Interdisciplinary Studies in Liberal Arts

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http://www.radford.edu/content/chbs/home/interdisciplinary.html

Design your Major, Design your Future.

The Interdisciplinary Studies in the Liberal Arts major (IDSL) at Radford University offers students the unique opportunity to build an individualized multi-disciplinary course of study, enabling students to integrate two academic disciplinary focus areas and realize their educational vision. Students are active and central designers of their customized major that transcends traditional academic programs. Through the application process, academic and career advising, and faculty mentoring, IDSL students bring together two areas of study. The IDSL program is unique in the equal importance assigned to academic advising and focused career path development.

To gain entry into the program, applicants must demonstrate why their educational plan is best met with the Interdisciplinary Studies in Liberal Arts major and articulate how their two selected focus areas can be combined to meet their educational and career path goals. In collaboration with their IDSL advisor, prospective students will create individualized plans of study and identify courses to meet their desired goals. The program is suited to students pursuing either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree.

Suited for Success

Employers recognize the value of an interdisciplinary liberal arts major:

- Nearly all those surveyed (93 percent) say that “a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than [a candidate’s] undergraduate major.”

- More than 75% of employers say they want more emphasis on 5 key areas including: critical thinking, complex problem-solving, written and oral communication, and applied knowledge in real-world settings.

- Employers endorse several educational practices as potentially helpful in preparing college students for workplace success. These include practices that require students to a) conduct research and use evidence-based analysis; b) gain in-depth knowledge in the major and analytic, problem solving and communication skills; and c) apply their learning in real-world settings.

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IDSL Major Requirements

Liberal Arts Major Requirements (49)
One of the classes used to fulfill Interdisciplinary Studies major requirements may be used to fulfill Core Curriculum requirements.

Liberal Arts Major Specific Requirements (13)
Written Communication: Choose either: ENGL 306 or ENGL 307 (3 credits)
Oral Communication: Choose from COMS 114, 240, or 250 (3 credits)
Research Methods in Interdisciplinary Studies: IDST 250 (3 credits)
Integrated Learning Experience: Choose either IDST 498 or IDST 499 (both courses offered for 1-6 credit hours, however, only 3 credit hours may be used to meet requirements for the IDSL major)
Senior Seminar in Interdisciplinary Studies: IDST 497 (1 credit)

Liberal Arts Focus Areas
Requirements (36)
The Liberal Arts concentration is comprised of two focus areas, where students must complete 36 credit hours (one of which must be from the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences) with a minimum of 12 hours in each. Focus areas are defined as courses offered by an individual department or school. At least 50 percent of each concentration must be taken at the 300-400 level.

B.A. Requirements (6-8)
The Bachelor of Arts degree requires completion of the B.A. language requirements.

B.S. Requirements (6-8)
Interdisciplinary Studies in Liberal Arts majors pursuing the Bachelor of Science degree must complete six to eight semester hours chosen from the following:
Any class (if not used to meet a Core Curriculum requirement) in ANSC, APST, BIOL, CHEM, COMS, CRJU, ECON, GEOG, GEOI, GEOS, INST, ITEC, MATH, PHYS, SOCY, SOWK, STAT, WMST, or 300-400 level course in: ENGL, PEAC, PHIL, POSC, PSYC, RELN or 300-level course in HIST. Additional courses can be considered on an individual basis in consultation with the program director.

Total Credits Needed for Degree (120)

To learn more visit:
www.radford.edu/IDSL
or
College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences
Advising Center
Russell 127