Liberal Studies

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Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

The Interdisciplinary Studies Bachelor of Arts degree recognizes that career satisfaction, mobility, and success requires an entrepreneurial matching of academic learning to new or emerging job categories, and is, therefore, designed to help students discover their unique competence and develop a coherent, efficient career-centric program of study, whether as a first-time-in-college, a transfer from another college or university, or an employee seeking career advancement. Its multi- or interdisciplinary curriculum also ensures that students will have developed the critical-analytical skills increasingly required in a globally-competitive employment market.

The 30 hours of upper-division coursework for the B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies are to be taken within the College of Arts, Sciences and Education or, as appropriate, from other FIU colleges or schools.

The degree may be taken face to face or entirely online (online course offerings will vary semester-to-semester).

To ensure that student interests, previous academic history, and career plan coincide, a 3-credit hour “Capstone” course has been integrated into the degree requirements. The Capstone course helps students select a pathway from FIU academics to a career-world or post graduate education.

Degree Program Hours: 120

Lower Division Preparation

Common Prerequisite Courses and Equivalencies

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Courses which form part of the statewide articulation between the State University System and the Florida College System will fulfill the Lower Division Common Prerequisites.

Please visit https://cpm.flvc.org for a current list of state-approved common prerequisites.

Common Prerequisites

No specific courses required; all students transferring from Florida community colleges are encouraged to complete the Associate in Arts degree.

Upper Division Program

Required Courses: (30 credits)

Ten 3000- or 4000-level courses distributed in the areas below. All courses in the major must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.

With assistance from the Interdisciplinary Studies advisors, students build a concentration relevant to their future career or post-BA educational goals. For students admitted into the Honors College, the B.A. degree requirements for both the Interdisciplinary Studies B.A. and Honors College upper-division curriculum may be satisfied by taking twelve credits of Interdisciplinary Honors (IDH) courses appropriate to the categories below.

Some courses may require prerequisites and labs. When required, lab courses will give credit in the remaining 30 hours elective category. As appropriate, Global Learning courses may count towards the major requirements.

All courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.

For a full listing of applicable specific courses within the categories and department fields below, consult the Interdisciplinary Studies program advising sheets at http://liberalstudies.fiu.edu/.

Human Aspirations around the World 6 hours
Courses in Literature, Philosophy, Religion, History, Art History, Art, Performing Arts (Theater and Music) or for Honors College students IDH 3034/4007

Defining Social Spheres 6 hours
Courses in Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, Criminal Justice, International Relations, Political Science, Economics, Management/Public Relations or for Honors College students IDH 3034/4007

Science and its Applications 6 hours
Courses in Chemistry, Biology, Earth and Environment, Engineering, Computer Science, Biomedical Engineering, or for Honors College students IDH 3034/4007

Expertise Focus, theory or applied 9 hours
Two additional courses from the areas above, in consultation with a program advisor, to build upon subject-matter expertise, or for Honors College students IDH 3034/4007

IDS 4890 Capstone 3 hours
To be taken at least one semester before the intended last semester before graduation to solidify degree focus and prepare for post-BA career or advanced degrees.

Honors students may elect to satisfy 6 credits in any field above by completing a thesis (IDH 3034/4007) in the Advanced Research and Creativity in Honors option, or by completing a 6-credit study abroad experience (IDH 3034/4008).

Electives: (30 credits)
The remaining hours will be taken as electives.

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies

The Liberal Studies B.A. (in each track) combines the time-tested strength of a well-rounded education with innovative ways of seeing our 21st-century world and the knowledge or applied skills needed to be productive in that world. Students select one of four tracks: Health and Human Concerns; Humanities and Cultural Traditions; Law, Business and Society; or Education, Policy, and Community Track. These thematic tracks—at once flexible and focused—ensure that student knowledge and skill sets will be cohesive, in-depth, and targeted towards diverse future career opportunities.
The 33 hours of upper-division coursework for the B.A. in Liberal Studies are to be taken within the College of Arts, Sciences and Education; optionally, up to 9 hours of the 33 hours may be taken from other FIU colleges or schools when designated in the tracks below.

