INTEGRATED STUDIES

Interdisciplinary Major

Statement of Philosophy:
The integrated studies major is intended for students whose academic interests and goals can be best met outside the structure of any single disciplinary/departmental major or combination of majors and minor(s). It is by nature interdisciplinary, while also being integrated around a basic theme or interest that culminates in a capstone thesis or project. An Integrated Studies major can serve as an excellent preparation for a variety of graduate school programs and professional careers.

Study Abroad Opportunities:
Courses taken abroad can be included in an Integrated Studies Major.

Proposal for an Integrated Studies Major: A student wishing to declare an Integrated Studies major must submit a proposal for the major with the support of two supervising faculty members from two different departments. The student is responsible for choosing their academic advisors and regularly collaborating with them throughout the proposal and approval process. It is recommended that a student pursing an Integrated Studies major have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students who do not meet this GPA threshold should consult with their current advisor or class dean before applying. The proposal must clearly articulate:

3. The goals, topic or theme of the proposed Integrated Studies major. The student will formulate a short title for the major’s focus that will appear on the transcript.
4. How the Integrated Studies major addresses the stated goals, topic or theme better than a combination of pre-established major(s)/minor(s) and how it helps meet the student’s educational and vocational objectives.
5. The courses to be taken that will constitute the major.
6. The intended final capstone thesis or project that will be a culmination of the student’s undergraduate work within the major.

Final approval of the major takes place at a meeting of the student, the two faculty advisors, the student’s class dean, and the Registrar. The role of the Registrar and the Class Dean is primarily consultative; any subsequent changes to the students’ proposed co-major requires the approval of the Registrar and the Class Dean.

Integrated Studies Major Requirements (45 credits):

- Choose either three or four academic disciplines, from at least two different departments (i.e. Mathematics and Computer Science count as two disciplines and one department). In order to count as a chosen discipline, a student must complete at least 6 credits and at least 3 credits at the 200 level or above in that discipline.
- Complete at least 45 credits in the chosen disciplines.
- Complete a combined minimum of 12 credits at the 300/400-level from two disciplines, with a maximum of three credits of internship, practicum, private music lessons, directed study, independent study, or directed research. With permission of the advising team, three credits of LAS-410 may count toward this requirement when it fits into the student’s area of focus.
- A maximum of 10 credits at the 100-level may be used toward the 45 credits required for the major.
- Complete a 3-6 credit integrated capstone senior thesis or project. The capstone is not included in the 12 credits of 300/400-level required above. The capstone must be approved by the student’s advising team, supervised by the major advisors, and may be a senior honors project, independent study, directed research, theatre production, art exhibit, or other culminating project. Students may not use transfer credit to satisfy the capstone requirement.

Examples of Integrated Studies Major Foci:
Students are strongly encouraged to develop their own individualized interdisciplinary focus. The following are some examples of how this might be done;

- Students focusing on Allied Health could consider courses in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Communication Studies, and Exercise Science. Both of your advisors could be sought from these disciplines.
- Students focusing on American Studies could consider courses in History, English, Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, and Religion. Both of your advisors could be sought from these disciplines.
- Students focusing on Arts Management could consider courses in Business Management, Art, Music, and Theater. Both of your advisors could be sought from these disciplines.
- Students focusing on Food Systems could consider courses in Anthropology, Biology, Environmental Studies, Political Science, and Chemistry. Both of your advisors could be sought from these disciplines.
- Students focusing on Gender Studies could consider courses in Psychology, Sociology, English, Anthropology, and Exercise Science. Both of your advisors could be sought from these disciplines.
- Students focusing on Global Health could consider courses in Anthropology, Biology, Economics, Exercise Science, Environmental Studies, Political Science, Mathematics, and Psychology. Both of your advisors could be sought from these disciplines.

- Students focusing on Not-For-Profit Management could consider courses in Business Management, Accounting, Communication Studies, and English. Both of your advisors could be sought from these disciplines.