



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Interdisciplinary Studies

Major Program

The Interdisciplinary Studies program offers a creative alternative for students interested in emerging fields of study and, more generally, for students whose academic needs and interests do not conform to the traditional academic major. The Interdisciplinary Studies degree programs are individually designed and are tailored to the personal academic and professional objectives of each student. The program is also interdisciplinary/cross-disciplinary in spirit and practice and, thus, challenges students to make deliberate, thoughtful, and meaningful choices in developing a coherent plan of study that draws on resources from two or more academic departments.

One of the goals of the Interdisciplinary Studies program is to encourage and support students who wish to take an active role in creating their own educational experience. The Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator is there to help students define and think clearly about their objectives, provide them with resources important in their decision making, and offer guidance in the design of their course of study.

In addition to designing a personalized curriculum, students may also choose the Youth Development Concentration which provides the opportunity to develop skills necessary in a broad range of careers in nonprofit youth and human service organizations. Professionals in these organizations play pivotal roles in making a difference in their communities and in the lives of others.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the program is by application from students in good standing who have earned at least 24 semester hours of credit. Freshmen who wish to declare Interdisciplinary Studies on entry to the University should contact the coordinator for application procedures. Students who have earned more than 75 semester hours will be admitted only by exception granted by the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee and only if the student has a grade point average of 2.0 or better. Students admitted by exception must complete at least 24 semester hours of credit after admission to the Interdisciplinary Studies program.

The admission procedure includes writing a formal proposal, which includes a statement of objectives and a list of proposed courses that will satisfy the student's objectives as well as Western's graduation requirements.

Internships

Interdisciplinary Studies students may elect to incorporate an internship experience into their individual curriculum to further enhance their career preparation. Approximately one third of Interdisciplinary Studies graduates have completed internships as part of their curriculum.

Career Opportunities

Interdisciplinary Studies graduates pursue a variety of careers, including, but not limited to, the following: advertising, college student personnel, youth development, environmental science, military science, retail sales, sports management, counseling, wildlife management, ministry, medicine, hospitality/conference services, law, paraprofessional health care, and human services.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Interdisciplinary Studies Advising

The Interdisciplinary Studies program is located on the second floor of the Leslie F. Malpass Library in the administrative offices of the Centennial Honors College. Although the Interdisciplinary Studies program is housed in the Honors College, it is open to all undergraduates. The adviser works closely with students, assisting them in planning course selection and monitoring progress toward degree completion.

Honors Program

Students eligible for participation in the Centennial Honors College will complete specific requirements for designation as an Honors Scholar. In the Interdisciplinary Studies program, honors students take courses for honors credit and, as seniors, prepare an honors thesis or honors project under the direction of a faculty member in the student's area of study.

For More Information

You may contact the Interdisciplinary Studies adviser by calling (309) 298-2586 or by e-mailing IDST@wiu.edu.

Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western Illinois University offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 13,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western Illinois University is a member of the NCAA and competes at the Division I level, sponsoring 20 intercollegiate sports in a broad-based athletics department. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,500 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost programs guarantee that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, room, and board.

Western Illinois University complies with all state and federal nondiscrimination laws, orders, and regulations. Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution and affirms its commitment in all programs and activities to nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, national origin, and status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM daily. Individual appointments with an admissions counselor, advisers/faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. An individual appointment with an admissions counselor may be arranged. You may schedule your visit or tour online at www.admissions.wiu.edu by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU [742-5948] or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.



www.wiu.edu/idst

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