School of Interdisciplinary Studies

Interdisciplinary Studies (BA, BS)

The Bachelor's degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies (BAIS) emphasize a broad learning experience and a wider perspective than that provided by traditional undergraduate majors. They are designed to offer the student the opportunity to participate in an interdisciplinary, coherent, academically sound, and goal-oriented education directly relevant to the student's intellectual development and career aspirations. They are appropriate for those students who seek a thorough grounding in the traditional arts and sciences from an interdisciplinary perspective. Each student in the Interdisciplinary Studies program becomes an active partner in the formulation of his or her program of study, working in consultation with an academic advisor to devise an appropriate individual degree plan. Within the framework of two foundation areas, a university-wide Interdisciplinary Studies sequence, and a multidisciplinary concentration, a student may draw upon the resources of all schools of the University to create a degree program.

Common areas of concentration for the BAIS are business issues, environmental studies, human resources, international relations, law, public relations, and urban studies. Graduates have been accepted into graduate programs in divinity, education, environmental studies, the health professions, humanities, interdisciplinary studies, law, management, and social sciences. The BS in Interdisciplinary Studies is selected by students interested in environmental studies, the health professions, and other science-related fields. Students interested in pre-health are advised to contact the Head of Healthcare Studies during their first semester.

Minors and Double Majors are not allowed in these two Interdisciplinary Studies degrees. In order to make the Interdisciplinary Studies degrees reflect their name, no more than 21 semester credit hours of courses with the same prefix are allowed in the combined major requirements and the 6 semester credit hours of electives. (All courses taught by the Naveen Jindal School of Management courses count as a single prefix.) In the major requirements and 6 semester credit hours of electives, there must be a minimum of 51 semester credit hours of upper-division courses. In the concentration, a minimum of three (3) prefixes must be represented. Please consult an academic advisor for further elaboration.

The BAIS and BSIS are geared toward non-Education majors. For those students who wish to pursue a future in the field of Education, UT Dallas offers both a Bachelor's of Arts in Education and a Bachelor's of Science in Education through the School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)

View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester

Faculty

Professors: George W. Fair, Karen J. Prager, Lawrence J. Redlinger, Erin A. Smith
Professors of Instruction: Jillian Duquaine-Watson, Tonja Wissinger

Associate Professors of Instruction: Kathleen Byrnes, Patricia A. Leek

Assistant Professors of Instruction: Michele McNeel, Syed Naqvi, Neall Pogue, Azadeh Stark, Larissa Werhnyak

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

COMM 1311 Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication

RHET 1302 Rhetoric

Or select any 6 semester credit hours from Communication Core courses (see advisor)

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours

Choose one course from the following:

MATH 1306 College Algebra for the Non-Scientist

MATH 1314 College Algebra

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Mathematics Core courses (see advisor)

Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours

Choose two courses from the following:

ISNS 2359 Earthquakes and Volcanoes

ISNS 2367 The Oceans

ISNS 2368 Weather and Climate

Or select any 6 semester credit hours from Life and Physical Sciences Core courses (see advisor)

Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours

Choose one course from the following:

AMS 2300 American Popular Culture

AMS 2341 American Studies for the Twenty-First Century

HUMA 1301 Exploration of the Humanities

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Language, Philosophy and Culture Core courses (see advisor)

Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours

ARTS 1301 Exploration of the Arts
Or select any 3 semester credit hours Creative Arts Core courses (see advisor)

American History: 6 semester credit hours

Select any 6 semester credit hours from American History Core courses (see advisor)

Government/Political Science: 6 semester credit hours

GOVT 2305 American National Government
GOVT 2306 State and Local Government

Or select any 6 semester credit hours from Government/Political Science Core courses (see advisor)

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours

Choose one course from the following:
   GST 2300 Introduction to Gender Studies
   PSY 2301 Introduction to Psychology
   SOC 1301 Introduction to Sociology

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Social and Behavioral Sciences Core courses. 4 (see advisor)

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours

Select any 6 semester credit hours from Component Area Option Core courses.4

II. Major Requirements: 60 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum

MATH 1306 College Algebra for the Non-Scientist3
   or MATH 1314 College Algebra3

Major Core Courses: 18 semester credit hours

BIS 3320 The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry
Two 3 semester credit hour ISIS courses
One 3 semester credit hour ISIS course or one ISNS course
Two 3 semester credit hour courses chosen from AMS, GST, or ISIS, or BIS 4V04 Internship

Major Related Courses: 42 semester credit hours consisting of:

Two Foundations: 12 semester credit hours each (24 semester credit hours)
   The two foundations are drawn from School of Arts and Humanities, School of Arts, Technology, and
Emerging Communication, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, Naveen Jindal School of Management, and School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

One Concentration: 18 semester credit hours

Each student devises, in consultation with his/her advisor, the topic for the Concentration and selects 18 semester credit hours of coursework related to the topic, drawn from at least three academic disciplines.

Appropriate IS coursework may be selected.

III. Elective Requirements: 18 semester credit hours

Guided Electives: 1 semester credit hour

- **UNIV 1010** Comets to the Core Pre-Assessment
- **BIS 1100** Interdisciplinary Studies Freshman Seminar

Free Electives: 17 semester credit hours

Students must complete 51 semester credit hours of upper-division coursework to graduate. A minimum of 45 semester credit hours must be taken at UT Dallas. All the coursework in the final semester must be taken at UT Dallas.

