

# Interdisciplinary Studies (IDST)

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The Interdisciplinary Studies Program is targeted toward highly motivated students whose interests, needs, and talents are not reflected or met by existing majors. It is a major in which students will pursue coursework from two or more traditional disciplines in sufficient depth and breadth to prepare them for employment or graduate/professional study. The major will lead to a Bachelor of Arts in interdisciplinary studies.

There are two options for students who wish to pursue a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies:

- Option 1 – Construction of an Interdisciplinary Studies major consisting of at least two of three thematically linked minors from within the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. One of the three minors may be selected from a program in another college at the university. Students interested in Option 1 will follow the specific program requirements as specified by each minor. For Option 1, a course plan of study must contain a minimum of 45 credit hours with a maximum number of hours dependent on which group of three minors are selected (in most instances this number would range from 45-57 hours). Students selecting Option 1 must consult during their first semester of enrollment with the IDSTBA Program Director to develop their course plan of study.
- Option 2 – Construction of an Interdisciplinary Studies major consisting of a thematically linked set of coursework primarily selected from, but not limited to, courses in Fulbright College. Students selecting Option 2 must consult during their first semester of enrollment with the IDSTBA Program Director to develop an individualized course plan of study. The course plan must contain a minimum of 45 credit hours with a maximum of 21 hours of course work from a single discipline. Thirty credit hours of the proposed coursework must be at the 3000 or 4000 level. At least two-thirds of the advanced level coursework must be completed on the UA-Fayetteville campus.

In addition to the Plan of Study, students wishing to pursue the interdisciplinary studies major must also submit a narrative statement that (1) expresses how the proposed coursework (or group of minors) fit together thematically; (2) expresses why the student's interests and needs are not met by existing degree programs; and (3) expresses how the interdisciplinary studies major contributes to the student's career goals and post-graduate opportunities.

**Interdisciplinary Studies Program Requirements:** A student interested in pursuing a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies must have earned less than 75 credit hours in order to select the IDSTBA major.

Students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or better on coursework constituting the major (e.g., Option 1 or Option 2) for continuation in the program and in order to graduate with an Interdisciplinary Studies major. Should a student's GPA in the major fall below 2.50, he or she will have one semester to bring the GPA back to an acceptable level.

Students in Option 2 of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program are strongly encouraged to include an Independent Study/Research Project as a component of the major. Students pursuing an independent study research project may add up to 6 credit hours of such activity to the 21-hour maximum in a single discipline.

In addition to the coursework defined in the student's Interdisciplinary Studies major, the student must satisfy all college and university requirements related to the state minimum core (<http://catalog.uark.edu/undergraduatecatalog/gened/stateminimum/>) and advanced-level courses (<http://catalog.uark.edu/undergraduatecatalog/collegesandschools/jwilliamfulbrightcollegeofartsandsciences/>).

**Writing Requirement:** To complete the Fulbright College writing requirement, students must submit one of the following:

1. Complete at least one upper-division course that satisfies the College Writing Requirement in one of the disciplines contributing to the student's course plan (Option 1 or Option 2).
2. Submit to the program director a research paper that is no less than 12 pages in length, includes 10 references, and is written in an upper-division course in one of the disciplines contributing to the student's course plan (Option 1 or Option 2).

## Interdisciplinary Studies B.A. Eight-Semester Degree Plan

Students wishing to follow the eight-semester degree plan should see the Academic Regulations chapter for university requirements. University Core requirements may vary by individual, based on placement and previous credit granted. Once all University Core requirements are met, students may substitute a 3-hour (or more) general elective in place of a core area.

Students in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program develop individualized course plans. These courses are referred to in the plan below as IDST Course Plan hours.

First Year	Units	
	Fall	Spring
ENGL 1013 Composition I (ACTS Equivalency = ENGL 1013)	3	
MATH 1203 College Algebra (ACTS Equivalency = MATH 1103) (or higher if appropriate for IDST individual plan))	3	
Approved science core lecture requirement with corequisite lab requirement.	4	
Elementary II world language course (recommended)	3	
Fine Arts core requirement	3	
ENGL 1023 Composition II (ACTS Equivalency = ENGL 1023)		3
Approved science core lecture with corequisite lab requirement		4
Intermediate I world language course (recommended) or other Humanities core course requirement		3

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HIST 2003 History of the American People to 1877 (ACTS Equivalency = HIST 2113) or HIST 2013 History of the American People, 1877 to Present (ACTS Equivalency = HIST 2123) or PLSC 2003 American National Government (ACTS Equivalency = PLSC 2003)		3
General Elective		3
Year Total:	16	16

Second Year	Units	
	Fall	Spring
Social Science core requirement	3	
IDST Course Plan	12	
Social Science core requirement		3
IDST Course Plan		11
Year Total:	15	14

Third Year	Units	
	Fall	Spring
Social Science core requirement	3	
IDST Course Plan	12	
IDST Course Plan		15
Year Total:	15	15

Fourth Year	Units	
	Fall	Spring
IDST Course Plan	15	
IDST Course Plan		14
Year Total:	15	14

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Total Units in Sequence: 120