To ensure that student interests, previous academic history, and career plan coincide, a graduating-year 3-credit hour “Capstone” course has been integrated into the degree requirements. The Capstone course helps students select a curriculum focus and provides information/credit that is designed to function as a gateway from FIU academics to a career-world beyond FIU.

Degree Program Hours: 120

Lower Division Preparation

Common Prerequisite Courses and Equivalencies

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Courses which form part of the statewide articulation between the State University System and the Florida College System will fulfill the Lower Division Common Prerequisites.

Please visit https://cpm.flvc.org for a current list of state-approved common prerequisites.

Common Prerequisites

No specific courses required; all students transferring from Florida community colleges are encouraged to complete the Associate in Arts degree.

Upper Division Program

Required Courses: (33 credits in one of the tracks below)

For each of the tracks below, students—in consultation with their Liberal Studies advisor—should take a coordinated array of 3000- or 4000-level courses in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities, or Writing. Some courses require prerequisites and labs. When required, lab courses will give credit in the remaining 27 hours elective category. As appropriate, Global Learning courses may count towards meeting the major requirements within the tracks below.

All courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.

For a full listing of applicable specific courses within the categories and department fields below, consult the Interdisciplinary Studies program advising sheets at http://liberalstudies.fiu.edu/

Health and Human Concerns Track

Natural Sciences 12 hours  
Biology, Chemistry, or Biochemistry

Social Sciences 9 hours  
Psychology, Global and Sociocultural Studies, Politics and International Relations, or Public Administration

Humanities 6 hours  
English, History, Humanities, Philosophy, or Religious Studies

Writing 3 hours

ENC 3311 “Advanced Writing and Research” or equivalent  
ENC 3000 or 4000 level course

Capstone—IDS 4890 3 hours  
To be taken at least one semester before the semester of anticipated graduation to solidify degree focus and prepare for post-baccalaureate career or advanced degrees

Humanities and Cultural Traditions Track

Sciences 3 hours  
Biology, Marine Sciences, or Earth and Environment

Social Sciences 6 hours  
Asian Studies, African and African Diaspora Studies, Latin American Studies, Women’s Studies, or Global & Sociocultural Studies

Humanities 18 hours  
English, History, Art History, Humanities, Greek, Latin, Modern Languages, Philosophy, or Religious Studies

Writing 3 hours  
ENC 3311 “Advanced Writing and Research” or equivalent  
ENC 3000 or 4000 level course

Capstone—IDS 4890 3 hours  
To be taken at least one semester before the semester of anticipated graduation to solidify degree focus and prepare for post-baccalaureate career or advanced degrees

Law, Business and Society Track

Sciences 3 hours  
Biology, Marine Sciences, or Earth and Environment

Social Sciences 18 hours  
Labor Studies, Economics, Global & Sociocultural Studies, Politics and International Relations, Public Administration, Criminal Justice, Law, or Business

Humanities 6 hours  
English, History, Humanities, Philosophy, or Religious Studies

Writing 3 hours  
ENC 3311 “Advanced Writing and Research” or equivalent  
ENC 3000 or 4000 level course

Capstone—IDS 4890 3 hours  
To be taken at least one semester before the semester of anticipated graduation to solidify degree focus and prepare for post-baccalaureate career or advanced degrees

Education, Policy, and Community Track

Natural Sciences (9 Credits)  
SCE 4310 Content and Methods of Teaching Elementary Science 3  
PET 3325/PET 3325L Kinetic Anatomy 3  
EEC 4211 Integrated Math and Science in Early Childhood 3  
SMT 3100 Knowing and Learning in Math and Science 3

Social Sciences (9 Credits)  
EDF 4780 The Teacher and the Law 3  
EDF 4604 Cultural and Social Foundations of Education 3
EDG 3321  Managing Teaching Environments: Instructional Decisions and Classroom Management  3
EDP 3004  Educational Psychology  3
EDP 3273  Child Development  3
EDP 4274  Early Social and Emotional Development  3
SSE 4380  Developing a Global Perspective  3
CPO 4053  Political Repression and Human Rights  3
ECO 4321  Radical Political Economy  3
ANT 3212  World Ethnography  3

