreign language. See page 55.

Degree Requirements

1. The program will include at least 125 semester credits, with a minimum of 40 upper-level credits.
2. The student must meet all core curriculum and graduation requirements.
3. The major will consist of at least 48 credits in at least two academic areas with no more than 30 credits in one area.
4. At least 50% of the major must be completed from University of Northwestern.
5. The student must register for IDS4845 Capstone Project (4 credits) and complete an integrated capstone project that documents their attainment of degree learning outcomes and highlights their scholarly achievement and professional competency. This course serves as both the WCE and the OCE for the IDS major.

Examples of Programs of Study

The following list includes programs of study that Interdisciplinary Studies students have chosen to pursue.

- American & Arab Studies
- Ancient Studies
- Art & Psychology
- Art History & Practicum
- Aviation Technology & Computer Science
- Biblical Counseling
- Biblical Counseling & Intercultural Study
- Biology & Psychology
- Child Psychology & Family Studies
- Civic Journalism
- Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Criminal Justice & Computer Science
- Dance Entrepreneurship
- Disaster Relief & Psychological Understanding
- Domestic & Foreign Societal Structures
- Electronic Communications
- English & Human Sciences
- Entrepreneurship
- Film & Gaming Story
- Global Leadership
- Graphics Programming
- Health Sciences & Public Relations
- Healthcare Management
- Industrial Design
- Intercultural Biblical Counseling
- Intercultural Studies/Victims Advocacy
- International Leadership/Criminal Justice
- Media Writing & Production
- Media/Performing Art Production & Writing
- Natural & Behavioral Science
- Outreach & Advocacy of At-Risk Populations
- Political Communications & History
- Political Communications & Family Advocacy
- Political Science, Criminal Justice, Communication
- Psychology & Art
- Psychology & Criminal Justice
- Psychology & Special Education
- Public Relations/Communications for Nonprofit
- Reformed Philosophy & English
- Social Work/Disadvantaged Children
- Sustainable Design
- Team Sport Business & Principles
- Theatre Design
- Visual Design Communications
- Visual Narrative

WCE = WRITTEN COMMUNICATION EMPHASIS.
OCE = ORAL COMMUNICATION EMPHASIS.
SEE PAGE 58 FOR EXPLANATION AND PREREQUISITES.

Associate of Arts in General Studies (AU Online) (60 cr)

The Associate of Arts in General Studies is designed for students who have zero or minimal prior college credits. Students complete foundational coursework designed with a Christian worldview to help students integrate faith and learning. A.A. graduates are able to transition into one of the existing B.S. programs or pursue an undergraduate degree at another institution. The degree is granted upon successful completion of credits specified here.

- All approved Traditional Undergraduate courses will apply to the corresponding category. Related transfer credits may apply if approved.
- **Scientific & Quantitative Literacy** courses in core curriculum: Must include at least one mathematics course and one natural science course; social science courses are optional.

Core Curriculum	30–33 cr	Creative Expression	3–4 cr
Biblical Thinking & Living	6–8 cr	(Art, Film, Literature, Music, or Theatre)	
Select 2 credits from the following:		Any ART or LIT prefix or any of the below:	
BIA1015 Interpreting Scripture.....	2	COM2008 Film Appreciation	3
MIN2016 Biblical Interpretation for Study	2	ENG2215 Writing Creative Nonfiction	2
Select 2 credits from the following:		THE1055 Introduction to Theatre	2
BIA1007 Christian Thinking and Living	2	Scientific & Quantitative Literacy	8 cr
BIB1008 History of Redemption.....	2	Select 2–6 credits from the following:	
BIB2008 Survey of the New Testament.....	2	Any MAT-prefix	
Select 2–4 credits from the following:		BUS2035 Business Mathematics and Statistics.....	4
PHI2005 Introduction to Philosophy	4	PSY3208 Statistics for the Social Sciences	4
PHI2016 Ethics	4	Select 2–6 credits from the following (lab not required):	
PHI2055 Introduction to Theological Philosophy	2	Any BIO (excludes BIO1025), CHE, PHY, or SCI prefix	
PHI3057 Christian Apologetics	2	BIO2016 Our Changing Climate	2
Leadership & Professionalism	2 cr	Select credits from the following, if needed:	
LDR3415 The Self-aware Leader.....	2	Any ANT, ECO, GEO, or SOC prefix or any of the below:	
Effective Communication	3 cr	ICS2045 Socio-cultural Anthropology.....	4
COM1075 Public Speaking.....	3	POS2005 U.S. National Government.....	4
Critical Thinking & Information Literacy	4 cr	PSY1005 Introduction to Psychology.....	4
(reinforces Effective Communication outcomes)		PSY2108 Lifespan Psychology or	
ENG1107 College Writing & Research	4	PSY2005 Child and Adolescent Development and	
Cultural & Global Engagement	4 cr	PSY2006 Adult Development	4
HIS1005 Historical Perspectives on Culture, Belief, and		General Electives	27–30 cr
Civilization	4	Select a combination of any electives.	

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies (60–62 cr)

The Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies is designed to prepare the graduate for transfer to an upper-level degree program at Northwestern or another institution. The degree is granted upon successful completion of credits specified here.

Core Curriculum 33–35 cr**Biblical Thinking & Living 8 cr**

- BIA1007 Christian Thinking & Living (or BIB1826 honors) . . . 2
 BIA1015 Interpreting Scripture (or BIA1827 honors) **or**
 MIN2016 Biblical Interpretation for Study 2
 Theological Philosophy (select from list on page 51). 4

Effective Communication 3 cr

- COM1075 Public Speaking (or COM1825 Honors) 3

Critical Thinking & Information Literacy. 4–5 cr
(reinforces Effective Communication outcomes)

- ENG1107 College Writing & Research **and, if required,**
 ENG1107L English Composition Lab **or**
 LAN1107L English Composition Lab 4-5

Cultural & Global Engagement. 6-7 cr

- HIS1005 Historical Perspectives on Culture, Belief, and Civilization
 (or HIS1825 Honors or HIS1826 Honors) **and, if required,**
 HIS1005L Historical Perspectives Lab 4-5
 Approved Cultural & Global Engagement course or Modern
 World Language course (select from list on page 51). 2

Creative Expression 4 cr

Art, Film, Literature, Music, Theatre (select from list on page 52)
 A MAXIMUM OF 2 CREDITS IN MUSIC ENSEMBLES OR THE1045 MAY APPLY

Scientific & Quantitative Literacy 8 cr

Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science (select from list on page 52)
 MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE MATHEMATICS AND ONE NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE.
 EXCLUDES BIO1025.

Concentration 15 cr

Select a concentration. Requirements are listed below.

General Studies (15 cr)

Select a combination of any electives.

Intercultural Studies (15 cr)

- ICS2015 World Religions (4-CREDIT COURSE. 2 CREDITS APPLY TO
 CULTURAL & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENT) 2
 ICS2045 Socio-cultural Anthropology 4
 PHI2016 Ethics (APPLIES TO THEOLOGICAL PHILOSOPHY REQUIREMENT)

Select 4 credits from the following:

- ICS1008 Introduction to Missions 2
 ICS3015 Race and Ethnicity in America 4
 ICS3067 Social Justice 2
 ICS3069 Business as Mission 2
 ICS3107 Biblical Theology of Mission 2
 SOC1035 Introduction to Sociology 4

Select 5 credits of general electives**General Electives 12 cr**

Select an additional combination of any electives. Select an additional
 combination of any electives in consultation with the academic
 advisor.