
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Interdisciplinary Studies

College of Arts & Humanities

Department of English

226 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-1712

Director: Kirsti Cole

The Interdisciplinary Studies baccalaureate major is designed to give highly-motivated, self-directed students an opportunity to work with faculty to create their own program and earn an undergraduate degree. It is a liberal-education program designed for students who wish to major in an interdisciplinary area with 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 2.0 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 to oversee their work.

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 2.5 in courses in the three areas.
- 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 40 upper-division credits in the areas of concentration.
- Complete a minimum of 15 semester credits of study in each of the three selected academic areas of concentration.
- 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

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES BS

Major Common Core

OPEN 496 Capstone Experience (3)

Major Restricted Electives

Discipline One - (Choose 15 credits)

Any Discipline 300-499

Discipline Two - (Choose 15 credits)

Any Discipline 300-499

Discipline Three - (Choose 15 credits)

Any Discipline 300-499

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 advisor(s) after minimum nine credits earned in each academic area. Project will culminate in presentation to director and advisor(s).