

## INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

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The interdisciplinary studies degree program at Christopher Newport University permits a student, under the guidance of a faculty committee, to design and carry out an individual plan of study involving two or more academic disciplines. The student may earn either the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degree in interdisciplinary studies. An important objective of the Interdisciplinary Individualized Program is to involve the student in formulating a rationale for the design of a coherent individual program of study. This is a difficult task and requires a certain amount of knowledge and direction. The student will have to give considerable thought to his or her long-range learning objectives and to the best way to meet those objectives. For this reason, the following guidelines must be met:

1. The student must have completed at least 30 semester hours of course work and have achieved at least a 3.00 GPA at the time the petition is submitted.
2. The declaration of interdisciplinary studies major is through the petition process (details listed below) and must be completed before earning 60 hours of credit.
3. The total program of study must include at least 42 semester hours of course work beyond those completed **at the time of approval**; a minimum of 30 semester hours at the 300-400 level; and a senior capstone project designed by the student and her/his faculty committee to analyze and synthesize the topic of study.
4. The student's educational goals must be such that they cannot be achieved by a regular departmental major supported by a minor and/or careful selection of electives.
5. The student's total program of study must conform to and meet all requirements of the curricular structure for baccalaureate degrees, including the liberal learning curriculum and must give evidence of disciplined academic inquiry.

To enter this program the student must first complete a proposed plan of study, including a rationale for the plan and identifying those disciplines that will be involved in the student's plan of study. Guidelines are available from the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies. Proposals must

be submitted to the Interdisciplinary Studies Director by November 1 during the fall semester or March 15 during the spring semester. It is advisable for a student to discuss his/her plan of study with the coordinator before submitting a proposal.

The Director of Interdisciplinary Studies reviews the student's proposed plan of study. If the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies is unable to approve the student's proposal, she notifies the student. If she judges the student's proposal to be viable, the student selects a faculty committee that represents the primary disciplines involved and identifies one of the members of the committee as the major advisor. The appointed faculty committee then meets with the student to discuss the proposed plan of study and continues to assist the student in the implementation of the details. This includes approving the individual courses that the student must take to meet all requirements for the bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree. The committee must approve the student's program and any subsequent changes in an already approved program. The committee chair oversees the total work of the student and confirms, prior to graduation, that he/she has completed all necessary requirements.

### THE CURRICULUM IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

#### **IDST 490. Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone Project (3-0-3)**

*Prerequisites: Junior or Senior Standing, consent of the Instructor and Interdisciplinary Studies Program Director.*

In this course the student will integrate coursework taken in the two-three disciplines comprising his/her major. Under the direction of his/her faculty committee and program coordinator, the student will design a project that analyzes and synthesizes the topic of study, culminating in a research paper in support of the major theme.