Humanities (9 Credits)
ARE 3313  Experiencing Art in Elementary Schools  3
DAE 3300  Dance in the Elementary, Middle, and Secondary School  3
EDE 3521  Education in History  3
EEX 3070  Teaching Students with Exceptionalities in Inclusive Environments  3
ECC 3242  Art in Early Childhood Education  3
LAE 4405  Children’s Literature  3
PHM 4362  Global Justice  3
Writing and Communication in and across disciplines  3
RED 3313  Language and Literacy Development  3
RED 4100  Emergent Literacy  3
RED 4150  Content and methods of Teaching Intermediate Literacy  3
RED 4325  Content Area Reading  3
TSL 3080  ESOL Principles and Practices I  3
SPA 3000  Acquisition of Speech and Language Skills  3
ENC 4331  Writing, Rhetoric, and Community  3
ENC 3354  Writing for Social Action  3

Required Course IDS 4890 Capstone (3 credits)
To be taken at least one semester before the semester of anticipated graduation to solidify degree focus and prepare for post-baccalaureate career or advanced degrees

Note: Some courses may require field hours, fingerprinting, and background check. For a list of those course or for more information, please speak an advisor in the Liberal Studies program.

Bachelor of Arts in Natural and Applied Sciences
The Natural and Applied Sciences Bachelor of Arts degree provides an opportunity for students with diverse interests in STEM to combine courses from a variety of departments and to develop an array of competencies and skills that are aligned with their educational and career goals. This degree is designed for students who have a deep interest and aptitude for the STEM disciplines, but who would like to expand the focus of their studies to include emphasis in two or more of those areas as a foundation for an inter-disciplinary career, such as in health advocacy, research, and analytics. It is also designed for students who wish to continue their studies in a graduate or professional program.

The 30 hours of upper-division coursework for the B.A. in Natural and Applied Sciences are to be taken within the College of Arts, Sciences and Education, as appropriate, from other FIU colleges or schools. To ensure that student interests, previous academic history, and career plan coincide, 3-credit hour “Capstone” course has been integrated into the degree requirements. The Capstone course helps students select a pathway from FIU academics to a career, or post graduate education.

Degree Program Hours: 120

Lower Division Program

Common Prerequisite Courses and Equivalencies

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Courses which form part of the statewide articulation between the State University System and the Florida College System will fulfill the Lower Division Common Prerequisites.

Please visit https://cpm.flvc.org for a current list of state-approved common prerequisites.

Common Prerequisites
No specific courses required; all students transferring from Florida community colleges are encouraged to complete the Associate in Arts degree.

Upper Division Program

Required Courses: (30 credits)

Twenty-one 3000- or 4000-level courses distributed in the areas below (in special cases, exceptions may be made for the more challenging lower division science courses). All courses in the major must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.

With assistance from the Natural and Applied Sciences CASE advisors, students build a concentration relevant to their future career or post-BA educational goals. Some courses may require prerequisites and labs. For a full listing of applicable specific courses within the categories and department fields below, consult the Interdisciplinary Studies program advising sheets at http://liberalstudies.fiu.edu/.

Students will take 21 upper-level STEM courses, across these areas:

Physical Sciences  6 hours
Courses in Astronomy, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Geology, Systemic Geography, Meteorology, General and Chemical Oceanography, Physics, and Physical Sciences, and IDS 3212

Life and Health Sciences  6 hours
Courses in Biology, Botany, Biochemistry, Process Biology, Biological Oceanography, Environmental Science, Entomology, Health Information Management, Health Sciences 3337 and 4553, Human Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Public Health, Science Education, Zoology, IDS 3189 and IDS 4232
Applied Sciences  

Expertise Focus  
An additional course, in consultation with a program advisor, to build upon subject-matter expertise in any of the areas listed above.

