

General and Interdisciplinary Studies

Faculty/Staff

Cristina Thomsen, General and Interdisciplinary Studies Program Director

Renata Ocampo; Cristina Thomsen, Departmental Sponsors / Advisors

Descriptions of the Programs

Southwestern's General and Interdisciplinary Studies programs provide flexible, multidisciplinary curricula that challenge students to achieve proficiency in several subjects rather than focusing on one major area of study. The General and Interdisciplinary Studies curricula are geared to prepare students for a lifetime of evolving opportunities aligned with their career aspirations.

These programs are designed for students who:

- 1) Aspire to earn an interdisciplinary college degree that integrates two or more areas of emphasis.
- 2) Wish to attend Southwestern yet aspire to a career for which Southwestern does not offer a major, or that overlaps multiple existing majors.
- 3) Choose to attend Southwestern, but whose career goals require a general associate's or bachelor's degree rather than a specific major.
- 4) Encounter a significant hurdle(s) in a specific major, yet wish to complete a degree.
- 5) Desire to apply credits earned as part of an AAS degree toward a bachelor's degree.

General and Interdisciplinary Studies Degrees and Certificates

Associate of Science

Associate of Science

The Associate of Science, General Studies, comprises all the general education courses required for a Bachelor of Science degree with the following exception: 6 hours of religion instead of 12, and no upper division credits are required. The Associate of Science degree is not awarded en route to or concurrently with a bachelor's degree at Southwestern. However, a student who has earned an Associate of Science degree at Southwestern may elect to complete the requirements for a bachelor's degree.

Total credits:

60

Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences

Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (B.A.A.S.)

Individuals who begin careers in technical fields often seek to further their education for advancement and promotion by completing a four-year bachelor's degree. The BAAS program is designed to transition students from an Associate of Applied Arts or an Associate of Applied Science degree to a bachelor's degree using courses that provide knowledge and skills designed to enhance marketability and leadership potential.

The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree consists of

- General Education 33 credit hours
- Career Field/Occupation 30-39 credit hours
- Professional Development 34 credit hours
- Electives 12-21 credit hours
- UNIV 111 2 credit hours

General Education

COMM111, ENGL 121, and General Education Math are prerequisites.

Item #	Title	Credits
BIOL 345	Environment and Mankind	4
COMM 111	Speech	3
CSIS 105	Introduction to Computing	3
ENGL 121	Freshman Composition	3
ENGL 220	Research Writing	3
	History for BAAS	3
	Humanities for BAAS	3
	KINA Electives	2
MATH 103	The Essentials of Mathematics	3
	Religion Electives for BAAS	6

Career Field/Occupation

Transferred from associate's degree. The number of credits may vary depending on the number of credits transferring in.

Professional Development

Item #	Title	Credits
BUAD 301	Principles of Management	3
BUAD 372	Human Resources Management	3
BUAD 460	Ethics and Business Social Responsibility	3
COMM 241	Public Relations	3
COMM 335	Persuasion	3
POLS 425	Executive Leadership	3
PSYC 212	General Psychology	3
PSYC 338	Conflict Resolution	3
SOCI 111	Introduction to Sociology	3
UNIV 420	Capstone Seminar	1
	Professional Development Electives	6

University Electives

Electives to reach 120 total hours and 36 upper-division hours. The number of credits may vary depending on the number of credits transferring in.

UNIV 111

Item #	Title	Credits
UNIV 111	Wellness for Life	2
Total credits:		120

General Studies

B.S. in General Studies

This program serves three cohorts of students: it offers an entry point for freshmen (with 24 or fewer credits) who have not yet selected an academic path; it offers an exit path for seniors (90 or more credits) who may have encountered a significant hurdle in their traditional major; and it serves distance education, adult students seeking a general bachelor's degree. Traditional, on-campus students who begin college as General Studies majors will transfer into a traditional major, the interdisciplinary studies major, or the associate's degree program upon reaching sophomore status.

The General Studies BS degree consists of 42 credits (18 upper division) within one of four broad categories: Humanities, Professional Studies, Social Sciences, and Sciences. All University requirements for the QEP, general education courses, and GPA must be met. In addition, all General Studies bachelor's degree graduates will complete the Capstone seminar course, UNIV 420 (1 credit hour).

Core

UNIV 420

Item #	Title	Credits
UNIV 420	Capstone Seminar	1
Total credits:		43

Interdisciplinary Studies

Interdisciplinary Studies B.A. / B.S.

A student who has a specific career goal not included in the majors and minors offered by Southwestern may choose two or more areas of emphasis to create an Interdisciplinary Studies Bachelor's degree. In consultation with the Records Office, an academic advisor and chair from the sponsoring department(s) will prepare a graduation plan. This degree plan provides greater flexibility for students in the choice of coursework or emphases.

Possible career paths and emphasis combinations include:

- Bioinformatics (Biology and Computer Science)
- Entrepreneurial studies (Business and Communication)
- Health insurance adjustors (Business and Nursing)
- Paralegal studies (History and English / Communication)
- ESL instruction for international teaching (English and Education)

Graduate School preparation, such as:

- Art therapy (Art and Psychology)
- ESL instruction for higher education (English and Education)
- Global development (Business and Environmental Biology)
- History consultant (Communication / Film Studies and History)
- Pre-law (History / Political Science and Communication)
- Orthotics and prosthetics (Kinesiology and Biology)

Specific requirements:

1) Students will be assigned an academic advisor by the Records Office. Student and complete a plan for graduation.

2) Students will select two (or more) areas of emphasis, each to include 24 credit hours (9 upper division) to be determined by the sponsoring department(s). Emphasis areas will be identified on the student's transcript and diploma.

3) Bachelor's degrees candidates will meet all University graduation requirements. In addition, all bachelor's degree candidates will complete the Interdisciplinary Studies introductory course, UNIV 220 (2 credit hours), and the Capstone seminar course, UNIV 420 (1 credit hour).

4) BA graduates will meet the University's foreign language requirement, but are not required to declare a minor.

5) After earning a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, a student may return to earn a second bachelor's degree. An area of emphasis may only be used as a major in the second degree if there are 30 additional hours available in the major.

Total credits:

120

General and Interdisciplinary Studies Classes

UNIV 220: Introduction to General and Interdisciplinary Studies

This course introduces General and Interdisciplinary Studies students to a broad set of skills and resources that can be utilized in pursuing specific academic and career goals. It also provides the foundation for creating a successful academic plan within the Interdisciplinary Studies program.

Credits: 2

Program: General and Interdisciplinary Studies

UNIV 420: Capstone Seminar

This course fulfills the requirement for a capstone/portfolio completion course in the student's area(s) of emphasis.

Credits: 1

Program: General and Interdisciplinary Studies