

# Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

## Mission Statement

The purpose of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies is to provide a quality, comprehensive academic experience for students with academic aspirations not served by any other academic department major at University of Northwestern – St. Paul. The students in this department are motivated to pursue a creative degree plan that prepares them to achieve their academic and career goals and equips them to integrate their Christian faith in learning and career.

## Interdisciplinary Studies Major

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science

The Interdisciplinary Studies student, in consultation with faculty advisors, designs a coherent program of study that meets specific academic goals. Students are required to complete an application process under the oversight and direction of the Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. Proposed curricula and outcomes will be approved by a faculty advisory committee consisting of the Chair, and a faculty member from each of two primary disciplines. Ongoing academic advising, recommendations, and support are provided by the advisory committee. The program is open to self-motivated students who have identified clear academic and career goals and have met the minimum GPA requirement of 3.0 or have provided other compelling documentation. See the Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies for further information.

- **B.A. option** requires achieving 1002-level competency in an approved foreign language. See page 47.

## Degree Requirements

1. The program will include at least 125 semester credits, with a minimum of 40 upper-level credits.
2. The student must meet all core curriculum and graduation requirements.
3. The major will consist of at least 48 credits in at least two academic areas with no more than 30 credits in one area.
4. At least 50% of the major must be completed from University of Northwestern.
5. The student must register for IDS4845 Capstone Project (4 credits) and complete an integrated capstone project that documents their attainment of degree learning outcomes and highlights their scholarly achievement and professional competency. This course serves as both the WCE and the OCE for the IDS major.

## Examples of Programs of Study

The following list includes programs of study that Interdisciplinary Studies students have chosen to pursue.

- American & Arab Studies
- Ancient Studies
- Art & Psychology
- Art History & Practicum
- Aviation Technology & Computer Science
- Biblical Counseling
- Biblical Counseling & Intercultural Study
- Biology & Psychology
- Biology & Psychology
- Child Psychology & Family Studies
- Civic Journalism
- Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Criminal Justice & Computer Science
- Dance Entrepreneurship
- Disaster Relief & Psychological Understanding
- Domestic & Foreign Societal Structures
- Electronic Communications
- English & Human Sciences
- Entrepreneurship
- Film & Gaming Story
- Global Leadership
- Graphics Programming
- Health Sciences & Public Relations
- Healthcare Management
- Industrial Design
- Intercultural Biblical Counseling
- Intercultural Studies/Victims Advocacy
- International Leadership/Criminal Justice
- Media Writing & Production
- Media/Performing Art Production & Writing
- Natural & Behavioral Science
- Outreach & Advocacy of At-Risk Populations
- Political Communications & History
- Political Communications & Family Advocacy
- Political Science, Criminal Justice, Communication
- Psychology & Art
- Psychology & Criminal Justice
- Psychology & Special Education
- Public Relations/Communications for Nonprofit
- Reformed Philosophy & English
- Social Work/Disadvantaged Children
- Sustainable Design
- Team Sport Business & Principles
- Theater Design
- Visual Design Communications
- Visual Narrative

WCE = WRITTEN COMMUNICATION EMPHASIS.  
OCE = ORAL COMMUNICATION EMPHASIS.  
SEE PAGE 50 FOR EXPLANATION AND PREREQUISITES.

# Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies (60-62 cr)

The Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies is designed to prepare the graduate for transfer to an upper-level degree program at Northwestern or another institution. The degree is granted upon completion of 60 credits as specified here.

**Core Curriculum . . . . . 33-35 cr**

**Biblical Thinking & Living . . . . . 8 cr**

- BIA1007 Christian Thinking & Living (or BIB1826 honors) . . . 2
- BIA1015 Interpreting Scripture (or BIA1827 honors) or  
MIN2016 Biblical Interpretation for Study . . . . . 2
- Theological Philosophy (select from list on page 43). . . . . 4

**Effective Communication . . . . . 3 cr**

- COM1075 Public Speaking (or COM1825 Honors) . . . . . 3

**Critical Thinking & Information Literacy. . . . . 4-5 cr**  
(reinforces Effective Communication outcomes)

- ENG1107 College Writing & Research and, if required,  
ENG1107L English Composition Lab or  
LAN1107L English Composition Lab . . . . . 4-5

**Cultural & Global Engagement. . . . . 6-7 cr**

- HIS1005 Historical Perspectives on Culture, Belief, & Civilization  
(or HIS1825 Honors or HIS1826 Honors) and, if required,  
HIS1005L Historical Perspectives Lab . . . . . 4-5
- Approved Cultural & Global Engagement course or Modern  
World Language course (select from list on page 43). . . . . 2

**Creative Expression . . . . . 4 cr**

Art, Music, Theater, Film, Literature (select from list on page 43)  
A MAXIMUM OF 2 CREDITS IN MUSIC ENSEMBLES OR THE1045 MAY APPLY

**Scientific & Quantitative Literacy . . . . . 8 cr**

Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science (select from list on page 44)  
MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE MATHEMATICS AND ONE NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE.  
EXCLUDES BIO1025.

**Concentration . . . . . 15 cr**

Select a concentration. Requirements are listed below.

**General Studies (15 cr)**

Select a combination of any electives.

**Intercultural Studies (15 cr)**

- ICS2015 World Religions (4-CREDIT COURSE. 2 CREDITS APPLY TO  
CULTURAL & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENT) . . . . . 2
- ICS2045 Socio-cultural Anthropology . . . . . 4
- PHI2016 Ethics (APPLIES TO THEOLOGICAL PHILOSOPHY REQUIREMENT)

**Select 4 credits from the following:**

- ICS3015 Race and Ethnicity in America . . . . . 4
- ICS3209 Urban Community Development . . . . . 2
- ICS3067 Social Justice . . . . . 2
- SOC1035 Introduction to Sociology . . . . . 4

**Select 5 credits of general electives**

**General Electives . . . . . 12 cr**

Select an additional combination of any electives. Select an additional combination of any electives in consultation with the academic advisor.