Other requirements:
Communication in STEM  
1 course
A 3000/4000 level course with the following prefix: ENC, COM, SPC

Capstone/Professional Development  
2 courses
IDS 4890 Capstone or comparable course; IDS 4949 or other research, internship or professional development credit-earning opportunity. To be taken at least one semester before the intended last semester before graduation to solidify degree focus and prepare for post-BA career or advanced degrees.

Electives: (30 credits)
The remaining hours will be taken as electives. We strongly recommend a concentration subject area, or a certificate.

Bachelor of Arts in Natural and Applied Sciences Medical Sciences Track

Common Prerequisites (31-33 credits):
BSC 2010 and BSC 2010L (4 credits)  
BSC 2011 and BSC 2011L  
or BOT 1010 and BOT 1010L (4 credits)  
CHM 1045 and CHM 1045L (4 credits)  
CHM 1046 and CHM 1046L (4 credits)  
CHM 2210 and CHM 2210L  
or PHY 2048 and PHY 2048L  
or PHY 2053 and PHY 2048L (5 credits)  
CHM 2211 and CHM 2211L  
or PHY 2049 and PHY 2049L  
or PHY 2054 and PHY 2049L (4-5 credits)  
MAC 2311 or STA 3111 (3-4 credits)  
MAC 2312 or STA 3112 or STA 3213 (3-4 credits)

Major Requirements (39-40 credits):
Physical Sciences (12-13 credits):
CHM 2210 and CHM 2210L  
or PHY 2048 and PHY 2048L  
or PHY 2053 and PHY 2048L (5 credits)*  
CHM 2211 and CHM 2211L  
or PHY 2049 and PHY 2049L  
or PHY 2054 and PHY 2049L (4-5 credits)*

BCH 3033 or CHM 4304 (3 credits)

Life and Health Sciences (9 credits):
PCB 3702 or PCB 3703 or PCB 4724 (3 credits)  
PCB 3063 (3 credits)  
PCB 4023 (3 credits)

Communication in STEM (3 credits):
Select any 3000/4000 level with the following prefix: ENC, COM, SPC

Capstone/Professional Development (6 credits):
IDS 4890 or comparable course (3 credits)  
IDS 4949 or any other research, internship or professional development opportunity (3 credits)

Expertise Focus (9 credits):
1) An additional 3 credits from any of the areas above  
2) 6 credits in any 3000/4000 level course with the following prefix: PSY, SOP, DEP, CLP, EXP, PSB, SYG, SYO, SYA, SYP

1Counts toward UCC Natural Science Group 1
2Counts toward UCC Natural Science Group 2. Students who plan to apply for a graduate health program will need to take BSC 2011 and lab.
3Counts toward UCC Mathematics Group 1
4Counts toward UCC Mathematics Group 2
*Student must select course not already taken as Common Prerequisite. For example, if student took PHY 2048 and PHY 2048L as a common prerequisite, they should take CHM 2210 and CHM 2210L for the Physical Science requirement.

Course Descriptions
Definition of Prefixes
IDS-Interdisciplinary Studies
Courses that meet the University's Global Learning requirement are identified as GL.

IDS 2930 Faculty Scholars Seminar (1). Provides freshman Faculty Scholars the opportunity to participate in the interdisciplinary study of significant themes. May only be taken twice.

IDS 3949 Cooperative Education in Liberal Studies (3). A student majoring in Liberal Studies may spend one semester fully employed in industry in a capacity relating to the major. This course must be taken as an elective.

IDS 4890 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone: Applying Knowledge (3). Preparation for course-of-study and guided academic/career self-assessment; senior year internship, service learning, or research project. Students complete a portfolio demonstrating applied expertise.

IDS 4920 Liberal Studies Colloquia (3). Individual sections will study, from an interdisciplinary perspective, issues selected and presented jointly by College faculty. Specific topics will be announced in advance.

IDS 4949 Internship in Liberal Studies/Interdisciplinary Studies (0-6). This variable credit course (0-6 credits) can be used to allow both Liberal Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies’ students to take an internship and use that experience towards their degree.

