

## Open Studies

*College of Arts & Humanities*

*Open Studies Program*

131 Nelson Hall • 507-389-5522

Director: Marshel D. Rossow

The Open Studies baccalaureate major is designed to give highly motivated, self-directed students an opportunity to create their own programs and earn an undergraduate degree. It is a liberal education program designed for students who wish to major in an interdisciplinary area with a coherency of design.

**Admission to Major.** Admission will be granted to students who meet eligibility requirements and who complete a formal application to the Open Studies program. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Student must have a current, cumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher, according to Minnesota State Mankato records.
- Student should apply after earning a minimum of 32 semester credits and before completing 80 semester credits, according to Minnesota State Mankato records. Students having more than 80 credits may still be considered for the Open Studies program if they are willing to meet all other requirements of the program.
- Student must submit a formal application on a form provided by the Open Studies director.

### POLICIES/INFORMATION

**Areas of Concentration.** Students seeking the Open Studies degree will select three academic areas in which to concentrate their work and will arrange for a faculty advisor in each of those areas to oversee their work in each area. The areas of study must represent three distinct academic disciplines at Minnesota State Mankato. The student must file a plan of study that provides a reason for choosing these areas of study and that demonstrates why the proposed work cannot be accomplished under the usual major-and-minor(s) format at Minnesota State Mankato.

**Continuation in Program.** The following rules explain the requirements for a student to continue in the Open Studies program and to receive a university degree. The Open Studies major must:

- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.80.
- Apply grades of "A", "B" and "C" to the three areas unless specific courses are offered only on a P/NC basis.
- Complete the university's general-education program.
- Complete at least 64 upper-division semester credits.
- Complete a minimum of 15 semester credits of study in each of the three selected academic areas of concentration. A faculty advisor in each area must be willing to serve on a committee with the Open Studies director to oversee the student's work.
- Complete a capstone project synthesizing the areas of concentration. The completed project must be acceptable to members of the student's committee.

**Required Minor: None**

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

#### **OPEN 496 (3) Capstone Experience**

Project synthesizing student's three academic areas of concentration, to be arranged in consultation with program director and academic advisors after minimum nine credits earned in each academic area. Project will culminate in presentation to director and advisors.