Interdisciplinary Studies Program

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THE PROGRAM

The Interdisciplinary Studies Program provides students with the opportunity to pursue a course of study unavailable through any single discipline at Towson University. The program offers students three alternatives:

1. the Individually Designed Thematic Option major or minor
2. four formally designed major concentrations; and
3. 10 minors.

The number of units required for a major or minor in Interdisciplinary Studies varies by program. All units must be completed with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher.

Interdisciplinary Studies majors may transfer up to 21 credits toward completion of the major. Interdisciplinary Studies minors may transfer up to 9 credits toward completion of the minor. Transfer credits from a Towson University study abroad program do not count toward this transfer credit limit, nor are they included in the student’s GPA.

INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED THEMATIC OPTION MAJOR/MINOR

The Individually Designed Thematic Option allows students to pursue a major or minor that is not available at Towson University but is offered at other colleges or universities. Because it is individually designed, this option places significant additional responsibility on the student.

1. The student finds a model for the major or minor he or she wishes to pursue in the catalog of another accredited college or university and determines whether Towson University offers the courses necessary to complete the major or minor.
2. The student meets with the director of Interdisciplinary Studies to ask for preliminary approval of the proposed major or minor.
3. With the assistance of the director of Interdisciplinary Studies, the student identifies a professor with the necessary expertise who is willing to serve as his or her adviser.
4. Under the guidance of the adviser, the student creates a plan of study that includes a title for the individually designed thematic option, a description of its goals, and a list of required and elective courses.

After formal approval by the faculty adviser, the student, and the director of Interdisciplinary Studies, the agreement will constitute the requirements of the student’s major or minor. Any changes to the plan of study must be approved by the director of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Students interested in the Individually Designed Thematic Option should declare their major or minor as soon as possible, ideally no later than the first term of the junior year. The Thematic Option major typically requires a minimum of two years of study once the plan of study is approved.

No unapproved plan of study may be used for graduation. Students are responsible for keeping their plan of study updated and approved by the IDIS director.

Requirements for the Major (45 units)

1. A plan of study consisting of a minimum of 45 units in the major approved by the director of Interdisciplinary Studies.
2. Each of these courses must be completed with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher.
3. At least 21 of these units must be taken after formal approval of the plan of study.
4. The required 45 units must incorporate courses from at least three departments or programs.
5. All course work must be upper-division (300-400) unless the faculty adviser and the director of Interdisciplinary Studies approve the inclusion of some particularly significant course work (no more than 9 units) at the lower-division level.
6. Students must complete an Interdisciplinary Studies portfolio.

Requirements for the Minor (21 units)

1. A plan of study consisting of a minimum of 21 units in the minor approved by the director of Interdisciplinary Studies.
2. Each of these courses must be completed with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher.
3. At least 12 of these units must be taken after formal approval of the plan of study.
4. The required 21 units must incorporate courses from at least three departments or programs.
5. At least 12 units of course work must be upper division (300-400). A maximum of 9 units at the 100-200 level are allowed in the minor.

FORMALLY DESIGNED MAJOR CONCENTRATIONS

There are at present four formally designed major concentrations, each designed by an interdisciplinary faculty committee. Students interested in any of these programs should contact the director of the concentration. Please note that the major that appears on your diploma will be Interdisciplinary Studies in each of these cases. Major concentrations are listed on your official transcript after approval for graduation.

Concentrations

• American Studies
• Animal Behavior
• Asian Studies
• Latin American and Latino/a Studies

MINORS

Interdisciplinary minors offer an excellent complement to majors in traditional disciplines. Students in any major may elect to pursue one of these minors.

• African and African American Studies
• American Studies
• Ancient Mediterranean Studies
• Asian Studies
• Business, Communication and the Liberal Arts
• Jewish Studies
• Latin American and Latino/a Studies
• Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies
• Museum Studies
MAJORS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

• Major in Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations in:

MINORS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES


Courses

IDIS 470 SPECIAL TOPICS (3)
Survey of literature and practical application of interdisciplinary issues. Field work may be required. Topics will vary. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 units provided a different topic is covered.

IDIS 471 SPECIAL TOPICS (3)
Survey of literature and practical application of interdisciplinary issues. Field work may be required. Topics will vary. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 units provided a different topic is covered. Graded S/U.

IDIS 472 SPECIAL TOPICS (3)
Survey of literature and practical application of interdisciplinary issues. Field work may be required. Topics will vary. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 units provided a different topic is covered. Graded S/U.

IDIS 473 SPECIAL TOPICS (3)
Survey of literature and practical application of interdisciplinary issues. Field work may be required. Topics will vary. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 units provided a different topic is covered. Graded S/U.

IDIS 474 SPECIAL TOPICS (3)
Survey of literature and practical application of interdisciplinary issues. Field work may be required. Topics will vary. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 units provided a different topic is covered. Graded S/U.

IDIS 475 SPECIAL TOPICS (3)
Survey of literature and practical application of interdisciplinary issues. Field work may be required. Topics will vary. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 units provided a different topic is covered. Graded S/U.

IDIS 476 SPECIAL TOPICS (3)
Survey of literature and practical application of interdisciplinary issues. Field work may be required. Topics will vary. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 units provided a different topic is covered. Graded S/U.

IDIS 477 SPECIAL TOPICS (3)
Survey of literature and practical application of interdisciplinary issues. Field work may be required. Topics will vary. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 units provided a different topic is covered. Graded S/U.

IDIS 478 SPECIAL TOPICS (3)
Survey of literature and practical application of interdisciplinary issues. Field work may be required. Topics will vary. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 units provided a different topic is covered. Graded S/U.

IDIS 479 SPECIAL TOPICS (3)
Survey of literature and practical application of interdisciplinary issues. Field work may be required. Topics will vary. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 units provided a different topic is covered. Graded S/U.

IDIS 484 TRAVEL AND STUDY IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (3)
Countries and topics to be selected by the sponsoring Interdisciplinary Studies program and instructor. For complete information, contact director of sponsoring Interdisciplinary Studies program. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 units provided a different topic is covered. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

IDIS 495 INTERNSHIP IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (3-6)
Supervised experience in a work setting to facilitate students’ understanding of their concentration. May be repeated for up to six units. Can be applied toward major requirements only with approval of concentration’s coordinator. Graded S/U.

IDIS 496 INTERNSHIP (3-6)
Supervised experience in a work setting to facilitate students’ understanding of their concentration. May be repeated for up to six units. Can be applied toward major requirements only with approval of concentration’s coordinator. Graded S/U.

IDIS 497 INTERNSHIP (3-6)
Supervised experience in a work setting to facilitate students’ understanding of their concentration. May be repeated for up to six units. Can be applied toward major requirements only with approval of concentration’s coordinator. Graded S/U.

IDIS 498 INTERNSHIP (3-6)
Supervised experience in a work setting to facilitate students’ understanding of their concentration. May be repeated for up to six units. Can be applied toward major requirements only with approval of concentration’s coordinator. Graded S/U.