Interdepartmental Studies

Director, Division of Interdisciplinary Programs
  • Helena R. Dettmer

Coordinator, Interdepartmental Studies
  • Andy Tinkham

Undergraduate major: interdepartmental studies (B.A.)
Faculty: https://clas.uiowa.edu/interdepartmental-studies/people
Website: https://clas.uiowa.edu/interdepartmental-studies/

The Interdepartmental Studies Program (ISP) provides an alternative to traditional undergraduate majors. It gives students the opportunity to design an individualized plan of study or to choose a preapproved plan in applied human services, business studies, or health science. Each track includes course work from a variety of departments.

Since the major in interdepartmental studies affords opportunities outside the traditional degree pattern, students must create or choose study programs that meet their individual educational and career objectives. Those who plan to seek employment immediately after graduation should familiarize themselves with the educational background and qualifications required by employers and should include appropriate courses in their study programs.

Students preparing for advanced study should become familiar with the admissions requirements of graduate or professional schools that interest them. The earlier students decide to pursue graduate or professional study, the easier it is to complete necessary prerequisites.

The Interdepartmental Studies Program is one of the academic units in the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs.

Programs

Undergraduate Program of Study

Major
  • Major in Interdepartmental Studies (Bachelor of Arts)

Courses

Interdepartmental Studies Courses

INTD:3005 Professional and Creative Business Communication 3 s.h.
Solid foundation for creative and professional communication in today’s modern work world; exploration of techniques, strategies, and craft of writing résumés, letters of interest, email and its related etiquette, and organization of ideas into presentable form; semester-long creative project that builds a bridge between office and the world using modern technology and social media; readings and discussions of literature to better understand issues of ethics, leadership, conflict, moral judgment, decision making, and human nature; how to navigate and succeed in business or any professional field. GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as CW:3005.

INTD:3020 Equity Issues in the Health Sciences 3 s.h.
Examination of equity issues in the health sciences, including a review of the historical challenges that led to Human Subjects Review Boards, FDA oversight of drug development and clinical trials, inclusion of women in research; effect of situational ethics in the workplace; potential danger of making assumptions about clients/patients; importance of developing an inclusive communication style; assessing the effectiveness of family-friendly employment policies in providing equitable opportunities for career advancement for both women and men. Recommendations: junior or senior standing. Same as HHP:3000.

INTD:3027 Nutrition in Health and Performance 3 s.h.
effects of exercise and nutrition on health- and sports-related fitness; for professionals in health and physical education. Same as SRM:3020.

INTD:3030 Coaching for Health and Wellness 3 s.h.
Opportunities to expand knowledge and develop skills to help individuals change behavior and meet health-related goals; general health and wellness principles; principles and techniques for change; experience providing health-coaching services to clients. Prerequisites: HHP:2200 and HHP:2310. Same as HHP:3030.

INTD:3107 Creative Writing for the Health Professions 3 s.h.
GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as CW:3107.

INTD:3200 Creative Writing for New Media 3 s.h.
Prepares creative writers for evolving marketplace of electronic text and media; experience writing in varied media (e.g., internet, e-books, video games, mobile devices, emergent social narratives). GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as CW:3218.

INTD:3210 Creative Writing and the Natural World 3 s.h.
How humans tether to their environment through stories; students write stories and through writing explore if there is a new tie to sustainable history. GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as CW:3210.
**INTD:3250 Fieldwork in Social Innovation**  3 s.h.
Entrepreneurial skills necessary to actualize ideas in the community; students work with local partners to brainstorm, prototype, and build an original community-based venture involving needs assessment, social history of problem, and concept mapping; students learn soft skills such as interviewing, networking, collaboration, and building trust. Requirements: enrollment in engaged social innovation plan of study and membership in UI honors program in good standing. Same as HONR:3250.

**INTD:3300 Creative Writing and Popular Culture**  3 s.h.
Creative writing through the lens of popular culture; topics include television, film writing, adaptations, commercials, advertising, magazines, newspapers, comic books, song lyrics, billboards, and backs of cereal boxes. GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as CW:3215.

**INTD:3510 Introduction to Arts Management**  3 s.h.
Nonprofit performing arts management and administrative principles; practical applications, trends in the field; focus on arts organizations and their key administrative positions. Same as DPA:3510, THTR:3510.

**INTD:3520 New Ventures in the Arts**  3 s.h.

**INTD:4098 Independent Study**  arr.
Individual study of issues or topics related to a specific interdepartmental focus chosen by the student.

**INTD:4099 Interdepartmental Studies Practicum**  arr.
Opportunity to relate a student's chosen area of study to practical application. Requirements: interdepartmental studies student.

**INTD:4510 Arts Leadership Seminar**  3 s.h.
Performing arts management and administrative principles, practical applications, trends in arts leadership and advocacy. Prerequisites: THTR:3510 or ENTR:2000 or THTR:3520. Same as DPA:4510, ENTR:4510, THTR:4510.