Student Guide  
Interdisciplinary Studies Major

An Interdisciplinary Studies major lets you customize your Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree plan to help you meet your personal, academic, and professional goals.

What an Interdisciplinary Studies degree is:

- An approved, integrated program of study, leading to a B.A. or B.S. degree, which includes a minimum of 120 credits including General Education Core requirements, two Areas of Concentration (which, combined, include coursework from 2 or more disciplines), an Interdisciplinary Seminar and electives.
- A customizable and flexible pathway to degree completion.
- A program of study that gives you multi-disciplinary, complex critical thinking skills to apply to multi-faceted, complex 21st century problems.
- An alternative to a traditional B.S./B.A. major.

What an Interdisciplinary Studies degree is not:

- A random collection of credits. Students, with the help of advisors, design a coherent plan of study that focuses on 2 or more areas (concentrations). Students are encouraged to submit their degree plan for approval at least 3 semesters prior to degree completion to ensure the program meets standards of coherence, depth and breadth of curriculum, and rigor.
- An “easy” path to degree completion. Flexible, customizable, and individualized may increase your access to a degree, but it does not mean the courses will be easier. Students will need to achieve college-level learning outcomes for every course in the degree plan.

Why choose an Interdisciplinary Studies Degree?

- It’s flexible: you can choose online courses, combine onsite courses with online courses, transfer in courses from other colleges/universities, and enroll part-time or fulltime.
- It’s customizable: one major might not have everything you need for what you want to accomplish. With an Interdisciplinary Studies degree, you can combine coursework from at least 2 different disciplines to get an integrated, multi-perspective, multi-faceted, education.
- It helps you get on track, or stay on track, to degree completion: if you already have an Associate’s degree, you will be able to start right out with upper-division coursework, approved by your Advisory Committee, to make real progress toward your bachelor’s degree completion. If you have credits from another college or university, we’ll work with you to transfer as many as possible to your Interdisciplinary Studies degree plan.
• It builds on what you know: if you have significant and substantial work and life experience, you may be able to earn credit through assessment of Prior Experiential Learning and apply it to your degree plan.
• It’s available online or onsite or both: Depending on the approved Areas of Concentration you choose for the Interdisciplinary Studies degree, you can complete the entire Interdisciplinary bachelor’s degree online (limits apply). Of course, if you live within commuting distance of the LCSC Lewiston campus or an outreach center, or you can transfer credits from another college/university, you may also include approved onsite (classroom) coursework.

What are some examples of Interdisciplinary Studies Areas of Concentration?
The following are examples of Areas of Concentration that can each be completed through online coursework.
• Business
• Communication Arts
• English
• Health and Kinesiology
• Humanities
• Native American Studies
• Public Health
• Writing in Science
These are examples only. You are not limited to these areas (although availability of online curriculum may be limited in other areas). You may develop other Areas of Concentration, with the approval of your Advisory Committee, to meet your personal, academic, and professional goals.

Key Terms:
• **Advisory Committee**: this committee is comprised of 1 advisor from a primary discipline in each of your Areas of Concentration and 1 Division Chair from one of the primary disciplines in 1 of your Areas of Concentration.
• **Area of Concentration**: an approved set of courses that focus on a particular subject (such as English or Native American Studies) or that lead to a particular set of skills (such as Writing, or Business Management)
• **Capstone Seminar**: ID 450, Interdisciplinary Seminar, provides a culminating opportunity for you to apply the theoretical and practical knowledge from your two Areas of Concentration, as well as communication and critical thinking skills from General Education, to current issues and problems.
• **Electives**: college-level courses, chosen by you, outside of your General Education or Area of Concentration requirements.
• **General Education**: as articulated in the Idaho Statewide General Education policy, the General Education curriculum (oral and written communication, mathematics, science, humanities, social and behavior sciences) prepares
“students to use multiple strategies in an integrative manner, to explore, critically analyze, and creatively address real-world issues and challenges. Course work provides graduates with an understanding of self, the physical world, the development and functioning of human society, and its cultural and artistic endeavors, as well as an understanding of the methodologies, value systems, and thought processes employed in human inquiries” (SBOE policy III.N). General Education is that part of your curriculum that is common to degree programs. It adds breadth to your overall education.

- **Interdisciplinary**: studies that combine two or more academic disciplines. Rather than study topics side by side, you develop strategies to integrate them. Bringing multiple, integrated, disciplinary lenses to bear on complex problems is a strong strategy for 21st Century students and professionals.

**How do I get started?**

- Develop an inventory of your goals upon completing a bachelor’s degree: are you hoping to go to graduate school? Find employment in a particular business, industry, or service sector? Find employment that helps you develop particular skills, such as leadership, organizational strengths, creativity, or problem solving?
- Review available current majors and see if one will help you achieve your goals. If not, review the coursework that will help you get where you want to go and begin identifying potential Areas of Concentration for an Interdisciplinary Studies Degree.
- Contact the Office of the Dean of Academic Programs at (208)792-2325 or email [pleonard@lcsc.edu](mailto:pleonard@lcsc.edu) (Administrative Assistant for Academic Programs) to begin the advising process.

**Forms:**

- Program Information Form
- Interdisciplinary Studies Program Plan Approval (purpose, learning objectives, rationale for courses selected, signatures)
- Interdisciplinary Studies Program Plan