Interdisciplinary University Studies Major (IDSC)

Purpose

The IDSC format provides students with the flexibility to combine areas of study that are of special interest and combine courses that are not possible through existing degree plans. Students will earn a B.S. unless 75% of their coursework is from the College of Liberal Arts (and in this case they would earn a B.A.). There will be two options for this program.

Regardless of option, all students will complete:

• A written prospectus (detailed plan of study) that defines the intended major and outlines the curriculum. The student must demonstrate the relationship between the chosen fields and how the combination relates to the student’s intended educational goal. Each student is required to design a unique program of study and identify how they plan to assess their plan to be accepted.

• UNIV 2190, Foundations of Interdisciplinary University Studies (3)
• UNIV 4980, Interdisciplinary Capstone Experience (3)
• 8-9 hours of Interdisciplinary supporting coursework:
  -- 3 hours of oral communication
  -- 2-3 hours of computer competency
  -- 3 hours of written communication beyond ENGL 1120

OPTION 1:

Students declaring an IDSC must choose to combine three 12-hour concentrated fields of study or two 18-hour concentrated fields of study from a minimum of two different colleges/schools (a total of 36 hours across two colleges/schools). Students must have a GPA of 2.0 overall or a 2.2 in the previous term to apply/participate.

Proposed Curriculum Model

| Auburn University Core Curriculum          | 41 hours |
| Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies | 3 hours  |
| Major Course Hours                        | 36 hours |
| Capstone Experience                       | 3 hours  |
| Interdisciplinary Supporting Coursework   | 8-9 hours|
| Electives                                 | 28-29 hours|
| **Minimum Number of Required Hours**      | **120**  |
OPTION 2:

Students declaring this program must do so under the direction of the College of Liberal Arts. (Other Colleges may wish to develop parallel programs.) The format of Option 2 is more flexible in nature. Students will develop a plan of study that presents a coherent, integrated program of major courses that, while together forming an appropriate body of material, are housed in a number of academic departments within the College. In addition, students must have an unadjusted cumulative GPA of 3.0 to apply/participate.

Proposed Curriculum Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auburn University Core Curriculum</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDSC Major Courses</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM/COMP</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper-division writing intensive course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLA Core</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>120</td>
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Major Competencies

Students who complete the Interdisciplinary University Studies Major should acquire the following knowledge and skills:

1. **Understanding of Interdisciplinary Theory and Application**

Students are granted broader academic freedom to pursue their degree in ways that best suit their own intellectual interests and apply them to the workplace and society. Students will learn how to approach issues from a range of perspectives, enabling them to develop a comprehensive understanding of complex subject matter. Students will either understand the meaning of experiential learning through a capstone experience or will be able to study an issue from various disciplinary perspectives. Successful completion of a senior capstone experience will complement coursework and demonstrate competency.

2. **Critical Thinking Skills**

Through two new courses, the Introductory Course and the Capstone Experience Course, students will learn how interdisciplinary studies integrate into their chosen academic field using disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking.

3. **Capstone Experience**

Students will be provided with an opportunity to apply their knowledge through a capstone experience. This experience will place an emphasis on critical, reflective thinking and personal and professional responsibility. Students will demonstrate this knowledge by creating a unique opportunity to (1) integrate either theoretical concepts or practical application into a capstone experience or (2) an interdisciplinary research project.
4. **Oral Communication**

In addition to major coursework, students must complete three hours beyond the required courses that fulfill the IDSC concentrations to help ensure IDSC majors are effective communicators. Satisfactory completion of this requirement includes enrolling in either COMM 1000 or oral communication supporting coursework.

5. **Written Communication**

Students pursuing an Interdisciplinary University Degree are required to enroll in an advanced writing course (beyond ENGL 1120).

6. **Computer Literacy**

Students pursuing an Interdisciplinary University Degree are required to enroll in a computer science related course (beyond what is required for a specific concentration).

**All IDSC coursework must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.**

**IDSC Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will gather information and demonstrate an understanding of defining-concepts from two or more areas of study and will combine those concepts to propose a unique major to be independently pursued.

2. Students will apply the concepts of their unique area of study through a capstone experience.

3. Through this capstone experience, students will show that they have integrated different areas of study to examine a question, problem or phenomenon.

Sample Plans of Study: see attached
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRIBUSINESS MINOR
AGRONOMY AND SOILS MINOR
ANIMAL SCIENCES MINOR
ENTOMOLOGY MINOR
FISHERIES AND ALLIED AQUACULTURES MINOR
AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP STUDIES
NATURAL RESOURCES ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY MINOR
PLANT PATHOLOGY MINOR
POULTRY SCIENCE MINOR
RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MINOR

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
NO MINORS OFFERED

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
ACCOUNTANCY MINOR
AVIATION MANAGEMENT MINOR
ECONOMICS MINOR
FINANCE MINOR
INFORMATION ASSURANCE MINOR
INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MINOR
MARKETING MINOR
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT MINOR
TECHNICAL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT
BUSINESS MINOR
BUSINESS-ENGINEERING-TECHNOLOGY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
ADULT EDUCATION MINOR
EXERCISE SCIENCE MINOR
OFFICE SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT MINOR
SPORT COACHING MINOR

GINN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
BUSINESS-ENGINEERING-TECHNOLOGY MINOR
COMPUTER SCIENCE MINOR
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MINOR

SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE SCIENCES
FOREST RESOURCES MINOR

COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCES
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES MINOR
INTERNATIONAL MINOR IN HUMAN SCIENCES
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AFRICANA STUDIES MINOR
ANTHROPOLOGY MINOR
ART HISTORY MINOR
CLASSICS MINOR
COMMUNICATION MINOR
CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINOR
ENGLISH MINOR
FRENCH MINOR
GERMAN MINOR
HISTORY MINOR
ITALIAN MINOR
MUSIC MINOR
PHILOSOPHY MINOR
POLITICAL SCIENCE MINOR
PSYCHOLOGY MINOR
RELIGIOUS STUDIES MINOR
SOCIAL WORK MINOR
SOCIOLOGY MINOR
SPANISH MINOR
TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION MINOR
THEATRE MINOR

SCHOOL OF NURSING
NO MINORS OFFERED

HARRISON SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
NO MINORS OFFERED

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATH
MATHEMATICS MINOR
PHYSICS MINOR

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
NO MINORS OFFERED