

School of General Studies

The School of General Studies provides an interdisciplinary environment that allows students to understand and integrate the liberal arts and sciences. The school administers interdisciplinary degree programs that afford students the opportunity to design their degree plans on an individualized basis. To assist the student in pursuing a course of study leading to successful completion of an undergraduate degree, the school provides a unique support structure. Included in this structure is the school's Internship Program that arranges professional work experience in diverse career settings. The educational environment of General Studies is especially congenial to students eager to pursue unconventional or innovative combinations of course work.

Programs

The School of General Studies administers the programs for the Bachelor of Arts in American Studies, the Bachelor of Arts in Gender Studies, the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. The program in American Studies is designed for students who wish to learn more about United States institutions, arts, and society, both in the past and present. The Bachelor of Arts in Gender Studies is designed to understand, explain, and predict the ways that gender, as a set of ideas, fundamentally shapes our history and culture. The Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies Programs emphasize a broad learning experience and a wider perspective than that provided by traditional undergraduate majors. All programs are designed for students who wish to choose among conventional disciplines, both to explore a variety of topics and to integrate courses focusing on a particular area of interest. They are also appropriate for those students who seek a thorough grounding in the traditional arts and sciences from an interdisciplinary perspective. For students in other schools who wish to broaden their education by including a School of General Studies program, the double degree is recommended. This option calls for a minimum of 30 semester credit hours at the upper division beyond those necessary for the major with the larger credit hour requirement. In addition, the student must satisfy all requirements for both majors. The School of General Studies does not permit a double major in either American Studies or Interdisciplinary Studies.

Internship Program

All undergraduates in the School of General Studies are encouraged to take an internship with an organization in the community. Internships provide students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills that they have mastered in their academic work. Students applying for internships must be in their senior year and in good academic standing, have completed the appropriate course work, and receive approval of the Internship Director. Students normally enroll for 3 to 6 semester hours. Students interested in the program should see the Internship Director of the School of General Studies or call 972/883-2354.

Minors

Minors in the School of General Studies are available in the Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and the Bachelor of Arts in Gender Studies. Students in the Interdisciplinary Studies degree programs cannot have a minor, nor is there a minor offered in Interdisciplinary Studies. The requirements for each minor are listed below the degree requirements.

Interdisciplinary Studies (B.A. and B.S.)

The Bachelors' degrees in the Interdisciplinary Studies program emphasize a broad learning experience and a wider perspective than that provided by traditional undergraduate majors. They are designed to offer the student the opportunity to participate in an interdisciplinary, coherent, academically sound, and goal-oriented education directly relevant to the student's intellectual development and career aspirations. They are appropriate for those students who seek a thorough grounding in the traditional arts and sciences from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Each student in the Interdisciplinary Studies program becomes an active partner in the formulation of his or her program of study, working in consultation with a faculty advisor to devise an appropriate individual degree plan. Within the framework of two foundation areas, a university-wide Interdisciplinary Studies sequence, and a multidisciplinary concentration, a student may draw upon the resources of all schools of the university to create a degree program. In addition to organized courses, students are encouraged to participate in the Internship Program and thereby combine academic with practical experience. Double majors including Interdisciplinary Studies are not available.

Minors and Double Majors are not allowed in Interdisciplinary Studies degrees. In order to make the Interdisciplinary Studies degrees reflect their name, no more than 21 hours of courses with the same prefix are allowed in the combined 54 hours of major requirements and the 6 hours of advanced electives. (BA and ACCT courses count as a single prefix.) In the 54 hours of major requirements and 6 hours of advanced electives, there must be a minimum of 51 hours of upper-division courses. In the concentration, a minimum of three (3) prefixes must be represented. Please consult an academic advisor for further elaboration.

Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies Degree Requirements (120 hours)

I. Core Curriculum Requirements¹: 42 hours

- A. Communication (6 hours)
 - 3 hours Communication (RHET 1302)
 - 3 hours Communication Elective
- B. Social and Behavioral Sciences (15 hours)
 - 6 hours Government (GOVT 2301 and 2302)
 - 6 hours History (HST 1301 and 2301)
 - 3 hours Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective
- C. Humanities and Fine Arts (6 hours)
 - 3 hours Fine Arts (AP 1301)
 - 3 hours Humanities (A&H 1301)
- D. Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (6 hours)
 - 3 hours College Math (MATH 1300, 1314, or a higher-level math)
 - 3 hours Statistics (STAT 1342)
- E. Science (9 hours including at least one course with a substantial laboratory component)

¹ Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from accredited institutions of higher education. The courses listed in parenthesis are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at U.T. Dallas.

II. Major Requirements: 54 hours

Major Core Courses (12 hours)

Three IS courses

BIS 3320 The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry³

Major Related Courses (42 hours)

Two Foundations: 12 hours each (24 student credit hours)

The two foundations are drawn from Arts and Humanities, Computer Science, Human Development, Management, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Social Science.

One Concentration (18 hours) Each student devises, in consultation with his/her advisor, the topic for the Concentration and selects 18 student credit hours of course work related to the topic, drawn from at least three academic disciplines. Appropriate IS course work may be selected.

¹ Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from accredited institutions of higher education. The courses listed in parenthesis are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at U.T. Dallas.

