



# Major in Interdisciplinary Studies

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Southern Oregon University

The **Interdisciplinary Studies major** allows students to draw coursework from two or three academic departments or programs to support individual learning goals.

- ◆ The selected **Program of Emphasis** plays a central role by providing primary advising and courses to meet upper division writing and capstone requirements.
- ◆ One or two **Supporting Program(s)** provide additional courses and faculty support.

Potential areas of study may be selected from the following programs –

- ◆ Art ◆ Biology ◆ Business ◆ Chemistry ◆ Communication ◆ Computer Science ◆ Creative Writing ◆
- ◆ Criminology & Criminal Justice ◆ Digital Cinema ◆ Economics ◆ Education ◆ Emerging Media & Digital Arts ◆
- ◆ English ◆ Environmental Sciences & Policy ◆ Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies ◆ Health & Physical Education ◆ History ◆ International Studies ◆ Mathematics ◆ Music ◆ Native American Studies ◆
- ◆ Outdoor Adventure Leadership ◆ Philosophy ◆ Political Science ◆ Psychology ◆ Shakespeare Studies ◆
- ◆ Sociology & Anthropology ◆ World Languages and Cultures ◆

The **Student Success Coordinator for the Division of Undergraduate Studies** provides general guidance and administrative assistance. To make an appointment, email Joshua Tinney at [tinneyj@sou.edu](mailto:tinneyj@sou.edu) or call 541-552-6290. Participating faculty in the student's selected areas of interest provide direct mentoring and academic advising.

## Structure of the major

The major consists of 75 approved credits; 48 of these must be upper division credits. Courses are selected from **two or three** participating programs, specified in the list above, in consultation with faculty advisors. All course selections must also be approved by the Chair of each program, and all general University degree requirements must be met.

Distribution requirements for the **75 credits** required in the major are as follows –

- ◆ At least 30 credits (including 24 upper division credits) must come from the program of emphasis.
- ◆ An additional 24 upper division credits are to be drawn from one or two supporting program(s), with at least 12 upper division credits coming from each program.
- ◆ The remaining courses to meet the major's required total of 75 credits come from the program of emphasis and from the supporting program(s) in any approved combination.
- ◆ Must meet the program of emphasis minimum GPA requirement.

*Note: Students must have at least one academic year remaining (3 terms) to earn a degree. Students cannot double major. Also, students who have previously earned a bachelor's degree do not qualify for this major.*

## Advance Planning and Student Responsibility

The Interdisciplinary Studies major offers an innovative, flexible learning opportunity for students with initiative and organizational skills. A successful outcome requires both careful advance planning and active engagement with faculty. Students undertaking this major must take responsibility for maintaining communication flow among participating faculty and programs, carefully adhere to all procedures and deadlines, and ensure that required documents are filed within 60 days of starting the application process.

## How to Develop an Interdisciplinary Studies Major

Review the checklist for a step-by-step guide. The academic plan must be approved by all participating faculty advisors, program Chairs and the Director of Undergraduate Studies together with an application letter, and on file in the Registrar's Office before final approval to achieve major status.

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | 1) <b>Meet with the Student Success Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies to discuss your interest in the Interdisciplinary Studies major.</b> Explain your educational goals and how the Interdisciplinary Studies major supports them and why this major is the best fit for what you are trying to accomplish.  |
|  | 2) <b>Develop a preliminary major plan</b> (see page 3). This plan should specify the courses that the Program of Emphasis will approve for your major and the supporting areas that you plan to include. Remember, you're required to complete a capstone in the Program of Emphasis.  |
|  | 3) <b>Meet with a faculty advisor from your intended Program of Emphasis to discuss your interest in the Interdisciplinary Studies major.</b> Explain your educational goals and how the Interdisciplinary Studies major supports them and why this major is the best fit for what you are trying to accomplish. Review and finalize your preliminary major plan. Confirm major advising support from this faculty advisor. |
|  | 4) <b>Meet with faculty in one or two Supporting Program(s).</b> Present the plan that you developed with the faculty advisors in the Program of Emphasis. Determine which courses from the Supporting Program(s) will be approved to meet requirements in each area and confirm support from a specific faculty advisor.   |
|  | 5) <b>Write an official application letter requesting permission to proceed with the Interdisciplinary Studies major.</b> This letter should explain your educational goals and why the approved courses included in your Interdisciplinary Studies major provide the best way to meet them. Describe your post-graduation plans and specify your completion term.  |
|  | 6) <b>Review preliminary major plan and application letter with the UGS Student Success Coordinator.</b>  |
|  | 7) <b>Complete Major Requirements Part 1 of the Interdisciplinary Major Final Plan Sign-Off Form.</b> Enter final course plan and obtain approval and signatures of this major plan from the major advisor and from the Chair of the Program of Emphasis (if this person is not the faculty advisor with whom you conferred).   |
|  | 8) <b>Complete Major Requirements Part 2 of the Interdisciplinary Major Final Plan Sign-Off Form.</b> Enter final course plan and obtain approval and signatures of the Supporting Program(s) from the major advisor(s) and from the Chair(s) (if this person is not the faculty advisor with whom you conferred).  |
|  | 9) <b>Complete Part 3 of the Interdisciplinary Major Final Plan Sign-Off Form. Make a plan to graduation working closely with the Student Success Coordinator in Undergraduate Studies and your major advisors in each program.</b> Be sure that this plan includes all University Studies, BA or BS requirements, and coursework for your major.   |
|  | 10) <b>Submit the Interdisciplinary Major Final Plan Sign-Off Form and your application letter to the Student Success Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies.</b> Remember this plan must be submitted no later than 60 days from the start of this process.  |
|  | 11) Once you receive confirmation from the Office of Undergraduate Studies of acceptance of your plan, your major status will be updated in Degree Works. <b>Any changes to your plan must be pre-approved.</b>   |

