INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
(BA OR BS)

Offered by the Interdisciplinary Studies Council

Professor: Matthew Cheney

Council: Matthew Cheney (Chair), Julie Bernier, Christina Bradbury,
Kathleen Herzig, Barbara McCahan, Brigid C. O’Donnell, Sarah Parrish,
Eun-Ho Yeo, Amy Villamagna, Robin DeRosa (ex officio)

The Interdisciplinary Studies major provides a unique opportunity to
construct a university major that meets students’ intellectual interests
and career objectives. This interdisciplinary experience provides students
with an alternative to the existing majors available at Plymouth. The
Interdisciplinary Studies major provides flexibility by encouraging
students to select courses from a variety of academic disciplines and
lets students design their own education in consultation with a team of
advisors. The areas of study open to students are limited only by interest,
imagination, and energy.

Degree Requirements

The Interdisciplinary Studies major consists of 51-55 credit hours
integrating two or more disciplines. These credits must include
Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies (IP 2225) (TECO) and
Interdisciplinary Studies Senior Seminar (IP 4425) (INCO, WRCO.) At least
50% of total credits must be upper-division (3000/4000 level) course
work.

In addition to the courses in the Interdisciplinary Studies major, students
must complete the General Education requirements. As with all majors,
Directions courses cannot be counted in the major. A Quantitative
Reasoning in the Discipline Connection (QRCO) and a Writing in the
Discipline Connection (WRCO) must be included in the student’s
contract. Students must complete the University’s minimum credit (120)
requirement. Upon completion of the program, students will receive either
a Bachelor of Science (BS) or a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree.

The foreign language requirement for all BA degrees calls for 0-6 credits:
one year of one language (6 credits); or one 3000/4000 level world
language course (3 credits); or being a native speaker of a language
other than English (zero credit). American Sign Language I and II fulfill
this requirement; however, American Sign Language does not satisfy the
Global Awareness Connection.

As part of the coursework for Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies
(IP 2225) (TECO), students are responsible for designing their own
Interdisciplinary Studies major with the assistance of faculty advisors.
Students submit to the Interdisciplinary Studies Council an application
to have their advisor-approved contract accepted and approved by the
Council. Only then will the process of enrolling in the Interdisciplinary
Studies major be complete.

To complete the bachelor’s degree in 4 years, you must successfully
complete a minimum of 15 credits each semester or have a plan to make
up credits over the course of the 4 years. For example, if you take 14
credits one semester, you need to take 16 credits in another semester.
Credits completed must count toward your program requirements (major,
option, minor, certificate, general education or free electives).