

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (BA OR BS)

Offered by the Interdisciplinary Studies Council

Professor: Matthew Cheney

Council: Matthew Cheney (Chair), Julie Bernier, Christina Bradbury, Barbara McCahan, Brigid C. O'Donnell, Nick Seigney, 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 a minimum of 51 credit hours integrating two or more disciplines. These credits must include Foundations of Interdisciplinary Studies (IP 2000), Cluster Learning Springboard (IP 2500), and Interdisciplinary Studies Senior Seminar (IP 4500) (TECO, WRCO). At least 50% of total credits in the major must include 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) 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 0-8 credits: one year of one language (6-8 credits); or one 3000/4000 level world language course (3 or 4 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 Foundations of Interdisciplinary Studies (IP 2000), students are responsible for designing their own Interdisciplinary Studies major with the assistance of faculty and staff advisors both within and outside the IDS program. As a requirement for successful completion of the Foundations course, students submit to the Interdisciplinary Studies Council an application to have their contract accepted and approved by the Council. While students may declare the IDS major at any point during their time as undergraduates, the IDS major requirements for graduation will only be established upon approval of the application by the IDS Council.

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).

Learning Outcomes

Interdisciplinary Studies graduates will be able to:

- Reflect and articulate how the integration of multidisciplinary approaches to knowledge and critical thinking impacts their understanding of what it means to have an interdisciplinary studies degree.
- Reflect and articulate how the integration of multidisciplinary approaches to knowledge and critical thinking contributes meaningfully to their particular interdisciplinary studies degree.
- Articulate the issues that currently shape the field of Interdisciplinary Studies, and be able to offer their own critical opinions on the theories and debates which shape their contours.
- Reflect on how their interdisciplinary course of study can and/or will impact their post-Plymouth life as well as society.
- Articulate how their own program of study contributes to their understanding of what it means to be *educated*.
- Craft a well-written and well-designed multimedia article that works to engage their academic knowledge with a public audience of readers, and will have a functional ePort (or equivalent) for use in future educational and career endeavors.
- Engage by building a personal learning network.
- Create a comprehensive thesis project that integrates their coursework, synthesizes the major themes and issues raised through the various courses they have taken, and draws conclusions related to their focus.
- Consider things we can't possibly imagine yet, and share new, unexpected, and original ideas into the knowledge commons.

Career Pathways

Career Paths for Interdisciplinary Studies graduates are unlimited. From the moment they create their individualized major, IDS students are thinking about their intellectual journey, their life work, and how they can continue to engage their passions in the world after graduation. We work closely with the Academic and Career Advising Center to help students prepare for the world beyond the PSU campus.