# Preliminary Major Plan

Program of Emphasis: \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting Program 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting Program 2 (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** At least 30 credits from the program of emphasis are required. Of these, 24 must be Upper Division and include the program's writing requirement and capstone.

| Program of Emphasis Course Plan |          |                 |         |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------|
| Subject                         | Course # | Title           | Credits |
| Example-<br>BI                  | 101      | General Biology | 4       |
|                                 |          |                 |         |
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TOTAL 'Program of Emphasis' credits \_\_\_\_\_ Upper Division Credits \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** At least 24 upper division supporting credits are required. These may be drawn from one or two supporting program(s). If two programs are selected, each must provide at least 12 upper division credits.

| <b>Supporting Program 1 Course Plan</b> |                 |                        |                |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Subject</b>                          | <b>Course #</b> | <b>Title</b>           | <b>Credits</b> |
| Example-<br><i>BI</i>                   | <i>101</i>      | <i>General Biology</i> | <i>4</i>       |
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TOTAL 'Supporting Program 1' credits \_\_\_\_\_ Upper Division Credits \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>Supporting Program Course 2 Plan (optional)</b> |                 |                        |                |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Subject</b>                                     | <b>Course #</b> | <b>Title</b>           | <b>Credits</b> |
| Example-<br><i>BI</i>                              | <i>101</i>      | <i>General Biology</i> | <i>4</i>       |
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TOTAL 'Supporting Program 2' credits \_\_\_\_\_ Upper Division Credits \_\_\_\_\_

**Major Requirements - Additional Courses -**

Remaining courses from Program of Emphasis and/or Supporting Programs (1 and/or 2) to meet the required total of 75 credits for the Interdisciplinary Studies Major.

| <b>Major Requirements - Additional Courses</b> |                 |                        |                |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Subject</b>                                 | <b>Course #</b> | <b>Title</b>           | <b>Credits</b> |
| Example-<br><i>BI</i>                          | <i>101</i>      | <i>General Biology</i> | <i>4</i>       |
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**TOTAL 'Additional Courses' credits** \_\_\_\_\_ **Upper Division Credits** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL credits for Interdisciplinary Studies Major** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(75 credits required)*

# Interdisciplinary Approved Plan Sign-Off Form

Major in Interdisciplinary Studies - Complete all three parts

## Student Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Major Requirements (PART 1) – Program of Emphasis

At least 30 credits from the program of emphasis are required. Of these, 24 must be Upper Division and include the program's writing requirement and capstone.

*Note: Signed approvals are required below from both Faculty Advisor and Program Chair.*

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

| APPROVED COURSE WORK: Major Requirements – Program of Emphasis |          |       |         |
|--|----------|-------|---------|
| Subject  | Course # | Title | Credits |
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TOTAL 'Program of Emphasis' credits \_\_\_\_\_ Upper Division Credits \_\_\_\_\_

**Major Requirements (PART 2) – Supporting Program(s)**

One area with 24 upper division credits or two areas with 12 upper division credits.

*Note: Signed approvals are required below from both Faculty Advisor(s) and Program Chair(s).*

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

| APPROVED COURSE WORK: Major Requirements – Supporting Program 1 |          |       |         |
|---|----------|-------|---------|
| Subject   | Course # | Title | Credits |
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TOTAL 'Supporting Program 1' credits \_\_\_\_\_ Upper Division Credits \_\_\_\_\_

**Major Requirements (PART 2), cont. – Supporting Program(s)**

One area with 24 upper division credits or two areas with 12 upper division credits.

*Note: Signed approvals are required below from both Faculty Advisor(s) and Program Chair(s).*

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>APPROVED COURSE WORK: Major Requirements – Supporting Program 2 (optional)</b> |                 |              |                |
|---|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Subject</b>  | <b>Course #</b> | <b>Title</b> | <b>Credits</b> |
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**TOTAL 'Supporting Program 2' credits** \_\_\_\_\_ **Upper Division Credits** \_\_\_\_\_



**Major Requirements (PART 2), cont. – Additional Courses**

Remaining courses from Program of Emphasis and/or Supporting Programs (1 and/or 2) to meet the required total of 75 credits for the Interdisciplinary Studies Major.

| <b>APPROVED COURSE WORK: Major Requirements – Additional Courses</b> |                 |              |                |
|--|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Subject</b>   | <b>Course #</b> | <b>Title</b> | <b>Credits</b> |
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**TOTAL 'Additional Courses' credits** \_\_\_\_\_ **Upper Division Credits** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL credits for Interdisciplinary Studies Major** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(75 credits required)*

**Plan for Graduation (PART 3) – Interdisciplinary Studies Course Planner**

Students are responsible for keeping track of their progress and understanding the requirements for their degree.

*Note: Plans must account for BA or BS degree and University Studies requirements.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Program of Emphasis: \_\_\_\_\_

Support Program 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Support Program 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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| FALL 20__ |  | WINTER 20__ |  | SPRING 20__ |  | SUMMER 20__ |  |
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| FALL 20__ |  | WINTER 20__ |  | SPRING 20__ |  | SUMMER 20__ |  |
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| FALL 20__ |  | WINTER 20__ |  | SPRING 20__ |  | SUMMER 20__ |  |
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