

## Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

**Chairperson:** Edna Ann Loftus, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Major in Interdisciplinary Studies, B.A.

### Mission: Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

In support of the mission of the College, the purpose of the interdisciplinary studies major is to permit students to profit from the study of the full breadth of a liberal arts and sciences curriculum, as an end in itself as well as to complement and provide a context for the study of a particular discipline. The major may draw on courses in the natural and health sciences, mathematics, fine arts, humanities, and the social sciences. It allows students to explore and appreciate the ways in which diverse disciplines, schools of thought, modes of inquiry, and cultures fit into the rich fabric of human nature and self-expression. Intellectual, cultural, social, political, scientific, artistic, literary, and religious interactions and influences within a given era and from age to age are studied. Depth of knowledge and understanding is gained through progressively advanced study in several disciplines, rather than in a single discipline.

### Learning Outcomes: Interdisciplinary Studies

The major in Interdisciplinary Studies is a contract major, constructed by students in consultation with their advisors, and subject to the approval of their respective coordinators. Learning outcomes and a statement of purpose are developed for each individual contract.

### Major in Interdisciplinary Studies 45-56 total credits required

A student has two options for pursuing a major in Interdisciplinary Studies:

1. The student may choose to pursue a faculty-designed program of study, such as Asian Studies, which has already been approved by a Department Chair and the Curriculum and Assessment Committee; or
2. The student may develop an individualized program of study (contract) in accord with the requirements governing the Interdisciplinary Studies major.

If a student selects the individualized option, (a) the student will secure the agreement of a faculty member from one of the proposed disciplines to serve as lead advisor; (b) in consultation with the lead advisor, a proposed program of study including learning outcomes and a specific list of courses is developed around a unifying theme or concept; (c) the agreement of faculty in the other participating disciplines is secured; (d) the review and approval of the Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies is secured.

The contract may include X99 Guided Independent Studies courses, X98 Research Practica, and X95 Internships. Internships are strongly suggested. The major in Interdisciplinary Studies at St. Andrews may not be combined with any other major or minor.

### Basic Requirements for Student-Initiated Interdisciplinary Studies Majors 45-56 total credits required

#### Required Courses

Approved Courses from the First Academic Discipline 12 credits minimum  
Approved Courses from a Second Academic Discipline 12 credits minimum  
Approved Courses from a Third Academic Discipline 6 credits minimum

IDS 401 Senior Experience in Interdisciplinary Studies 1 credit

\*Approved Electives – supportive of the theme of the major 14 – 25 credits

#### Additional Requirements

- 1) The program of study must consist of a minimum of 45 and a maximum of 56 credits.
- 2) At least two academic advisors, from two different disciplines, are required. The lead advisor will serve as the “advisor of record.”
- 3) A minimum of 25 of the total credits for the major must be earned at St. Andrews Presbyterian College.
- 4) Of the 24 upper level credits required of the major, a minimum of 16 upper level credits must be completed at St. Andrews.

- 5) Interdisciplinary Studies proposals and contracts must be approved by the faculty in the appropriate disciplines and by the Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator no later than the end of the drop/add period for the semester preceding a student's graduation semester.
- 6) IDS 401 Senior Experience in Interdisciplinary Studies is required of all Interdisciplinary Studies majors. This course is to be taken in the final semester of the senior year.
- 7) **From** approved courses at the 100-200 levels                      21 **credits**
- 8) **From** approved courses at the 300-400 levels                      24 **credits**

### **Honors in Interdisciplinary Studies**

Students who meet the College requirements of a 3.00 cumulative grade point average on all work attempted, a 3.30 or better in major courses, and the recommendation of faculty in the disciplines of their contract may pursue Honors in Interdisciplinary Studies. These students will **complete** at least two courses (minimum 4 credits) of approved independent study related to the focus of their interdisciplinary contract culminating in an Honors level thesis or project to be evaluated by faculty from the disciplines represented in the major.