**Honors in Interdisciplinary Studies (BA)**

Grade Point Average (GPA): 3.900 cumulative GPA, 3.900 GPA in courses as described below, and a total of 30 upper-division UT Dallas semester credit hours as described below.

Required courses: 9 semester credit hours

- **BIS 3320** The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry (3 semester credit hours)
- Foundation I (3 semester credit hours)
- Foundation II (3 semester credit hours)

Concentration: 15 semester credit hours

Options: (6 semester credit hours)

- 6 semester credit hours of Internship
- or 3 semester credit hours of Internship and one three semester credit hour *AMS/GST/ISIS* course

Notation on Transcript: Honors in Major
Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)

View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester

Faculty

Professors: George W. Fair, Karen J. Prager, Lawrence J. Redlinger, Erin A. Smith

Professors of Instruction: Jillian Duquaine-Watson, Tonja Wissinger

Associate Professors of Instruction: Kathleen Byrnes, Patricia A. Leek

Assistant Professors of Instruction: Michele McNeel, Syed Naqvi, Neall Pogue, Azadeh Stark, Larissa Werhnyak

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

- COMM 1311 Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication
- RHET 1302 Rhetoric

Or select any 6 semester credit hours from Communication Core courses (see advisor)

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours

Choose one course from the following:

- MATH 1325 Applied Calculus I
- MATH 2413 Differential Calculus
- MATH 2417 Calculus I

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Mathematics Core courses (see advisor)

Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours

Choose two courses from the following:

- ISNS 2359 Earthquakes and Volcanoes
- ISNS 2367 The Oceans
- ISNS 2368 Weather and Climate

Or select any 6 semester credit hours from Life and Physical Sciences Core courses (see advisor)

Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours
Choose one course from the following:

- **AMS 2300** American Popular Culture
- **AMS 2341** American Studies for the Twenty-First Century
- **HUMA 1301** Exploration of the Humanities

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from [Language, Philosophy and Culture Core](#) courses (see advisor)

**Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours**

- **ARTS 1301** Exploration of the Arts

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from [Creative Arts Core](#) courses (see advisor)

**American History: 6 semester credit hours**

Select any 6 semester credit hours from [American History Core](#) courses (see advisor)

**Government/Political Science: 6 semester credit hours**

- **GOVT 2305** American National Government
- **GOVT 2306** State and Local Government

Or select any 6 semester credit hours from [Government/Political Science Core](#) courses (see advisor)

**Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours**

Choose one course from the following:

- **GST 2300** Introduction to Gender Studies
- **PSY 2301** Introduction to Psychology
- **SOC 1301** Introduction to Sociology

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from [Social and Behavioral Sciences Core](#) courses.

**Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours**

Choose one of the following courses in mathematics:

- **MATH 1326** Applied Calculus II (if **MATH 1325** Applied Calculus I is taken)
- **MATH 2414** Integral Calculus
  
  or **MATH 2415** Calculus of Several Variables (if **MATH 2413** Differential Calculus is taken)
- **MATH 2419** Calculus II (if **MATH 2417** Calculus I is taken)
  
  and **MATH 2415** Calculus of Several Variables

Or select any course from [Component Area Option Core](#) courses (see advisor)
II. Major Requirements: 60 semester credit hours

**Major Core Courses: 18 semester credit hours (6 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum)**

- **BIS 3320** The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry
- One 3 semester credit hour [ISIS](https://catalog.utdallas.edu/2022/undergraduate/programs/is/interdisciplinary-studies) course
- One 3 semester credit hour [AMS](https://catalog.utdallas.edu/2022/undergraduate/programs/is/interdisciplinary-studies) or GST, or ISIS, or **BIS 4V04** Internship
- Any three ISNS science courses

**Major Related Courses: 42 semester credit hours consisting of:**

Two Foundations: 12 semester credit hours each (24 semester credit hours)

Foundation I consists of courses taught by the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, or Science courses from the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (NSC and CGS only).

Foundation II is drawn from the courses taught by the School of Arts and Humanities; the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication; the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (if not used for Foundation I); the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science (if not used in Foundation I); the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences; the School of Interdisciplinary Studies; and the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

One Concentration: 18 semester credit hours

Each student devises, in consultation with his/her advisor, the topic for the Concentration and selects 18 semester credit hours of coursework related to the topic, drawn from at least three academic disciplines. Appropriate IS coursework may be selected. Three courses must be science courses and one must be a statistics course.

III. Elective Requirements: 18 semester credit hours

**Guided Electives: 1 semester credit hour**

- **UNIV 1010** Comets to the Core Pre-Assessment
- **BIS 1100** Interdisciplinary Studies Freshman Seminar

**Free Electives: 17 semester credit hours**

**Honors in Interdisciplinary Studies (BS)**

Grade Point Average (GPA): 3.900 cumulative GPA, 3.900 GPA in courses described below, and a total of 30 upper-division UT Dallas semester credit hours as described below.

**Required courses: 9 semester credit hours**
**BIS 3320** The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry (3 semester credit hours)

Foundation I - Natural Science and Mathematics (6 semester credit hours)

**Concentration: 15 semester credit hours**

Options (6 semester credit hours)

- 6 semester credit hours of Internship

  or 3 semester credit hours of Internship and one three semester credit hour **AMS/GST/ISIS** course

Notation on Transcript: Honors in Major

1. Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of UNIV 1010 and the corresponding school-related freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.

2. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.

3. A required major course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Semester credit hours are counted in the Core Curriculum.

4. Students are strongly encouraged to take core courses that are closely related to their foundations, concentrations, and career goals.

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