Duluth Campus

Interdisciplinary Studies B.A.

College of Liberal Arts - Adm

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2019
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 51 to 62
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

The program is for students whose educational objectives can best be met by integrating courses across departments. This major is unique because it is individually designed; students work with 2-3 faculty advisors to create a framework that involves courses from several fields of study. It may encompass the natural sciences, social sciences, cultural studies, fine arts, technical and professional fields, or a combination of these.

This major offers two tracks: an Individualized Plan that allows students to choose the emphasis of their major, and a Medical Arts and Sciences Plan that prepares students for health-related careers. Both plans require students to choose the specific focus of their program and craft a curriculum to fit that focus.

Unlike many UMD majors, Interdisciplinary Studies is available only by formal application and approval by the student's faculty advisors and the Interdisciplinary Studies Program Director. Students cannot apply for a change of major until their program has been approved.

Proposals must incorporate at least three different areas of study, including at least 12 credits from within the College of Liberal Arts. Students are welcome to include courses from other UMD colleges.

Visit the IS site for further information: z.umn.edu/clais

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

A GPA above 2.0 is preferred for the following:

- 2.50 already admitted to the degree-granting college

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

General Requirements

The Board of Regents, on recommendation of the faculty, grants degrees from the University of Minnesota. Requirements for an undergraduate degree from University of Minnesota Duluth include the following:

1. Students must meet all course and credit requirements of the departments and colleges or schools in which they are enrolled including an advanced writing course. Students seeking two degrees must fulfill the requirements of both degrees. However, two degrees cannot be awarded for the same major.
2. Students must complete all requirements of the Liberal Education Program.
3. Students must complete a minimum of 120 semester credits.
4. At least 30 of the last 60 degree credits earned immediately before graduation must be awarded by UMD.
5. Students must complete at least half of their courses at the 3xxx-level and higher at UMD. Study-abroad credits earned through courses taught by UM faculty and at institutions with which UMD has international exchange programs may be used to fulfill this requirement.
6. If a minor is required, students must take at least three upper division credits in their minor field from UMD.
7. The minimum cumulative UM GPA required for graduation will be 2.00 and will include only University of Minnesota coursework. A minimum UM GPA of 2.00 is required in each UMD undergraduate major and minor. No academic unit may impose higher grade point standards to graduate.
8. Diploma, transcripts, and certification will be withheld until all financial obligations to the University have been met.

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Information current as of March 28, 2024

Program Requirements

1) Study abroad is encouraged for all students and CLA makes every effort to facilitate such experiences.
2) A cumulative U of MN GPA of at least 2.50 is required with the application.
3) Within the proposal, at least three areas of study are included and 12 credits must be from CLA course offerings.
4) In consultation with 2-3 faculty advisors, students develop an application including:
   - A statement of their educational objectives.
   - A chosen track (Individual Plan or Medical Arts and Sciences Plan).
   - Identified two methods courses (minimum 6 credits).
   - A list of proposed courses that will form the student's curriculum (minimum 36 credits).

In most cases, students must submit their proposal before completing 70 credits. Exceptions include returning students, transfer students admitted with 70 or more credits, and active military or veteran students, who may declare the major before completing 90 credits. These students are only eligible for the Individualized Plan track.

First Term Requirement (1 cr)

Transfer students with 24 or more credits and current UMD students who change colleges to CLA are exempt from this requirement. New first-year students with 24 or more PSEO credits may request to be waived from this requirement.
UST 1000 - Learning in Community (1.0 - 2.0 cr)

Foundations Course (4 cr)

IS 2001 - Sustainability Across Disciplines [SUSTAIN] (4.0 cr)

Methods Courses (6-8 cr)

All students are required to complete two research methods courses appropriate to their final project before they register for senior project. These courses are chosen in consultation with the student's faculty advisors and the program director.

Final Project (1-10 cr)

The senior project usually results in an academic paper of 15-30 pages. The project may be an internship, portfolio, exhibit, tour, or field study. The project includes a bibliography of library resources showing general knowledge of the topic and a written paper, report, journal, or analysis of how the program has affected one's personal and intellectual development. A copy of the project must be filed with the program director.
IS 3093 - Senior Project (1.0 - 10.0 cr)

Advanced Writing Requirement (3 cr)

WRIT 31xx - Adv Writing (3 cr)

Proposed Electives (36 cr)

Students must complete a minimum of 36 upper division credits (3xxx or above) across three or more areas of study; 12 credits must be from CLA course offerings.
(IS proposed course)

Program Sub-plans

Students are required to complete one of the following sub-plans.

Individualized Plan

This track allows students to choose the emphasis of their major. This track may encompass the natural sciences, social sciences, cultural studies, fine arts, technical and professional fields, or a combination of these. The program admission application should be carefully crafted with advice from faculty advisors. Students should contact the program director for help identifying potential advisors.

Students must declare this track of the major before completing 70 credits. Exceptions include returning students, transfer students admitted with 70 or more credits, and active military or veteran students, who may declare this track of the major before completing 90 credits.

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Medical Arts and Science Plan

This track is for students who plan to enter medical school or a health-related field after graduation but want to pursue coursework with a heavier liberal arts emphasis than the traditional 'pre-med' trajectory. Within the track, students can design a curriculum to suit their individual interests; examples might include holistic health, food politics, or midwifery. The Interdisciplinary Studies website provides a list of potential courses for students to consider as they work with faculty advisors to design a program of study.

Students must declare this track of the major before completing 70 credits.

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