Minor in Humanities (15 hours)
Wanda Raiford, Senior Instructor, Department of English and Director Liberal Studies
Grenville Draper, Professor and Associate Director of Liberal Studies

Students majoring in any other discipline may minor in Humanities.

The Humanities Minor course curriculum emphasizes the study of Classical culture and its continuities with our modern, global world. Whether learning about the ancient world, or building a foundational language base in Greek or Latin, or examining art and culture through a rich array of interdisciplinary courses, students who earn the Humanities Minor find it a fine complement to College of Arts, Sciences and Education and professional-school majors.

Requirements

A. One of the following courses (3 hours):
HUM 3214 Ancient Classical Culture and Civilization
or
HUM 4431 The Greek World
or
HUM 3432 The Roman World

B. Four additional HUM courses (including classical languages) (12 hours)

Course Descriptions

Definition of Prefixes
GRE-Classical Greek; GRW-Classical Greek Literature;
HUM-Humanities; LAT-Latin
Courses that meet the University’s Global Learning requirement are identified as GL.

GRE 1130 Classical Greek I (5). Emphasis on grammar, and on basic reading and writing skills. GRE 1131 Classical Greek II (5). Emphasis on grammar, and on basic reading and writing skills. Prerequisite: GRE 1130.

GRE 2200 Intermediate Classical Greek (3). Emphasis on grammar, and on acquiring intermediate reading and writing skills. Prerequisite: GRE 1131.

HUM 1020 Introduction to Humanities (3). An interdisciplinary survey of how human beings have perceived themselves and the world around them, through literature, philosophy, religion, music and the arts.

HUM 2512 Art and Society (3). A study of the relationship between art and culture in different periods, including patronage, the role of the artist, and the relationship between art and economic, political, religious, and ideological forces.

HUM 3214 Ancient Classical Culture and Civilization (3). Explores the culture of the ancient Greek and Latin worlds from an interdisciplinary perspective and studies the varied conceptions of the individual, society, and nature. Written work meets the state composition requirement.

HUM 3306 History of Ideas (3). The historical development of fundamental concepts through an interdisciplinary cultural approach. Nature, freedom, beauty, virtue, alienation, and relativism are traced in literature, art, and philosophy including the social context of developing ideas. Meets the state composition requirement. Prerequisites: ENC 1101 and ENC 1102 or equivalent.

HUM 3432 The Roman World (3). An in-depth examination of selected cultural monuments and events of the Roman Republic and Empire and of the forces that helped shape them.

HUM 3939 Special Topics (3). An examination of specific topics in the humanities. The topics may vary from semester to semester. (May be repeated with a change in content.)

HUM 3949 Cooperative Education in Humanities (3). A student majoring in Humanities may spend one or two semesters fully employed in industry in a capacity relating to the major.

HUM 4431 The Greek World (3). An in-depth examination of selected cultural monuments and events of the Greek World in the Classical and Hellenistic periods and of the forces that helped shape them. (May be repeated with change in content.)

HUM 4543 Literature and Philosophy (3). The interpretation of literature and philosophy from an interdisciplinary perspective. In addition to philosophical novels, poetry, and drama, the course may examine the philosophical scrutiny of literature.

HUM 4555 Symbols and Myths (3). An in-depth examination of mythology and symbolic language within the cultural and psychodynamic forces that inform them. This course gives special emphasis to Classical myths.

HUM 4580 Film Humanities (3). Studies the significance of film in Western culture: the language, semiotics and technique of films with the aid of appropriate cinematographical material.

HUM 4906 Independent Study (1-3). Directed independent research. Requires prior approval by instructor. (May be repeated with a change in content.)

LAT 1130 Latin I (5). Emphasis on grammar and on acquiring basic reading and writing skills.

LAT 1131 Latin II (5). Emphasis on grammar and on acquiring reading and writing skills. Prerequisite: LAT 1130.

LAT 2200 Intermediate Latin (3). Emphasis on grammar and on acquiring basic reading and writing skills. Prerequisite: LAT 1131.