II. Major Requirements: 54 hours

Major Core Courses (12 hours)

Three Science IS courses

BIS 3320 The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry³

Major Related Courses (42 hours)

Two Foundations: 12 hours each (24 student credit hours)

Foundation I consists of courses taught by the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Foundation II is drawn from Arts and Humanities, Computer Science, Human Development, Management, and Social Sciences.

One Concentration: 18 hours

Each student devises, in consultation with his/her advisor, the topic for the Concentration and selects 18 student credit hours of course work related to the topic, drawn from at least three academic disciplines.

Appropriate IS course work may be selected. Three courses must be science courses and one must be a statistics course.

² Students may elect to substitute MATH 2417 and 2419 and count two of the credit hours as Free Electives.

³ An additional (or fourth) IS course (science or non-science) will be taken if BIS 3320 is used to satisfy the Core Curriculum Communication Elective requirement.

III. Elective Requirements: 24 hours

Advanced Electives (6 hours)

Free Electives (18 hours)²

Students must complete 51 hours of upper-division course work to graduate.

Highly Recommended

Internships, basic computer skills, foreign languages, international studies, courses in literature and history, and participation in workshops offered by the School of General Studies are highly recommended. Students should consult closely with their advisors on particular areas of interest they wish to include in their programs.

Specified Course Descriptions

A&H 1301 (HUMA 1301) Exploration of the Humanities (3 semester hours) An introduction to the concept of cultural tradition through the study of selected works of literature, philosophy, music, and visual art. Emphasis on the relations among various forms of cultural expression and developing students' ability to interpret complex artistic works in their historical, cultural, and intellectual contexts. General education core course. (3-0) S

AP 1301 (ARTS 1301) Exploration of the Arts (3 semester hours) This course introduces students to the physical and intellectual demands required of the author, the performer, and the visual artist. This introduction includes, but is not limited to, the student's production of a creative project as well as written assessments of art and performance. (3-0) Y

BIS 3320 The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry (3 semester hours) Core course designed to enhance the student's critical thinking and reasoning in order to understand and utilize the methodologies of scholarly pursuits. To be taken during the student's first twelve hours as a junior in the Interdisciplinary Studies program. May not be taken on a Credit/No Credit basis. (3-0) S

GOVT 2301 Constitutional Foundations and Political Behavior in the U.S. and Texas (3 semester hours) This course examines the evolution and current state of political behavior and public policy making in the U.S. and Texas. Topics discussed will include the constitutions, federalism, intergovernmental relations, voting, elections, political parties, public opinion, and interest groups. (Fulfills one-half of the legislative requirement of 6 hours of American government.) (3-0) S

GOVT 2302 Political Institutions in the U.S. and Texas (3 semester hours) This course explores the primary institutions of U.S. and Texas government. It examines the bureaucracy as well as the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government at the state and federal level. (Fulfills one-half of the legislative requirement of 6 hours of American government.) (3-0) S

HST 1301 Themes and Ideas in American History (3 semester hours) An introduction to the methods of historical inquiry through the study of selected main themes in American history. A course designed to offer students an understanding of the historical and cultural context of America in the contemporary world. Fulfills one-half of the Texas legislative requirement for six hours in American history. (3-0) S

HST 2301 Issues in American History (3 semester hours) Readings, commentary, and discussion aimed at varying aspects of history and culture. Fulfills one-half of the Texas legislative requirement for six hours in American history. (3-0) Y

MATH 1300 Computerized College Algebra with Applications (3 semester hours) This computer-based course is intended for students NOT continuing on to pre-calculus or calculus. Topics chosen from areas such as operations with fractions, exponents, inequalities, linear equations and graphs, use of algebra to model a variety of problems encountered in ordinary life. Cannot be used to satisfy major requirements for majors in the Schools of Natural Sciences and Mathematics or Management, or degree requirements for the School of Engineering and Computer Science. Credit given for only one of MATH 1300, 1306, or 1314. Prerequisite: High School Algebra II. (3-0) S

MATH 1314 College Algebra (3 semester hours) Topics chosen from areas such as equations and inequalities, rational expressions, exponents, radicals and logarithms, functions, and graphs. Cannot be used to satisfy major requirements for majors in the Schools of Natural Sciences and Mathematics or Management, or degree requirements for the School of Engineering and Computer Science. Credit given for only one of MATH 1300, 1308, or 1314. Prerequisite: High School Algebra II. (3-0) S

RHET 1302 (ENGL 1302) Rhetoric (3 semester hours) The course presents an integrated approach to writing, reading, and critical thinking by developing the grammatical, logical, and rhetorical skills necessary for university writing. All classes work in a computerized learning environment. Students are taught basic computer literacy and submit all work electronically and on paper. (3-0) S

STAT 1342 (MATH 1342) Statistical Decision Making (3 semester hours) Principles of quantitative decision making: summarizing data, modeling uncertainty, loss functions, probability, conditional probability, random variables. Introduction to statistics: estimation, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, regression. Introduction to statistical packages. Cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements for majors in the School of Engineering and Computer Science, or major requirements in the Schools of Management or Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Prerequisite: MATH 1300, MATH 1304, MATH 1314 or equivalent. (3-0) S